

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 77

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the efforts of people of the United States of Korean ancestry to reunite with their family members in North Korea.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 2001

Mr. BECERRA (for himself and Mr. ROYCE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the efforts of people of the United States of Korean ancestry to reunite with their family members in North Korea.

Whereas on June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, thereby initiating the Korean War, leading to the loss of countless lives, and further polarizing a world engulfed by the Cold War;

Whereas in the aftermath of the Korean War, the division of the Koreas at the 38th parallel separated millions of Koreans from their families, tearing at the heart of every mother, father, daughter, and son;

Whereas on June 13 and 14, 2000, in the first summit conference ever held between leaders of North and South

Korea, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital;

Whereas in a historic joint declaration, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il made an important promise to promote economic cooperation and hold reunions of South Korean and North Korean citizens;

Whereas such reunions have been held in North and South Korea since the signing of the joint declaration, reuniting family members who had not seen or heard from each other for more than 50 years;

Whereas 500,000 people of the United States of Korean ancestry bear the pain of being separated from their families in North Korea;

Whereas the United States values peace in the global community and has long recognized the significance of uniting families torn apart by the tragedy of war; and

Whereas a petition drive is taking place throughout the United States, urging the United States Government to assist in the reunification efforts: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) the Congress and the President should sup-
4 port efforts to reunite people of the United States of
5 Korean ancestry with their families in North Korea;
6 and

1 (2) such efforts should be made in a timely
2 manner, as 50 years have passed since the separa-
3 tion of these families.

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