



CALIFORNIA ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Recognizes Korean American Day

Sacramento, CA - Assemblymember Paul Fong (D-Cupertino) released the following statement in observance of Korean American Day, which falls on January 13th:

“As chair of the Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, I would like to join the community in celebrating Korean American Day.

This day recognizes the rich history and culture of the Korean American community. On January 13, 1903, the history of Korean immigration to America began when 102 courageous Korean men, women, and children crossed the Pacific Ocean aboard the S.S. Gaelic to land in Hawaii. Serving as farmers in the sugar fields, these immigrants faced many hardships due to social and economic barriers. Nevertheless, they did not falter in their pursuit of the American dream.

Since the enactment of the Federal Immigration Act of 1965, Koreans have become one of the fastest growing Asian groups in the United States. In 1965, it was estimated that there were fewer than 25,000 Korean Americans living in the United States. By 1970, the figure had doubled to 50,000. In 1980, the number had increased over six-fold to 357,393. The American Community Survey estimates that in 2011 there were over 1.7 million Korean Americans living the United States.

Some notable Korean Americans include Alfred Song, the first Asian American to serve in the California State Assembly; Margaret Cho, one of the first Asian Americans to star in a national televised sitcom; Herbert Choy, the first Asian American to serve as a United States Federal Judge; and Jim Yong Kim, the current President of the World Bank.

I am only naming just a few of the many Korean Americans who have broken barriers and helped build up California and the United States. I encourage everyone to spend some time today to learn something about and from this vibrant community.”

The API Legislative Caucus was established in 2001 with the mission of representing and advocating for the interests of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander communities throughout California. Additionally, the Caucus seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government. Assemblymember Paul Fong and Assemblymember Das Williams serve as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the caucus

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