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H. CON. RES. 91

Encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2014

Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. COBLE, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

Whereas the Republic of Korea (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as “South Korea”) and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as “North Korea”) remain divided since the armistice agreement was signed on July 27, 1953;

Whereas the United States, which as a signatory to the armistice agreement as representing the United Nations Forces Command, and with 28,500 of its troops currently stationed in South Korea, has a stake in peace on the Korean Peninsula and is home to more than 1.7 million Americans of Korean descent;

Whereas the division on the Korean Peninsula separated more than 10,000,000 Korean family members, including some who are now citizens of the United States;

Whereas North Korea has recently resumed the family reunions with South Korea, which halted in 2010 due to escalated tensions between the two nations;

Whereas the United States currently does not have diplomatic relations with North Korea, thereby excluding Korean Americans to participate in the family reunions;

Whereas President George W. Bush on January 28, 2008, signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181), which in section 1265 of such law required a report on family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea;

Whereas President Barack Obama on December 16, 2009, signed into law the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 111–242), which urged the Special Representative on North Korea Policy to prioritize the issues involving Korean divided families;

Whereas the number of more than 100,000 estimated divided family members in the United States last identified in 2001 has been significantly dwindling as many of them have passed away;

Whereas many Korean Americans are waiting for a chance to meet their relatives in North Korea for the first time in more than 60 years;

Whereas North Korea's willingness to start family reunions between Koreans in North Korea and the United States would signify making progress on the humanitarian front and foster dialogue towards building peace; and

Whereas peace on the Korean Peninsula remains a long-term goal for the Governments of both North and South Korea and the United States, and would mean greater security

and stability for the region and the world: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes the significance of North Korea's
4 willingness to resume family reunions between North
5 and South Korea;

6 (2) encourages North Korea to allow Korean
7 Americans to meet with their divided families in
8 North Korea; and

9 (3) calls on North Korea to continue building
10 goodwill that is conducive to peace on the Korean
11 Peninsula.

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