

Rothman Helps Celebrate Third Annual Korean Thanksgiving Day Festival

September 26, 2004

Rothman Helps Celebrate Third Annual
Korean Thanksgiving Day Festival
Joins Thousands At Overpeck Park For Ch'usok - Harvest Moon Festival

Leonia, NJ - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today joined thousands of area residents in Overpeck Park for the Third Annual Korean Thanksgiving Day Festival. Rothman helped celebrate Korean heritage at the event in honor of Chu'sok - the Korean "Harvest Moon" holiday.

"Northern New Jersey is very fortunate to have such a vibrant Korean-American community, which has made a profound contribution to the civic, economic, cultural, and political life of our region," Rothman said. "In recognizing the rich heritage of the Korean-American community, we acknowledge the gifts of culture, tradition, and wisdom that Korean-Americans have brought with them from their homeland. Today, we are strengthening the bonds of understanding among all people and encouraging a greater appreciation for the values of all our fellow Americans."

Throughout his eight years in Congress, Rothman has consistently voted on measures to support the Korean-American community. From legislation that supports the efforts of Korean-Americans to reunite with relatives in North Korea, to fighting for the peaceful and democratic reunification of South and North Korea, Rothman shares the policy objectives of his District's Korean-Americans. During his remarks, Rothman spoke in Korean to the clear delight of those in attendance.

"Learning how to properly speak even those few sentences in Korean was not easy, but I very much wanted the primarily Korean-American audience to understand that their neighbors know that it is not easy to acquire a new language, and that we are prepared to go the 'extra mile' in conveying our warm and welcoming regards," Rothman said.

Ch'usok is believed to have originated during the ancient Shilla Kingdom, when a month-long weaving festival was held. The festival is technically set on the 15th day of the eighth lunar moon, which this year fell on September 24.

More than 65,000 Korean-Americans live in New Jersey, with the vast majority (over 35,000) living in Bergen County. Palisades Park and Fort Lee, which are in Rothman's congressional district, have the largest Korean-American population in the state.

###

[Go back](#)