

## Korean American Day – January 13<sup>th</sup>

Source: <https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/korean-american-day/>



January 13 is Korean American Day, a celebration of the first arrival of Korean immigrants to America, and a commemoration of the Korean American community's contributions to culture and society in the United States. There are around 1.8 million people of Korean descent living in the United States, and the Korean Americans make for the fifth largest Asian-American population group. Their roles in society as religious leaders, business owners, military servicemen, artists, doctors, government officials, and many others are indispensable to America.

### Background

Korean American Day was first proclaimed by President George W. Bush on January 13, 2003, the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Koreans to the United States in 1903. The observance was made official by the U.S. Congress in 2005, and since then Korean American Day has been an annual celebration.

### History of Korean Americans in the US

Koreans had been visiting the United States since 1882 when Korea and the United States signed a peaceful treaty establishing friendship and commerce between the two countries. Politicians and diplomats, businessmen, and students would often travel to America, but none stayed on permanently.

Then, in December of 1902, 102 Korean immigrants boarded the SS Gaelic, whose

destination was Honolulu in Hawaii. A month later, on January 13, 1903, they arrived in America, making them the first wave of Korean immigrants to arrive in the country. Throughout the next two years, around 7,500 more Korean immigrants moved to the United States and quickly spread around the country, increasing the Korean American population.

Ever since their arrival, Korean Americans have made important contributions to the United States' economy, society, and culture. They proved to be very valuable during the two World Wars, where they bravely served the United States.

The alliance between the U.S. and South Korea during the Korean War also encouraged many Koreans to emigrate to America, and after the Naturalization Act of 1965, which made it easier for Asians to migrate to America, there was also a big boom in Korean immigration.

The United States boasts the second-largest Korean population living outside of Korea, and the largest Korean American populations are in Los Angeles and New York.

Since their arrival in the United States, the Korean American population has been very valuable and contributed so much to their communities and the United States, it is no wonder they deserve a yearly celebration of all their achievements.



## January 2022 Calendar

*National Braille Literacy Month  
Volunteer Blood Donor Month*

- 1 – New Year's Day (International)
- 4 – World Braille Day
- 6 – Epiphany (Western Christian)
- 7 – Christmas Day (Orthodox Christian)
- 11 – Human Trafficking Awareness Day (US)
- 13 – Maghi (Sikh)
- 13 – Korean American Day (US)
- 17 – Martin Luther King Day (US)
- 17 – Tu B'Shvat (Judaism)
- 19 – World Migrants and Refugees Day
- 27 – Holocaust Memorial Day (International)
- 30 – Mahayana New Year (Buddhism)

## Language Barriers Keep Millions from Good Healthcare

<https://www.webmd.com/health-insurance/news/20210707/language-barriers-keep-millions-from-good-health-care>

Due to language barriers, 25 million Spanish speakers receive about a third less health care than other Americans, a large study of U.S. adults shows. The analysis of federal survey data from more than 120,000 adults revealed that total use of health care (as measured by spending) was 35% to 42% lower among those whose primary language is Spanish compared to English speakers.

"Too few doctors or nurses speak Spanish, and many hospitals and clinics have grossly inadequate interpretation and translation services, despite federal mandates requiring them," said senior study author Dr. Danny McCormick, an associate professor at Harvard Medical School and primary care physician at Cambridge Health Alliance. "But most insurers won't cover the costs of interpreters, and federal enforcement of the language mandates has been lax."

The study found that Spanish speakers had 36% fewer outpatient visits; 48% fewer prescription medications; and 35% fewer outpatient visits. Compared to Hispanic adults who were proficient in English, Spanish speakers also had 37% fewer prescription medications. Spanish speakers also had slightly fewer emergency department visits and hospitalizations, according to findings published in the July issue of the journal *Health Affairs*. Even when it comes to lifesaving services such as colon cancer screening, Spanish speakers are less likely to receive them, researchers reported.

Despite federal laws that mandate interpreter services for hospitals and other agencies receiving federal funding and ban discrimination based on national origin, language-based gaps in health care haven't narrowed over the past 20 years. For example, the difference in health care expenditures between Spanish speakers and non-Hispanic adults increased from \$2,156 in 1999 to \$3,608 in 2018, even after accounting for inflation. Lead author Dr. Jessica Himmelstein said the pandemic has magnified the problems. "The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll in the Hispanic community, especially among people with limited English proficiency," said Himmelstein, a research fellow at Harvard Medical School and physician at Cambridge Health Alliance. "The pandemic has been a magnifier of the failure of our healthcare system to meet the needs of patients facing language barriers."



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## New Staff Profile: Susana Trillo Rodriguez de la Vega



Susana is the newest interpreter in the UCDH Spanish-language team. She was born in Mexico City and grew up with two brothers and a sister. Her immediate family in the US includes her husband and her two doggies Sunny and Luke. Susana came to Sacramento a month after her wedding, saying farewell to her home in Mexico. While her husband worked in the IT industry, she attended American River College and completed an A.S. degree in General Science and an A.A. degree in Social Science. She was not sure which professional road to take, but almost by fate learned about the Healthcare interpreting program at ARC. She realized then, that was what she wanted to do with her life! She has been working as a certified medical interpreter for the last three years. Susana feels fortunate to serve as a bridge between patients and providers. She is proud of being Hispanic and helping her community.

In her free time, Susana loves to go out and get to know new places in California. She likes museums such as the Crocker Art and the Railroad Museum, they are her favorite in Sacramento. Susana also enjoys reading and spending time with her family. She believes it is important to value all the small moments life has to offer.

Welcome to MIS, Susana! We are happy to have you as a part of our Spanish-language team!