

‘Long Live the Republic of Korea’ echoes through Washington, D.C., the heart of U.S.

First-ever commemorative event held at San Francisco City Hall; over 1,000 attendees

A commemorative ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of Korea’s liberation was held Aug. 15 at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center in Virginia, U.S., attended by approximately 600 compatriots and prominent figures from mainstream American society.

The event was jointly hosted by the Korean Associations of Virginia and Maryland and the Korean American Federation of Washington, D.C., with support from the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, the Overseas Koreans Agency, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the U.S., the Washington Council of the Peaceful Unification Advisory Council and the Washington Chapter of the Heritage of Korean Independence.

The ceremony opened with a piano and violin duet, songs by the youth choir K-Harmony and a Nanta performance by the Di Dim Sae Korean Traditional Arts Institute.

“We pay tribute to the patriotic martyrs and independence activists who sacrificed for our nation’s independence,” Kim Deok-man, president of the Virginia Korean Association, said in his welcoming remarks. “We hope to further strengthen the blood-sealed friendship between Korea and the United States.”

Following this, Cho Ki-joong, consul general at the Korean Embassy in the U.S., read President Lee Jae Myung’s congratulatory address.

“Eighty years ago, we regained our light through countless sacrifices and dedication,” the president said. “Let us inherit the spirit of freedom and sovereignty and advance toward a Republic of Korea that leads the world.”

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, Virginia House Rep. Irene Shin and Fairfax School Board member Moon Il-ryong also delivered congratulatory addresses, reflecting on the significance of liberation.

The event lobby featured a photo exhibition on the independence movement. The stage was adorned with a large Taegeukgi (South Korean flag) and the Stars and Stripes (U.S. flag), along with the phrase “80th Anniversary of Liberation: Brilliant Footsteps, New Path,” adding to the emotional atmosphere. The celebratory performance by the JUB Korean Culture and Arts Institute and Lee Cheong-young’s “Long Live Korean Independence” performance brought tears to the audience’s eyes. When the choir, dressed in



A ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of Liberation Day is being held at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center in Virginia, U.S., on Aug. 15.

“hanbok,” sang the Liberation Day song, many people joined in singing along.

At the event’s conclusion, three cheers of “Long live Korean independence!” led by Kim In-cheol, president of the Korean Veterans Association of the Eastern United States, resounded. Attendees then shared commemorative rice cakes and left messages on a panel, including “Long live the Republic of Korea” and “Long live the Korean community in Washington.”

San Francisco also hosted its first-ever grand Liberation Day commemoration at its City Hall. Organized to reflect on the historical significance of liberation and celebrate the Korea-U.S. friendship, the event drew over 1,000 attendees, including local community leaders, Koreans and citizens, making it a meaningful occasion.

“We prepared this event to showcase the standing of the Northern California Korean community on the 80th anniversary of liberation,” said Kim Han-il, president of the Korean Association of the San Francisco Bay Area. “I hope Koreans of the first generation, along with the second and third generations, feel a sense of pride.”

Meanwhile, the 80th Liberation Day commemorative football tournament, hosted by the Virginia Korean Association (President Kim Deok-man) and organized by the Washington Korean Soccer Association (President Park Hee-chun), was successfully held Aug. 10.

This tournament was arranged to commemorate the 80th anniversary of liberation, allowing the Korean community to reflect on its historical significance and foster camaraderie. 🇺🇸🇰🇷