

2018 -- S 2874

LC005579

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR FORGING AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA

Introduced By: Senator Elaine J. Morgan

Date Introduced: May 03, 2018

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1           WHEREAS, For close to 68 years, the Korean Peninsula has been a point of crisis within  
2 the world community. From War to numerous episodes that have cost lives and raised tensions  
3 amongst regional nations and world superpowers, the problems of Korea have vexed all United  
4 States Presidents since the Presidency of Harry S. Truman; and

5           WHEREAS, From June 25, 1950, when North Korea, with the support of the former  
6 Soviet Union and China, invaded South Korea, to July 27, 1953, when an armistice was reached,  
7 a more than three year war was waged on the Korean Peninsula between the communist forces of  
8 North Korea and China, aided by the Soviet Union, and the United Nations forces led by the  
9 United States and South Korea. When an armistice was finally reached in 1953, casualties  
10 between 500,000 and one million had been suffered, with the United States suffering the loss of  
11 36,899 killed and 103,284 wounded along with 7,926 missing in action and 4,714 prisoners of  
12 war. The death count for the other key participants in the Korean War were 137,899 for South  
13 Korea, between 215,000 and 350,000 for North Korea, and 183,108 for China; and

14           WHEREAS, The Korean War has technically never ended. When an armistice agreement  
15 was reached in 1953, it called for a complete and immediate end of all hostilities until a final  
16 peace agreement was reached. No such peace agreement has ever been reached in the almost 65  
17 years since the hostilities ended. Instead, the Korean Peninsula was divided between North and  
18 South Korea by a heavily armed, mined and fortified 160 mile long and 2.5 miles wide  
19 Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that divided each nation East to West; and

1           WHEREAS, Since the Armistice, North Korea, South Korea, nations in the region and  
2 the United States have lived in fear of a possible resumption of hostilities and the carnage that  
3 would presumably occur. The Korean Peninsula is the most heavily armed region on the globe  
4 with both North and South Korea having formidable militaries. Additionally, China and Russia  
5 border North Korea and have traditionally been allies of the North Koreans, while the United  
6 States, an ally of South Korea, has approximately 35,000 military personnel in South Korea and  
7 an additional 40,000 military personnel in nearby Japan; and

8           WHEREAS, Over the past sixty-five years numerous incidents, events and hostile actions  
9 have taken place that have destabilized the region and brought the world close to possible  
10 conflict. On January 23, 1968, the North Koreans captured an American ship, the USS Pueblo  
11 and, after killing one sailor, held the other 82 United States Navy personnel hostage until finally  
12 releasing them on December 23, 1968. From 1993 to 2000, the North Korean people suffered  
13 through a horrific famine that killed between 500,000 and 600,000 people. However, none of the  
14 many events that have occurred within Korea have caused as much tension or brought as much  
15 fear to the world as the attempts by the North Korean government to develop a nuclear missile  
16 program; and

17           WHEREAS, Since 1993, when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported  
18 North Korea's noncompliance with inspections to the United Nations, the world has faced the  
19 specter of nuclear war as seemingly every year North Korea would reach a new marker on the  
20 way towards becoming a nuclear power. Every President since Bill Clinton has tried to get the  
21 North Koreans to stop their program, all to no avail. Instead we have witnessed North Korea  
22 testing missiles in the Sea of Japan and read news reports claiming that a North Korean nuclear  
23 missile could reach the California Coast of the United States; and

24           WHEREAS, President Trump, in his unique style of diplomacy, has used the carrot-and-  
25 stick approach, along with putting pressure on China, a critical ally of North Korea, in an attempt  
26 to persuade the North Koreans that their best option is to negotiate a deal. There are early signs  
27 that President Trump may have made a breakthrough with North Korea. In an historic first, the  
28 leaders of North and South Korea have met at the DMZ, the leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-un,  
29 has met with United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and there is serious speculation, and  
30 great hope, that President Trump may soon meet with Kim Jong-un, which would be an historic  
31 occasion of epic proportions. The hope for peace on the Korean Peninsula has never been greater  
32 than it is today; now, therefore be it

33           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
34 hereby congratulates the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, on forging

1 an alliance between North and South Korea; and be it further

2           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
3 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of  
4 the United States, Kim Jong-un, Supreme Leader of North Korea, and Mr. Moon Jae-in, President  
5 of South Korea.

=====  
LC005579  
=====