

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MARCH 25, 2023, AS THE 202ND ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE  
UNITED STATES

Introduced By: Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis

Date Introduced: March 21, 2023

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On March 25, 1821, the Feast Day of the Annunciation, the Greek nation  
2 reclaimed its ancient heritage as the "Cradle of Democracy" by overthrowing the yoke of  
3 oppression which had enslaved its people since the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Conquered by  
4 the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century, Greece waged a successful war of Independence (1821-  
5 1829) and re-instituted a democratic form of government; and

6 WHEREAS, The People of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance  
7 to the Greek people during their struggle for independence; and

8 WHEREAS, The price for the people of Greece to hold onto their common values in their  
9 region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War  
10 II; and

11 WHEREAS, Greece is one of only three nations in the world, beyond the former British  
12 Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict over the  
13 last 100 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism,  
15 maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel, and demonstrates religious  
16 tolerance; and

17 WHEREAS, The Ancient Macedonians were Hellenes and the northern Province of  
18 Greece, Macedonia and the Hellenic descendants; and

19 WHEREAS, Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom,

1 democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; and

2 WHEREAS, Many American Philhellenes participated and fought in the Greek War of  
3 Independence. One such individual was George Wilson from Providence, Rhode Island, who  
4 served as a gunman in the Greek fleet, most notably in the battle against the Turkish Navy in  
5 Nafpaktos Bay, Greece; and

6 WHEREAS, Turkey has continued to destabilize the Aegean Sea and the Eastern  
7 Mediterranean Sea Region. As a result, the United States Department of State continues to  
8 strongly support regional efforts that enhance and promote cooperation and regional stability,  
9 including the 2+1 mechanism in which the Republic of Cyprus (ROC), Greece, Israel and the  
10 United States participate. The United States Department of State also supports projects such as  
11 the planned Greece Africa Power interconnector from Egypt to Crete and the Greek mainland;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State Anthony Blinken on his recent visit to  
14 Greece, praised the Hellenic republic for its leading role concerning the region's energy transition  
15 in his opening remarks at the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the Greece-US Strategic Dialogue, while  
16 underlining that the United States is grateful for Greece's unwavering support for Ukraine which  
17 underscored Greece's importance to the United States as a geostrategic partner in the Eastern  
18 Mediterranean and Balkans and as an important NATO ally; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates March 25,  
20 2023, as the 202nd Anniversary of Greek Independence, reaffirms Rhode Island's abiding  
21 commitment to the magnificent principles of democracy and religious freedom, and urges Turkey  
22 to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
24 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of  
25 Cranston, the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Pawtucket, the St. Spyridon Greek  
26 Orthodox Church of Newport, members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, the  
27 Honorable Symeon Tegos, Consul General of the Hellenic Republic in Boston, Archbishop  
28 Elpidophoros of the Greek Archdiocese of America.

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