

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2013 as Korean American Family Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, When the sons and daughters of other nations move to the United States, the traditions they carry with them greatly enhance and strengthen the American population; and

WHEREAS, In December of 1902, 56 men, 21 women and 25 children left Korea and traveled across the Pacific Ocean on the S.S. Gaelic and landed in Honolulu, Hawaii, on January 13, 1903; and

WHEREAS, Since their arrival, Korean Americans have taken root and thrived in the United States through strong family ties, community support, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, Family values and the importance of education are at the core of Korean culture; specifically, the concept of "filial piety," or love and respect for one's parents and ancestors, is a vital family virtue honored by Koreans for centuries; and

WHEREAS, May is considered "Family Month" in Korean culture with Children's Day falling on May 5th, Parents' Day on May 8th, and Teachers' Day on May 15th; and

WHEREAS, Children's Day was founded in 1923, by Mr. Jeong-Hwan Bang, a children's book author and children's rights activist, to promote love and respect for youth; and

WHEREAS, The Proclamation of Children's Day, which was presented by Mr. Bang on May 1, 1923, contains eight requests by children to adults, such as treating children with respect and providing a caring environment for children to learn and develop; and

WHEREAS, Acknowledging that children are the future of the nation, the day became a public holiday in Korea in 1975, allowing parents and children to spend the day together to strengthen the ties of the family; and

WHEREAS, Since 1973, Koreans have celebrated Parents' Day on May 8th by presenting their parents with a red carnation and gifts; in addition, various ceremonies are held in the Korean American community to recognize sons and daughters who have rendered exemplary care and services to parents and elderly; and

WHEREAS, May 15th is designated as Teacher's Day; while teachers are not blood relation, they have long occupied a special place of honor and dignity in Korean culture; and

WHEREAS, Korea has a long tradition of sincere respect and admiration for teachers, and students are taught to respect their teachers from the very first time they enter a school; and

WHEREAS, Respect for teachers does not only take place in schools but also in every household; it goes along with Korean culture where the elderly are greatly respected for their lifelong wisdom and hard work to society; and

WHEREAS, The Korean American community in New York State continues to honor family values through various events and ceremonies held during the month of May; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York has always been richer, culturally and socially, as a result of many contributions of its vibrant Korean-American community; New York is also fortunate to have in its midst a substantial number of citizens who trace their origins to Korea; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2013 as Korean American Family Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New

York; and the Korean American Association of Greater New York, the Korean American Association of Queens, the Korean American Filial Piety, Inc., and the Korean American Parents Association of Greater New York.