

T R I P A R T I T E R E S O L U T I O N

[A resolution urging the United States Congress to consider the ***Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA)***]

Whereas, since the early 20th Century the United States and the Republic of Korea have shared an enduring mutual interest and commitment to peace, freedom, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas, during the first three years of the Korea War, nearly 40,000 American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines gave their lives and one million U.S. troops served and fought bravely to secure freedom and liberty for the Republic of Korea;

Whereas, many objective historians now view the Korea War and the ceasefire still in effect to have been the decisive campaign ultimately leading to the successful conclusion of the Cold War; Korea;

Whereas, the year 2010 marks the 60th anniversary of the Korea War launched by the overt mass invasion of the Republic of Korea on June 25, 1950;

Whereas, on October 1, 1953 upon implementation of a Ceasefire by the parties to the war, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a Mutual Defense Treaty which has been the foundation for more than 50 years of effective deterrence against any and all provocation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

Whereas, 28,500 U.S. troops remain stationed in the Republic of Korea serving and training alongside the servicemen and women of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces;

Whereas, in 2007 the United States and the Republic of Korea have agreed to, and are in the process of carrying out, basing, assignment, installation and other modifications still further enhancing the presence, role, and status of U.S. Forces based in the Republic of Korea in the Mutual Defense aims of the two nations;

Whereas, in addition to the political and military ties that bind the United States and the Republic of Korea together, the two nations also share a dynamic and comprehensive economic partnership;

Whereas, the Republic of Korea is the seventh largest trading partner of the United States, the sixth largest market for agricultural goods and the third largest destination for U.S. foreign direct investment in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas, in 2008, after several years of negotiation, President George W Bush of the United States and President Lee Myung-bak agreed to the proposed ***Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, (KORUS FTA)***;

Whereas, in 2008, bilateral trade between the Republic of Korea and the United States reached \$83 billion;

Whereas, U.S. President Barack Obama, on the occasion of his meeting in Seoul with Republic of Korea President Lee Myung-bak on November 19, 2009, stated in regard to the **Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement**, "I am a strong believer that both countries can benefit from expanding our trade ties" and "I have told President Lee and his team that I am committed to seeing the two countries work together to move this agreement forward";

Whereas, the **KORUS FTA** represents the largest and most commercially significant free trade agreement signed by the United States in over a decade and since the ratification of the **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**;

Whereas, the **KORUS FTA** will immeasurably strengthen the U.S.-ROK Mutual Defense Treaty and ultimately eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers, create better jobs, enrich consumer choice, boost industry and enhance overall welfare for both nations;

Whereas, the **KORUS FTA** will eliminate tariffs on more than 50% of U.S. agricultural exports, worth over \$3.5 billion;

Whereas, according to the U.S. International Trade Commission, the **KORUS FTA** is expected to increase U.S. exports to Korea by \$10 to \$ 11 billion annually;

Whereas, the **KORUS FTA** will further liberalize the South Korean service market to U.S. business and strengthen overall transparency in key sectors including financial services, telecommunications, entertainment, legal services and express delivery;

Whereas, the **KORUS FTA** provides state-of-the-art protection of intellectual property rights, a comprehensive set of strengthened protection measures for trademarks, copyrighted works (especially in cyberspace), and patents and the rigorous enforcement of provisions aimed at combating piracy and counterfeiting;

Whereas, the **KORUS FTA** will provide greater U.S. access to the South Korean auto market by the elimination of South Korea's 8 percent automotive tariffs, the revamping of its engine displacement taxation system, the loosening of emissions standards for U.S. automobiles and the expediting of the dispute settlement process with a "snap-back" mechanism;

Whereas, over 26% of all foreign students presently engaged in resident educational pursuits in the United States are Korean nationals;

Whereas, nearly two million Americans of Korean heritage and descent live in the United States and are successfully engaged in numerous businesses and enterprises that would directly benefit from the **KORUS FTA**;

Whereas, the Republic of Korea is one of the staunchest and most reliable allies of the United States, having deployed the second largest contingent of free-world forces in the Vietnam War and the third largest coalition contingent in Iraq with a commitment of \$460 million to postwar reconstruction efforts and also has deployed troops for peace-keeping and reconstruction in Afghanistan and Lebanon;

Whereas, the Republic of Korea is one of the staunchest and most reliable provider of peacekeeping and stability forces to various United Nations and regional alliances over the past two decades;

Whereas, when the pending free trade agreement between Korea and the European Union enters into force as expected in 2010 the US will be economically disadvantaged and mutual security measures weakened if the **KORUS FTA** has not also been fully implemented;

Whereas, the **KORUS FTA** will not only boost the bilateral economic and trade relationship, but will also further strengthen the alliance partnership to effectively deal with the new challenges and opportunities of the 21st century;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the **U.S. Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations (USFKVO), the Combined Korea Veterans Association (CKVA), and the Korean Veterans Association (KVA)** urge the United States Congress to ratify and pass enabling legislation to implement the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (**KORUS FTA**); and be it further

Resolved, That the **USFKVO, CKVA, and KVA** urge other veterans organizations in the United States to support and promote this Resolution; and be it finally

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

AGREED AND RESOLVED

Louis T Dechert

Chairman, Combined KORUS Veterans Association (CKVA)
Co-Chairman, US Federation of Korea Veteran Organizations (USFKVO)
Chairman, US-Korea Allies Council (UKAC)
President, Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA/USA), 2004-2008

Jeff J Brodeur

Co-Chairman, US Federation of Korea Veteran Organizations (USFKVO)
Founder, Korea Veterans of America (KVA)

December 3, 2009

Date

