

Korean-American Voice: Virginia Legislation for the Dual Name of the Sea between Japan and Korea - “*Sea of Japan and East Sea*”

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1. Introduction: Virginia Legislation

That all textbooks approved by the Board of Education pursuant to # 22.1 -238 of the Code of Virginia, when referring to the Sea of Japan, shall note that it is also referred to as the East Sea.

That the provisions of this act shall not affect any textbooks approved by the Board of Education prior to July 1, 2014.

Chapter 440 approved March 31, 2014.

Virginia’s Korean-American power persuaded the Virginia politicians to enact a law requiring all Virginia geography textbooks to use Sea of Japan/East Sea on the sea between Japan and Korea. Education is an important part of state and local government mission in the United States of America. Education is the ground of nurturing justice as fairness to all citizens. Such a dual name of the sea is one means of educating American young students to acquire justice-as-fairness in their value system. The Virginia action is one important step toward all other American states and international society in a long run.

Why and how Virginia passed the law is a good question to many Korean people in and out of Virginia. This paper aims to answer the question adequately. The Virginia triumph is hoped to be tried in 49 other states of the United States, but another triumph may not be forthcoming soon. State of New York made one attempt in 2014 and is trying again in 2015.

Virginia legislative history from January to March 2014 was a series of suspense to

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many Korean-American people in Virginia and in the United States. It was a dream-like educational policy for all Korean people. "East Sea" in the world atlas has been lost for more than a century. Restoring it in Virginia school textbooks must be a small but a gigantic step toward a long distance running. The first Virginia attempt failed in 2012 when Senator David W. Marsden introduced the bill and could not pass the huddle of the education subcommittee. In the following year, he orchestrated bi-partisan efforts in the House of Delegates and the Senate, and encouraged the presence of the Korean-American voters passionately cheering the passage of the bill outside of the General Assembly for the educational justice as fairness, not necessarily for political cause.

On November 25, 2013, Senate Bill 2 profiled and ordered. Marsden and two other patrons, Howell and Black sponsored the bill. The senate was composed of 40 members for four-year term. On January 16, 2014, the Senate Committee on Education and Health passed the bill with 9 votes with 4 votes against. On January 17, 2014, the Senate passed the bill with 38 against none. On January 23, 2014, Senator Donald McEachin proposed amendment to nullify the bill, but it was rejected by a big margin of 33 votes against 4 votes. Senator Janet Howell made a short speech in disgracing Senator McEachin for his senseless attempt to kill the bill after a long, careful deliberation. Finally, Senate Bill 2 passed the Senate with 32 votes against 4 votes.

The House Bill 11 proposed by Timothy D. Hugo with patron, Keam, McQuinn, Yancy, Albo, Anderson, Bulova, Comstock, Cox, Greason, Howell, W.J. Lemunyon, Lingamfelter, Marshall, R.G. Miller, O'Quinn, Ramadan, Rust, Sickles and Watts, was profiled on November 18, 2013 and reported to Committee on Education on January 10, 2014. Hugo was the top ranked Republican delegate after Speaker Howell. The House of Delegates was composed of 100 elected members to General Assembly with a two-year term. The Sub-Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education passed the bill with 5 to 4, one vote margin. The Committee on Education passed it with amendment with 19 votes against 3 on February 3, 2014. On February 6, 2014, the House passed it with 81 votes against 15.

All the legislative sessions progressing from the sub-committee to the committee and eventually to the floor actions were exciting and thrilling to all Korean people with two key patrons, Marsden and Hugo. The Japan lobby, McGwire Woods LLP, prestigious law firm in Washington, D.C., contracted by the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C. in October 2013, did make every possible effort to stop the bill's progress. All dele-

gates and senators received a call from the lobbyists, some more than once. They were all persuaded to reject the bill or neutral to it, because it was a political one, not educational one, as the major sponsors advocated. A common answer to such a call among those who supported the legislation was simply: “I don’t agree with you.” That was a surprising finding from my personal interviews with key legislators in November 2014 to January 2015. The lobbyists attempted to build pro-Japanese alliance with so-called expert scholarly groups in the main stream of America and with grass-root people in and out of State of Virginia. Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe before his inauguration was seemingly showing his uneasiness of the legislation to fear Japanese threat with the Virginia-Japan trade volume. He was most vulnerable to the Japanese lobby. Governor McAuliffe finally signed the bill without anyone celebrating for the legislation in his office. Most probably, reluctantly. It was a tense moment when Delegate Tim Hugo finally announced Governor’s act in the first week of April 2014.

Critical moments were numerous in the three month’s legislative process. Even after the two chambers passed the identical bill, the Senate Education Committee that was chaired by an African-American wanted to kill the bill, so pigeonholed the bill from the House. The Black Caucus openly opposed the bill with an “excuse”: “This kind of bill should invite many similar bills in the future, for example, African-American people and American Indians. “ The Black Caucus could not stop the bill into an act. Two Chambers should approve the bill each other, at the last. So Tim Hugo just moved the House accept the Senate Bill 2, rather than waiting for the Senate’s approval of House Bill 11. If Hugo did not sacrifice his bill, then the bill could be dead at the last port of call. Hugo and Marsden were two residents of Northern Virginia who felt the presence of the Korean-American voters and their political influences. Two deserve for the major contributions to the passage of the law.

Tim Hugo sent me his summing up note after the passage as:

During the summer of 2013, Delegate Hugo met with Korean leaders who briefed him on their previous efforts to have legislation regarding the East Sea passed in the General Assembly. The legislation would require Virginia textbooks to state that the Sea of Japan also be known as the East Sea, since previous legislation had failed. After the meeting, the Delegate agreed to introduce legislation during the 2014 session.

You can follow the full history of the bill at <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+sum+HB11>. The legislation applies to textbooks printed after July 1,

2014. The new textbooks will now refer to the body of water between Korea and Japan as both the Sea of Japan and the East Sea.

Throughout deliberation of HB11 it had broad bipartisan support in the House and was ultimately passed by the House with an 81Y to 15 N. Unfortunately, when HB 11 was referred to the Senate Education Committee, the committee refused to act on the legislation and it was never passed out of the Senate.

Senator Marsden of the 37th senate district also introduced SB 2, which was the companion bill to HB 11. After SB 2 passed out of the Senate it was referred to the House. Delegate Hugo continued to work to ensure the passage of SB 2. Which was passed in the House with an 82Y to 16N vote. SB2 and then signed into law by the Governor. Delegate Hugo worked across party lines for historical accuracy and respect for the Korean American community.

2. Korean-American power in northern Virginia

Virginia is one of conservative Southern states, unlikely accepting the dual names of the sea, far away from East Asia, compared to so-called liberal state like New York, and most populous state like California along the Pacific coast. But Virginia accepted the dual name of the sea in March, 2014. This is a remarkable achievement of the Korean-American power in Virginia politics. The Korean-American power does not constitute the main stream of Virginia politics, but it can play a casting voter's role in Northern Virginia where a great majority of Virginians and Korean-American people reside. Virginia is a relatively populous state in American politics, but about a half of Virginians live in the Northern Virginia and two other metropolitan areas in the Tidewater and Richmond areas. Those who win Northern Virginia are usually declared as the winners of state-wide elections. Korean people are clustered in Northern Virginia, Washington suburb, where their jobs are located and the best quality schools are, too. The center of Northern Virginia, Fairfax Country, boasts of its largest minority ethnic group, Korean-American people. Therefore, their voting power is critical to the winning strategy of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.

Barbara Comstock and Suzanne Scholte, Republican congressional candidates for Virginia District 10 and 11, did run against the Democrats with a promise to propose the dual name of Sea of Japan and East Sea when they are elected in the November

2014 Congressional elections. The Democratic candidate in District 10, John Foust, also promised the same kind of legislation. Comstock won and Scholte lost. Comstock promised to propose a congressional resolution to support the dual name of the sea in new Congress. Resolution is not a legislative act, so that her proposal will be accepted in the US House of Representatives. She was a Republican delegate to Virginia House of Delegates supportive of the Virginia legislation to adopt the dual name of the sea in Virginia textbooks. Peter Kim, Voices of Korean-American People, is behind the Comstock promise. Barbara Comstock's role in the US Congress has pleased and will do so the Korean-American people in Northern Virginia.

The Washington Post editorial was critical to Northern Virginia politics tangled with the sea between Japan and Korea in the November 2014 congressional elections since it printed editorial "Instant Asia Experts" on August 20, 2014. It seemed to say irrelevance of sea name in East Asia to Virginia politics to the Post readers. I responded to the editorial:

The Post editorial, Instant Asia Experts, on Aug. 20, 2014 made a good sense. Politicians should not dictate mapmakers and cartographers to change the name of the sea from Sea of Japan to Sea of Japan/East Sea on the sea between Japan and Korea. However, mapmakers and cartographers are not persuaded by the meaningful cause of using the dual name the United Nations recommended. That is why the Korean-American people want to use their voting power to their political leaders. To Korean people, the name of the sea has been East Sea for more than two thousand years, long before Japan emerged onto history.

I wish the Post editorial writer paid attention to the Korean-American people's sentiment as well. Justice as fairness has made the human civilization move forward and the Post editorial decent.

The Virginia legislation shocked major media in the United States and Japan in Spring of 2014. Before new Governor signed the bill, the Washington Post reported on Japanese ambassador's visit of the Virginia governor to persuade him to veto the legislation and employed a law firm to dissuade Virginia legislators as well. Reuters reported "a victory for the Korean-American campaign" on April 3, 2014. The Japan Times reported "Virginia passage of a law on 'East Sea'" on April 4, 2014. The following quotations from the Washington Post and BBC were documented among many major

articles in printed and broadcasting media:

The Washington Post/ The issue has drawn intense interest from among others, Japanese diplomats, Korean-Americans in Northern Virginia and newly elected Governor Terry McAuliffe, who promised to support the measure during his campaign, but has been squeezed between that pledge and warnings that Japanese businesses in Virginia could react poorly to the move.

The BBC/But many Korean-Americans-there are more than 80,000 in Virginia- lobbied for their name to be included in history textbooks in the weeks before the vote. They travelled to the State Capital, Richmond, to push their claim at a series of rallies.

I predicted the Korean-American power in my Korea Times column on February 12, 2009. It was a futuristic view of the Korean-American power in various walks of life.

Korean-American Power

Korean-American power is now emerging to correct the name of the sea between Japan and Korea and the sovereignty of Dokdo islets. Power is measured by influence. Korean-American power is influencing local school boards, local councils and the state legislatures to accept the joint use of the terms East Sea and Sea of Japan, and Korea's undisputed sovereignty of the Dokdo islets.

Local and state politicians are enlightened by Korean-American influence on the issues of the unknown sea and islets. American people are the least educated on international affairs, especially on East Asian affairs. They need education on these. Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin did not know how to distinguish Africa as a continent and a nation. This is just one good example. The U.S. Library of Congress's map of Korea has been corrected. However, many American people, including so-called intellectuals, think Dokdo is a disputed islet between Korea and Japan. Korean-Americans are now approaching American politicians with their voting power.

Power in democracy is dependent on the strength of voting power. Korean-American power is small but growing and increasingly influencing American politics. This is one very fortunate story in Korea's competition with Japan. Japanese-American power exists, but it is not comparable to Korean-American power. The Korean-American community is a new Korea frontier.

The first visible result was the congressional resolution on sympathy and compassion for "comfort women," demanding a more profound apology from the Japanese government than the one it issued a couple of years ago. Japanese-American congressman

Mike Honda led the campaign.

National Geographic printed the dual names of Sea of Japan/East Sea and Dokdo/Takeshima on the sea between Korea and Japan and the islets. Many American mapmakers and geographers are in favor of a single name, the Sea of Japan.

But when they learn more about the history of East Asian nations, they will use the dual name over the sea and a single name for Dokdo over the dual names. The present situation has nothing to do with the failure of the Korean government's diplomacy or PR efforts.

Japan's wealth and its image are far superior to those of Korea. The international community does not see Japan and Korea equally. Mapmakers and teachers do not see the things with human compassion and sympathy as the Korean people wish. They are not kind to Korean people's claims about the East Sea and Dokdo.

Frankly speaking, I am pessimistic about the correction of the sea name and the sovereignty of Dokdo in the near future. Blaming and accusing American imperialism on these issues are neither valid nor helpful.

Now, I see a new hope from the growing power of the Korean-American community. They can herald good news to the Korean people. The Korean-American community is aware of its voting power.

I met and briefed newly elected congressman Jerry Connolly, from my district, who was chairman of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on the sea name and Dokdo. I told him, "You will receive Korean-American voters" support as long as you have a firm commitment to defending the dual sea name and the sovereignty of Dokdo.

"International free trade and mutual defense between the U.S. and Korea will be your next choice. But the name of the sea and the islet are imminent concerns of all Korean-American people."

I e-mailed my articles on those issues to him upon his request. I also asked my friend, Norman Cherkis, a retired U.S. naval researcher and consultant, to send his article on Dokdo to Congressman Connolly.

Many Korea Times readers may remember Yoko Kawashima Watkins' story, "So Far From the Bamboo Grove," a non-fiction memoir of one young Japanese girl based on her sad and tragic experiences in returning to Japan from Korea after Japan's surrender to the Allied forces in August 1945.

Many Korean-American parents protested the listing of the book for American high school reading. The book could be fair to many readers, but might offer, unnecessarily,

the cruelty of Koreans to the evacuating Japanese. Korean-American children and their parents made a big movement in the U.S. couple of years ago.

Korean-Americans are a visible minority people in Fairfax County, an affluent suburban county in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, where I currently reside. In my judgment, they are now seeing their influence in close local and state elections.

They are organized into the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. They elected one school board member and they may elect one county supervisor in the forthcoming special election, a sign of political strength and power. No one can ignore increasing Korean-American voting power in the seesaw elections between the two major party candidates.

The Korean National Assembly has passed the voting rights act of Korean citizens with Green Cards in the U.S. onto the Korean presidential and general elections. This act has been controversial for politicizing overseas Koreans, including those in the U.S., but will bring them closer to their mother country.

Korean people should recognize the presence and role of Korean-Americans, who have long been neglected or ignored by the two nations.

One unexpected Korean-American power is voting power in the United States and Korea. The power of voting rights will be explosive when it is well equipped with sense of justice and fairness on international affairs.

I am looking forward to seeing more Korean-American power and influence in American politics and Korean politics. Second and third generation overseas Koreans will wield more power in all walks of American life. I hope it's positive for both nations and builds a better bridge between the two.

Korean-American power has been growing in quality entering the main stream America and in quantity in numbers. I witnessed the Virginia politicians who were seeking the Korean-American voters. One good example was victory of Jim Webb, Democrat, who campaigned successfully in Northern Virginia, won the US Senate seat in his 2006 campaign. His victory margin was less than 1 percent among two million voters. His power base was Northern Virginia. He is now ambitious to challenge Hillary Clinton in the forthcoming 2016 presidential election. I witnessed the Fairfax County elections courting the Korean-American voting bloc.

My prediction worked well. Mark Keam, a Korean-American lawyer, campaigned successfully in the 2006 Virginia House of Delegates election in Northern Virginia district.

He was born in Korea as a Christian minister's son and immigrated to the United States when he was young. His victory heralded new era for the Korean-American power. Here is his short resume. He is a promising young politician aiming at high, next to the US Congress.

VA delegate Mark Keam

Mark L. Keam represents the 35th District in the Virginia House of Delegates, which is considered to be the oldest continuous legislative body in the modern world, with roots dating back to Jamestown in 1619.

The District is entirely within Fairfax County, and includes over 80,000 residents living in parts of Fair Oaks, Penderbrook, Oakton, Vienna, Dunn Loring, Tysons and McLean.

In November 2009, Mark was elected to an open seat, thereby becoming the first Asian-born immigrant to serve in the Virginia General Assembly. In 2011 and 2013, voters chose to return Mark to Richmond for additional two-year terms.

As a legislator with a strong reputation for bipartisanship and effectiveness, Mark focuses on creating jobs, improving schools, addressing traffic gridlocks, reducing burdens on businesses, strengthening social safety nets, and making the government more transparent, efficient, and accountable.

Several bills that Mark drafted have become law in Virginia, including a tax credit to encourage "green jobs," creating good healthcare jobs for military veterans and easing the transition process for military veterans returning home, providing property tax relief for elderly and disabled homeowners and penalizing sales tax fraud, promoting a new high-tech digital forensics industry, and improving the prisoner reentry process to save taxpayer costs.

Mark has also been the lead Democratic cosponsor of several Republican bills that have become law, including tax credits for high-tech research and development, promoting data centers for cloud computing, fighting abusive practices of "patent trolling," promoting telecommuting options for workers, and making Virginia an attractive location for the film industries.

In the House, Mark serves on the powerful Courts of Justice Committee as well as on the Education, Finance, and Agriculture/Chesapeake/Natural Resources Committees. He is also the only Democratic House member of the special Joint Subcommittee to Evaluate Tax Preferences. Mark co-chairs the bipartisan bicameral Tourism Caucus

and the Prayer Caucus.

Mark was appointed by the Speaker of the House to the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, which the General Assembly created to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. He was also appointed by the Governor to the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Reentry Council, which was established to improve the correctional system.

As a part-time citizen-legislator, Mark and his staff maintain a year-round District office in Vienna in addition to his Richmond office.

When the General Assembly is not in session, Mark serves as senior advisor in a technology company which he joined in early 2007 after twelve years of public service, in both executive and legislative branches of government.

For six years, Mark was Chief Counsel to Assistant Senate Majority Leader Dick Durbin on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Before working on Capitol Hill, Mark was appointed Assistant Chief Counsel in the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and had also served as an attorney with the Federal Communications Commission's Wireless Bureau.

Mark's long history of community service extends to a variety of local, state and national organizations. Currently, he serves on the boards of the Virginia Literacy Foundation, the Fairfax Law Foundation Society of Fellows, and the University of Virginia Thomas C. Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership.

Mark is a member of Leadership Greater Washington, Rotary Club of Vienna, Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, McLean Citizens Association, Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce, Vienna Business Association, Vienna Arts Society and Historic Vienna.

He is a former president of the Courthouse Oaks Homeowners Association and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington Area. A lifelong Christian, Mark worships at Vienna Presbyterian Church.

Mark was born in Seoul, Republic of Korea, as the youngest child of a Presbyterian minister. At age four, Mark and his family moved to South Vietnam where his father established a church. In 1975, they fled from the war when Vietnam fell to communism. They then moved to Australia where his father established another church, before eventually moving to America.

Mark received a political science degree from the University of California at Irvine, and had a chance to live in Falls Church, Virginia, while working as a college intern.

After receiving a law degree from Hastings College of the Law, Mark returned to Virginia where he met and married Alex Seong Keam, also an attorney. The Keams have two children.

Inside the Virginia legislature, Mark Keam's presence in the passage of the law on "East Sea" was influential. His speech in the House was impressively touching all politicians in the Chamber and Korean-American visitors in the gallery

Here's a video of one of his speeches on the bill during the House debate:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a98v3DaoJXQ>

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video Del. Mark Keam speaks on House Bill 11 on the East Sea

Outside, Peter Kim's organization of Voice of Korean-Americans and leadership in the process of legislation led to the Korean-American victory at last. He came to the United States as a high school student, graduated Virginia Military Institute, joined the US Air

Force and retired at the rank of captain. His life was not known other than one line. See Appendix 1. But he, as a member of the Virginia Korean-American Association, launched a letter-writing campaign to the White House for the dual name of Sea of Japan and East Sea in the US maps. He assembled one million signatures for the proposal of dual name-Sea of Japan and East Sea, but could not achieve his ambition. Then, he contacted State of Maryland and found out that local school boards made selection of textbooks. Prince George County and Montgomery County in Maryland, the Washington metropolitan area already used the textbooks of using dual name.

After a long search, he contacted and found out the Virginia Board of Education or local school board were not making decisions of textbooks. He was a resident of Northern Virginia. He contacted local politicians and explained the necessity of dual name in the

Figure 1. Del. Mark Keam speaks on House Bill 11 on the East Sea



Source: Youtube

Virginia textbooks for educational justice for children, and their sound future citizenship. He met Linda Han, president of the Korean-American Association of the Washington area. His law office was located in the same compound of the Association in Annandale, Virginia. Linda Han helped him to take-off his campaign toward the Virginia legislature. He explained the reason why his campaign be addressed to the Virginia legislature. The State Board of Education disappointed him and suggested a new way to achieve the goal, that is, political action to educational legislation to enforce printing of dual name of the sea in Virginia textbooks. He became a good friend of Virginia senator David W. Marsden. Senator Marsden proposed legislation in 2013, but his proposal did not get out of the first huddle, the sub-committee.

Linda Han, president of The Korean-American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area, fully supported the campaign for the Virginia legislation. She mobilized her political, human and financial resources- the Korean-American people in the Washington area and his contacts with Virginia politicians. She was a business woman who was elected to the president of the Korean-American Association without competition. She financed all the expenses for Peter Kim and VoKA. VoKA did not have a space to start with. So Kim used Linda Han's office in February 2013. Kim and Han contacted Korean-American Associations in major Virginia metropolitan areas Richmond, Tidewater (Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake), Peninsula (Newport News and Hampton), and Petersburg and persuaded all Korean-American voters to contact their Virginia legislators representing their towns. Dr. Kim Sang-kyun, civil engineer and president of the Richmond Korean-American Association and Prof. Lea Lee of Old Dominion University and president of the Tidewater Korean-American Association attended all seven legislative sessions from January to March 2014. They, 160 Korean-American people, half from the Washington area and another half from the Richmond, Peninsula, Tidewater and Petersburg areas overwhelmed the Virginia legislators. Senator Janet Howell confessed me that she never saw such a large audience in her twenty-year career as a senator (my personal interview at her home in Reston, Virginia in the morning of December 11, 2014). "I never expected such sincere crowds of about 160 Korean-American people attending early morning sessions of sub-committee, committee and floor actions of hearings, debates and voting inside the chamber and outside in the hallway." The visitors' gallery had seat-capacity of 100 at maximum, so that about 60 people watched the television screen of the session in the hallway. She continued to say, "All my colleagues felt the same way. Each session was

historic in the Virginia legislature.” Senator David W. Marsden, major sponsor of the Virginia legislation, agreed with her totally. He and his wife visited Korea before this legislative move emphasized the Korea-US alliances in addition to the Korean-American mobilization in my personal telephone interview with him on November 13, 2014 for one hour or so. Both also emphasized the National Geographic’s use of the dual name on the sea between Japan and Korea as their persuasion of educational justice-as-fairness in Virginia textbooks to their colleagues. They remembered a hotly debate in the Virginia legislature on Armenian geographic name years ago, and after that, geographic names outside Virginia became a taboo. But the East Sea issue was educational, not political. They used the National Geographic, most respectable geographic magazine in the United States, as an example to follow in the Virginia geographic textbooks for educational justice as fairness. Mr. Lee Nae-won, the president of the Seoul National University Alumni Association in the Washington area and president of the Korean school board of directors told me that the dual name of the sea was justified for the legislation from the educational fairness for Virginia children first of all, and later the presence of Korean-American voters in the chamber overwhelmed the Virginia legislators. He attended all the sessions.

Linda Han told me that 49 organizations representing Korean people in the Washington area, covering the two states, Virginia and Maryland, were mobilized for the presences of seven legislative sessions, including the Senior Citizens Association. Almost the same number of senior citizens participated in the campaign. She provided the transportation, meals and snacks with bottles of water to those who attended the Virginia legislative sessions, from her own pocket. The Korean Central Presbyterian Church, the largest Korean congregation in the Washington area, provided its van and the Hans’ Travel Company also provided a bus for those who wanted to attend the Virginia legislative sessions.

After they returned to town, she treated dinners for all. Her enthusiasm and financial support were essential to the success of the dual-name legislation. In April 2014, she invited all the Virginia legislators who supported the legislation to Hilton Hotel in Springfield, Virginia for Koreans’ Appreciation Night banquet. She told me that she spent \$43,000 from her pocket from the beginning to the end. Many Korean-American people who attended the Virginia legislative sessions told me that the legislative success for the dual name was possible with her leadership of the Korean community behind Peter Kim of VoKA. Peter Kim was working in a law office as an assistant. He was

not known to the Korean community at all before he was endorsed by Linda Han. Peter Kim used Linda Han's office in the beginning of 2013 and later in August 2013 a Chinese restaurant run by Korean owners in the Korean Town in Annandale, Virginia.

One Korean leader was Thomas Lim (Lim Sung-hwan), president of the Korean Vietnam War Veterans Association of the USA, who mobilized the members of his organization. He contacted all the Vietnam War veterans in the Virginia legislature and asked their support of the legislation in the House and the Senate. He is a resident of Virginia, but his organization has many members of Maryland. I met another Marylander, Mr. Yong Ha Kim, president of Korean Association of Montgomery County, Maryland whose address is Burtonsville, Maryland, far away from the Korean Town in Annandale, Virginia. He and Montgomery County Korean friends attended the Virginia legislative sessions. The Korean Golf Association raised fund for the VoKA and many other organizations such as the Korean Poets and Writers Group donated One hundred dollars for the legislative success. VoKA has not yet released all the revenues and expenses for the campaign. I met many Korean-American people who donated one dollar to five dollars to the VoKA. I could feel their patriotic heart-felt participation in the Virginia campaign.

The Society of East Sea made the National Geographic use a dual name of Sea of Japan and East Sea that set the tone for the Virginia legislation. It was a good persuader to the Virginia politicians to accept the dual name in Virginia textbooks. When Senator and Mrs. Marsden visited Korea, the Society kindly provided all necessary information to them so that they were able to quote the East Sea in the Korean national anthem. They knew the Korean emotion and sentiment beyond Korean historical documents that contained the East Sea. Those who endorsed the Senate Bill² and House Bill¹¹ were pro-Korean people. It seems that the Society has been making "a butterfly's wave" to change the world atlas in long run. In the November 2013 general elections, both Democrat and Republican candidates pledged to support the East Sea legislation in Northern Virginia to the Korean American people. Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe later was hesitant to carry out his pledge when he was elected under the Japan pressure. Then, his political future could be uncertain without the Korean voting bloc. Finally, both chambers of Virginia legislature passed the bill and Governor McAuliffe signed the law under the mounting pressures from the Korean voters and the Japanese government.

3. Future actions

The Virginia triumph may not repeat in 49 states in the United States in the near future. The Virginia textbooks may be a big butterfly when it spread its wings to other publishers of textbooks to other states. Failing to implanting the Virginia triumph to neighboring states may bring up unexpected negative results to Virginia. Prince George County in Maryland has already adopted the textbook using the dual name of the sea. Do not move with political ambition without prudent strategic planning. Haste moves may only result disasters, rather bad or negative impacts on Virginia in long run. Peter Kim should not make the Virginia triumph as his “private” glory. Many Korean people fear that. He has split the Korean community in Virginia after Governor McAuliffe signed the bill. More than one white paper on the Virginia legislation are forthcoming, according to the Korean language newspapers (The Joongang Ilbo, Washington Edition, December 12, 2014. P.3). VoKA and the Korean Association will produce two different versions of the Virginia triumph. It will be sad to see two versions of one victory at the end.

I hope the Korean government may proclaim the vast sea including the Dokdo Islet as the East Sea Ocean Sanctuary to protect marine reserve as US President Obama proclaimed in September 2014 on the Pacific Ocean Sanctuary, demonstrating the Koreans’ willingness to advance a conservation agenda without the need of mentioning the Japan-Korea conflict in the sea between the two nations. This will bring Korea’s claim as more internationally acceptable than any other cause. Korea may promote its international peace loving image from the disputed name of the sea. President George Bush first proclaimed the vast sea surrounding Hawaii Islands for environmental conservation. Now, Obama expanded it (The Washington Post, September, 25. A-6).

For a long term, the Korean people should proclaim Justice-as-fairness as the cause of proposing the dual name on the sea between the two nations. Justice-as-fairness cannot be often victorious in real politics, but nurture human conscience. Idealism is often not amicable to the real politics. One success was remarkable: The National Geographic accepted the dual name on the sea between Japan and Korea. It was one great victory originated from the Society of East Sea efforts. The Virginia victory was another victory.

I hope and wish the Society continue its mission to spread out the necessity of dual name on the sea between the two nations for justice as fairness, and all international

participants and scholars who have joined and will join in the Society seminar in the lofty campaign to persuade their nation's map makers to use the dual name of the sea, Sea of Japan/East Sea.

One more trivial note: Can Korea initiate name of Sea of Japan and Korea, instead of East Sea for the future endeavors? East Sea is a fixed name of the sea from the Korean perspective, but it can be West Sea from the other direction. Changing the name from East Sea to Sea of Korea may or may not be a tough task to the Korean people.

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- Korean-American Association of Virginia, White Paper of the Virginia Legislation for East Sea. 2012-14, Job Fair, September 13 at Annandale High School.

Appendix

Peter Kim, Voice of the Korean-Americans, *Korea Times*, Feb 17, 2014
'No big fuss over East Sea bills, please'
By Jane Han

Figure 2. Peter Kim, president of the Voice of Korean Americans



NEW YORK - In the wake of a controversial bill passed in Virginia regarding how the East Sea is to be referenced on maps, similar efforts are being made across the U.S.

While that may sound like a good thing for Korea, the opposite in fact may be true, according to the man who initiated and orchestrated Virginia's measure, which would require that textbooks in the state recognize that the body of water between South Korea and Japan is known alternately as the Sea of Japan or the East Sea.

"All this media coverage on these new, possible bills really isn't helpful at all. It's only provoking Japan and giving it an opportunity to interfere," said Peter Kim, head of Voice of Korean Americans (VoKA), a civic group that led Virginia's East Sea campaign, in an interview with The Korea Times.

"If they're going to do anything, it needs to be done in a highly covert manner. No press conferences, no news and TV appearances until the very end," he said, explaining that his nearly two-year-long fight was largely kept a secret right until the House vote.

Earlier this month, Virginia's House of Delegates approved the controversial bill.

Amid intense battling between Korean-Americans and Japanese lobbyists, the first law of its kind in the U.S. quickly triggered similar initiatives in other states, such as California, New York and New Jersey.

Kim, 54, who started his campaign with a White House petition in 2012, says it is meaningful that other states are joining in to make changes in their textbooks. But their efforts, frankly, won't bring forth any new results.

"After all, there are less than 10 major textbook companies that sell books across the country. These companies normally do not customize textbooks for each state, which means that if they have to start including 'East Sea' for Virginia, other states are going to end up getting the same, revised versions as well," Kim explained, adding that new and original efforts should be made to make fresh progress in the East Sea vs. Sea of Japan issue.

He stressed that the next milestone for him and VoKA is to change the U.S. government's official position on the naming of the controversial stretch of water. Currently, the U.S. only uses Sea of Japan.

"This is going to be very difficult, but this is where Koreans in the U.S. can really unify and make sure our voice gets heard," said Kim. "Instead of making sporadic moves here and there, every party needs to team up and show an organized effort."

The upcoming 2016 U.S. presidential election is a good opportunity, he said.

"It will be a chance for us to express our position to all of the candidates, convince

them and earn their promise," said Kim, who used a similar tactic in Virginia by getting a promising word from both Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and his opponent Ken Cuccinelli when they were on the campaign trail.

He says some Americans, at first glance, may not understand why this issue matters so much here in the U.S. But once they hear the details, they usually feel passionate to help and make the change.

"I tell them, this is not a Korean issue. This is a Virginia issue, a U.S. issue," said Kim, who was inspired to take action after seeing his son learning to refer to the East Sea only as the Sea of Japan at his elementary school.