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H.R. No. 72

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Kimchee has long played a central role in Korean
2 culture, and in recent decades, the beloved dish has gained
3 increasing popularity around the globe, and especially in Texas;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In ancient times, the people of the Korean peninsula
6 began fermenting vegetables to preserve them for consumption during
7 long, harsh winters; the healthy, flavorful, and pungent product of
8 this process, kimchee, became a staple of the Korean diet, served at
9 every meal and incorporated in myriad recipes, from soup to
10 pancakes; in the autumn, family members, friends, and neighbors
11 came together to help in the labor-intensive preparation, providing
12 an opportunity to socialize and build community; this ritual,
13 *kimjang*, has been acknowledged since 2013 on UNESCO's
14 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of
15 Humanity; and

16 WHEREAS, Many ingredients can be used in kimchee, including
17 scallions, ginger, garlic, sugar, salt, fish sauce, and fermented
18 seafood; complex interactions among the elements during
19 fermentation result in unique combinations of spicy, sour, sweet,
20 carbonated, and umami flavors; although there are numerous kinds of
21 kimchee, including regional and seasonal varieties, the most
22 popular today is *baechu* kimchee, based on napa cabbage, salt, and
23 *gochugaru*, a Korean red pepper powder; and

24 WHEREAS, During the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea,

1 kimchee was promoted as one of the official foods of the Olympic
2 Village, sparking an increase in exports; in recent years, Texas
3 has seen its Korean American population grow, leading to wider
4 availability of kimchee, whether commercially produced, artisanal,
5 or homemade; it appears not only in its traditional culinary
6 context, but also on everything from tacos to French fries; and

7 WHEREAS, A mainstay of Korea's rich cuisine for centuries,
8 kimchee is adding a distinctive zing to the vibrant diversity of the
9 food scene across the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
11 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby recognize November 22,
12 2023, as Kimchee Day and encourage all Texans to enjoy this savory
13 treat.