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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States and Korea first established diplomatic relations on May 22, 1882 with the signing of the Treaty of Peace, Amiry, Commerce and Navigation; following Korea's occupation by Japan from 1905 until the end of World War II, the U.S. formally reestablished its diplomatic relationship with the Republic of Korea (R.O.K.) on March 25, 1949, and the two nations signed their Mutual Defense Treaty on October 1, 1953; and

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WHEREAS, In 2023, the U.S.-R.O.K. alliance is marking 70 years since the cessation of hostilities in the Korean War and the signing of the Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, which remains in place today and, by its terms, has neither formally ended the Korean War nor constituted a permanent settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula; and

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WHEREAS, The U.S.-R.O.K. alliance is also rooted in mutual trust, shared sacrifice, common values, economic interests, and generations of people-to-people ties that provide a foundation for one of the strongest, most interoperable, and enduring bilateral alliances in the world; and

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WHEREAS, The U.S.-R.O.K. alliance was forged in shared sacrifice, as 1,789,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen, and

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1 marines served during the Korean War, of whom 36,574 paid the
2 ultimate sacrifice with their lives in defense of the R.O.K.,
3 including 7,174 soldiers in the Korean Augmentation to the
4 U.S. Army; more than 7,500 members of the U.S. Armed Forces
5 remain classified by the Department of Defense as missing in
6 action; casualties of the R.O.K. numbered more than 217,000
7 soldiers killed and more than 291,000 wounded during the war;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The American and Korean people share deeply
10 rooted values of defending freedom, championing economic and
11 social opportunity and inclusion, upholding human rights, and
12 respecting the rule of law; now; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the 70th
15 anniversary of the United States-Republic of Korea alliance
16 and celebrate the strong cultural and economic ties between
17 the two nations and the special bonds forged between people of
18 the State of Illinois and the Republic of Korea.