

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-001**

Proclaiming January 13, 2024 as Korean American Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners finds:**

- a. January 13th is a nationally recognized day to celebrate the contributions of Korean Americans to our society.
- b. In 1882 the United States and Korea signed a treaty establishing a peaceful relationship, friendship and commerce which led 102 Korean immigrants to set sail for Honolulu, Hawaii in December 1902, on the *SS Gaelic*. These families initiated the first wave of Korean immigration, resulting in over 7,500 immigrants over the next two years. Korean American Day commemorates the arrival of these first Korean immigrants to the United States in 1903.
- c. For the past century, Korean immigrants have helped build America's prosperity and strengthened our communities. Korean Americans' contributions can be seen in all facets of life; including politics, industry, entrepreneurship, volunteerism, arts, education and defense of our freedoms. Through their service in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and other wars, Korean Americans have served our Nation with honor and courage, upholding the values that make our country strong.
- d. June 27, 2023 marked the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea. Korean Americans have built and strengthened the Alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea, fostering peace on the Korean Peninsula and promoting trade alliances as a crucial trading partner in Oregon. South Korea is Oregon's fourth largest market for export products.
- e. Korean Americans are an integral part of our community and have contributed greatly, despite harassment, discrimination and anti-Asian hate, all of which are on the rise today.
- f. Multnomah County is committed to learning from and working with our Korean American community to reduce barriers that result in increased social inclusion, economic mobility, language and healthcare access and meaningful civic engagement.
- g. Multnomah County welcomes and supports Korean Americans as vital members of our community.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

January 13, 2024 as Korean American Day in Multnomah County, Oregon, to honor and celebrate the many contributions made by Korean Americans throughout our vibrant community. We encourage businesses, organizations, public institutions and community members to recognize Korean American Day and take time to learn about Korean American history in our county.

**ADOPTED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

REVIEWED:  
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SUBMITTED BY:** Commissioner Lori Stegmann, District 4.