

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 308 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY R. MACKENZIE, HILL-EVANS, KAZEEM, M. MACKENZIE,  
MALAGARI, MENTZER, PICKETT, ROWE AND D. WILLIAMS,  
JANUARY 31, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 31, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2024 as "Greek-American Heritage  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania and recognizing the constructive role  
3 Greek Americans continue to play in the economic and cultural  
4 development of our nation and this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, The 2020 census identified more than 1.3 million  
6 people of Greek ancestry in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Greek Americans remain proud of their heritage by  
8 passing their traditions and loyalty to the United States on to  
9 new generations of Greek Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, "Greek Independence Day" is a national holiday that  
11 commemorates the start of the Greek War of Independence in 1821  
12 and is celebrated annually in Greece on March 25; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1821, the Greek Commander-in-Chief Petros  
14 Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, remarked to  
15 citizens of the United States that "it is in your land that  
16 liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall  
17 imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we  
18 succeed in resembling you"; and

1       WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of our nation, many of whom  
2 read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek, drew upon  
3 the experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our  
4 nation's representative democracy; and

5       WHEREAS, The modern Greek national anthem, "Hymn to Liberty,"  
6 illustrates Greece's strong bond with and respect for our nation  
7 and ideals by including the words "most heartily was gladdened  
8 George Washington's brave land"; and

9       WHEREAS, Ancient Greeks in the city-state of Athens made  
10 vital contributions to democratic governance by inventing the  
11 concept of citizenship where laws were proposed by citizen  
12 assemblies and subject to popular vote, by recognizing the  
13 principle of separation of powers in independent Athenian  
14 legislative, executive and judicial branches and by conceiving  
15 and implementing the concept of trial by jury; and

16       WHEREAS, Sir Winston Churchill said of the Greeks, "Hence, we  
17 will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes  
18 fight like Greeks," recognizing that Greece played a major role  
19 in World War II by delaying the German invasion of Russia; and

20       WHEREAS, Greek Americans served with distinction in all  
21 branches of the United States military during World War II and,  
22 through the American Hellenic Educational Progressive  
23 Association, raised more than \$253 million in war bonds for the  
24 United States; and

25       WHEREAS, Throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of only  
26 three nations to ally with the United States in every major  
27 international conflict, and to this day, the Greek nation  
28 remains a reliable strategic partner and steadfast ally of the  
29 United States; and

30       WHEREAS, Greek Americans continue to demonstrate loyalty to

1 the United States and the ideals of our Founding Fathers;

2 therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the

4 month of March 2024 as "Greek-American Heritage Month" in

5 Pennsylvania; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all

7 residents to recognize the constructive role Greek Americans

8 continue to play in the economic and cultural development of our

9 nation and this Commonwealth.