Sponsored by:
Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON
District 37 (Bergen)
Assemblywoman CONNIE WAGNER
District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblywomen Mosquera, Vainieri Huttle, Assemblyman Chivukula,
Senators Weinberg, O’Toole, Allen, Gordon, Addiego, Beck and Gill

SYNOPSIS
Commemorates suffering endured by comfort women during forced internment in Japanese military camps.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As reported by the Assembly Women and Children Committee on January 17, 2013, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2013)
ACR159 [1R] JOHNSON, WAGNER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commemorating the suffering endured by comfort women during their forced internment in Japanese military camps.

WHEREAS, The term "comfort women" is a euphemism used by the Japanese government to describe women forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese military between 1932 and 1945; and

WHEREAS, The majority of comfort women were of Korean or Chinese descent but women from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Australia, and the Netherlands were also interned in military comfort stations run directly by the Imperial Japanese military or by private agents working for the Imperial Japanese military; and

WHEREAS, Some of the women were sold to the comfort stations as minors, others were deceptively recruited by middlemen with the promise of employment and financial security, and still others were forcibly kidnapped and sent to "work" for soldiers stationed throughout the Japanese occupied territories; and

WHEREAS, Lack of official documentation, most destroyed on the orders of the Japanese government after World War II, has made it difficult to estimate the total number of comfort women; most historians and media sources approximate that about 200,000 young women were recruited or kidnapped by soldiers to serve in Japanese military brothels; and

WHEREAS, Approximately three-quarters of the comfort women have died as a direct result of the brutality inflicted on them during their internment. Those who survived were left infertile due to sexual violence or sexually transmitted diseases and many are now dying without proper acknowledgment by the Japanese government of the suffering they endured during their forced internment in military comfort stations; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting for this House to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the passage by the United States House of Representatives of H.R.121 [H.R.121] H.Res.121 (110th) that called upon the Japanese government to accept historical responsibility for the sexual enslavement of comfort women by the Imperial Japanese military and educate future generations about these crimes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey (the Senate concurring):

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
Assembly AWC committee amendments adopted January 17, 2013.
1. The General Assembly commemorates and supports comfort women in their fight for proper acknowledgement by the Japanese government of the suffering they endured during their forced internment in military comfort stations and calls upon the Japanese government to accept historical responsibility for the sexual enslavement of comfort women by the Imperial Japanese army and educate future generations about these crimes.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate and signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the United States, The Office of the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea-New York, The Office of Korean American Civic Empowerment, and the Mayor and Council President of Palisades Park, New Jersey, and the Korean American Voters' Council.