



RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 3, 2020, AS PRESIDENT SYNGMAN RHEE DAY FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, Dr. Syngman Rhee attended Princeton University, becoming the first Korean to earn a doctorate from an American university; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Dr. Rhee returned to Korea in 1910, only to watch as Japan annexed his beloved country; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rhee then came to the United States, settling in Honolulu on February 3, 1913, and was appointed as the principal of the Korean Boarding School for Boys by the Hawaii Methodist Episcopal Mission; and

WHEREAS, while in Hawaii, Dr. Rhee published the Korean Pacific Magazine, which became the Korean Pacific Weekly, organized the Korean YMCA, established the Korean Girl's Seminary, was a founding director of the Nuuanu YMCA, and established the Korean Christian Institute and the Korean Christian Church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rhee also tirelessly advocated for Korean independence from Japan and was eventually elected, in absentia, as President of the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai in 1919; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rhee relocated from Honolulu to Washington, D.C. on November 10, 1939, in order to continue to advocate for an independent Korea and to garner American and international support for the movement; and

WHEREAS, after the Korean Peninsula was liberated from Japan by the Allies in 1945, independent Korean governments were created and Dr. Rhee was elected as the founding president of the Republic of Korea on August 15, 1948; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rhee resigned from the South Korean presidency on April 27, 1960, and returned to Hawaii where he lived until his death at age 90 on July 19, 1965; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the tireless advocacy of Dr. Rhee on behalf of the Korean people and Dr. Rhee's deep roots in the communities of the City and County of Honolulu; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it proclaims February 3, 2020 as President Syngman Rhee Day; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is urged to join the Council in recognition of President Syngman Rhee Day; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and the Managing Director.

INTRODUCED BY:

David Johnson
Ann Koyama

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 14 2020

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers