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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 348 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY COLLETT, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL, ARGALL, FONTANA,  
ARNOLD, SANTARSIERO, IOVINO, BROOKS, BROWNE, J. WARD,  
BREWSTER, BLAKE, GORDNER, COSTA AND TARTAGLIONE,  
JULY 27, 2020

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JULY 27, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 25, 2020, in honor of the 70th anniversary of  
2 the Korean War and further calling for the achievement of  
3 peace in the Korean Peninsula.

4 WHEREAS, The governments and people of the United States and  
5 the Republic of Korea share a comprehensive alliance, a dynamic  
6 partnership and a personal friendship rooted in the common  
7 values of freedom, democracy and a free market economy; and

8 WHEREAS, The relationship between the people of the United  
9 States and the Republic of Korea stretches back to Korea's  
10 Chosun dynasty when the United States and Korea established  
11 diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity,  
12 Commerce and Navigation; and

13 WHEREAS, On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded the Republic  
14 of Korea with approximately 135,000 troops, thereby initiating  
15 the Korean War; and

16 WHEREAS, On June 27, 1950, President Harry S. Truman ordered  
17 the United States Armed Forces to help the Republic of Korea

1 defend itself against the North Korean invasion; and

2 WHEREAS, The hostilities ended in a cease-fire marked by the  
3 signing of the armistice at Panmunjom on July 27, 1953, and the  
4 peninsula still technically remains in a state of war; and

5 WHEREAS, During the Korean War, approximately 1,789,000  
6 members of the United States Armed Forces served in theater  
7 along with the forces of the Republic of Korea and 20 other  
8 members of the United Nations to defend freedom and democracy;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In the 70 years since the outbreak of the Korean  
11 War, the Republic of Korea has emerged from a war-torn economy  
12 into one of the major economies in the world and one of the  
13 largest trading partners of the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea is among the closest allies of  
15 the United States, having contributed troops in support of  
16 United States operations during the Vietnam War, Gulf War and  
17 conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, while also showing global  
18 leadership in humanitarian and peacekeeping missions in Lebanon,  
19 the Gulf of Aden and other nations around the world supporting  
20 numerous United Nations peacekeeping operations; and

21 WHEREAS, Since the end of the Korean War era, more than  
22 28,500 members of the United States Armed Forces have served  
23 annually in the United States Forces Korea to defend the  
24 Republic of Korea against aggression and promote regional peace;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, The governments and people of the United States and  
27 the Republic of Korea are working closely together to promote  
28 international peace and security, economic prosperity, human  
29 rights and the rule of law; and

30 WHEREAS, There are deep cultural and personal ties between

1 the people of the United States and the Republic of Korea, as  
2 exemplified by the large flow of visitors and exchanges each  
3 year between the two countries, including Korean students  
4 studying in United States colleges and universities, and nearly  
5 2 million Korean Americans that reside in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the 2010 United States census and with  
7 current estimates, there are roughly 41,000 people in  
8 Pennsylvania who self-identify as Korean; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States looks forward to the next 70 years  
10 and beyond of an increasingly solid and enduring partnership  
11 with the Republic of Korea with expanded cooperation on  
12 security, economic, environmental and cultural issues  
13 bilaterally and in the region; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
15 join the Korean-American communities throughout the Commonwealth  
16 in marking June 25, 2020, as the 70th anniversary of the Korean  
17 War; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
19 respectfully call upon the President and Congress of the United  
20 States, as well as all sides in these discussions, to come to  
21 the table with the sincere intention of achieving peace in the  
22 region, and take appropriate measures to facilitate stability in  
23 the Korean region; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
25 the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of  
26 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, each Senator  
27 and Representative from Pennsylvania in the Congress of the  
28 United States and the author for appropriate distribution.