

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 32 (Delegate Chang)
Rules and Executive Nominations

**General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Welcome Home Korean War
Veterans Day**

This bill designates July 27 as Welcome Home Korean War Veterans Day in recognition of the service and sacrifice of Korean War veterans. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Welcome Home Korean War Veterans Day does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Sixteen official commemorative days, seven months, and one week are recognized in State law, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The Governor also must issue a proclamation each year encouraging citizens and other individuals to observe a moment of silence at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day to unite in remembrance and commemorate the heroic acts and efforts of Marylanders who have served and died in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Exhibit 1
Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

Asian Lunar New Year Day ¹	January/February
Black History Month	February
Irish-American Heritage Month	March
Women’s History Month	March
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	March 30
Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day	April 3
John Hanson’s Birthday ²	April 13
National Healthcare Decisions Day	April 16
Maryland Centenarians Day ³	May
Negro Baseball League Day ⁴	May
Law Day U.S.A.	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁵	June
Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week ⁶	June
Juneteenth National Freedom Day	June 19
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Thurgood Marshall Day	July 2
Caribbean Heritage Month	August
Hispanic Heritage Month ⁷	September/October
German-American Heritage Month	October
South Asian American Heritage Day	October 2
Poetry Day	October 15
American Indian Heritage Month	November
Maryland Emancipation Day	November 1
Annapolis Charter Day	December 17

¹Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

²John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

³Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁴Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁵Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁶Commemorated during the second week in June.

⁷Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Background: The Korean War began in June 1950, when the North Korean People's Army invaded The Republic of Korea, and ended on July 27, 1953, with the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement. July 27 has been observed in the United States as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly six million Americans served during the Korean War era. More than 36,000 U.S. service members, including 531 Marylanders, lost their lives in the war, and more than 103,000 were wounded. According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, as of March 2019, about 7,600 U.S. service members, including 136 Marylanders, remain unaccounted for from the Korean War.

The Maryland Korean War Memorial in Baltimore was dedicated in May 1990. Chapter 180 of 2001 designated Maryland Route 43 as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1376 of 2019 was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, SB 996 of 2019, was referred to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; U.S. Department of Defense; U.S. National Archives and Records Administration; *Baltimore Sun*; CNN; Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home; Department of Legislative Services

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