

1 [Korean Chuseok Day - September 13, 2019]

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3 **Resolution recognizing September 13, 2019, as Korean Chuseok Day and honoring the**
4 **Korean Center, Inc. for its contributions to the Korean-American community in the City**
5 **and County of San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, Korean Chuseok Day, otherwise known as Korean Thanksgiving, is a
8 harvest festival celebrated at the autumn equinox of the Lunar Calendar and is one of the
9 most important and widely celebrated holidays in the Korean culture; and

10 WHEREAS, Korean-Americans have contributed immeasurably to the culture and
11 history of this city, state, and country; and

12 WHEREAS, Korean-Americans are the fifth largest Asian American ethnic group in the
13 United States, with a population of over 1,700,000 and more than 500,000 in California alone;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In the San Francisco Bay Area, Korean-Americans are the sixth largest
16 Asian population with approximately 90,000 residents; and

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco has always been a principal port of entry for Korean
18 immigrants since the repeal of restrictive immigration quotas in 1965; and

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a center of political activism and cultural
20 importance for Korean-Americans since the late 19th century; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1883, Bobingsa, the first Korean diplomatic delegation dispatched to the
22 United States, led by Prince Min Young-Ik, had San Francisco as its first destination where
23 the delegation stayed at the Palace Hotel located on 2 New Montgomery Street; and

24 WHEREAS, The Korean National Association was founded in San Francisco,
25 functioning as a government for Koreans rendered stateless in 1910; the Association's

1 newspaper Shinhan Minbo provided knowledge and information to immigrants even after
2 Korea's liberation in 1945; and

3 WHEREAS, The Taedong Statue, located at Susan Bierman Park on the
4 Embarcadero, was donated to the city of San Francisco by the government and people of
5 Korea to commemorate the centennial of diplomatic relations between Korea and the United
6 States in 1983 and has since been continuously maintained by volunteers from the San
7 Francisco Korean-American Elders' Association for the past twenty years; and

8 WHEREAS, The first Korean church in the United States, the San Francisco Korean
9 United Methodist Church, was built at 1123 Powell Street in 1928; and

10 WHEREAS, The composer, Ahn Eak-tai, went to his first service at this church and was
11 then inspired to compose what would become the Korean national anthem, Aegukga; and

12 WHEREAS, The Korean-American community's contributions are immeasurable
13 despite facing serious economic obstacles and social barriers, and

14 WHEREAS, The Korean Center, Inc., a non-profit, has served as a central hub for
15 Korean cultural, educational, and social services in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1974,
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Since its founding over 45 years ago, the Korean Center, Inc. has helped
18 newly arrived Korean immigrants, Korean families, and Korean seniors realize their full
19 potential, build community, and share Korean culture in San Francisco, and

20 WHEREAS, Expressed the need for the recognition of Korean Chuseok Day to
21 revitalize and bring attention to the needs of the underserved Korean-American community;
22 now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, the City and County of San Francisco shall recognize September 13,
24 2019, which is 15th day of the 8th month of the Lunar Calendar as Korean Chuseok Day, and,
25 be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Annual Korean Chuseok Day Festival held by the
2 Korean Center, Inc. as the city's official celebration of the cultural day.

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