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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**CELEBRATING MARCH 25, 2011, AS THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Watson, Bennett, Mattiello, and Ferri

Date Introduced: March 29, 2011

Referred To: House read and passed

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, Greece is only one of three nations in the world, beyond the former British
9 Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict in the last
10 100 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Greece was extraordinarily responsive to requests by the United States
12 during the war in Iraq, granting unlimited access to its airspace and its base in Souda Bay, and
13 refueling many ships of the United States that delivered troops, cargo, and supplies to Iraq; 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, Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom,
18 democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; and

19 WHEREAS, Those and similar ideals have forged a close bond between Greece and the

1 United States and their peoples; and

2 WHEREAS, March 25, 2011, Greek Independence Day, marks the 190th anniversary of
3 the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire and
4 celebrates the aspirations for democracy and tolerance that the peoples of Greece and the United
5 States share; and

6 WHEREAS, The Government of Turkey refuses to recognize the rights and religious
7 freedoms of Ecumenical Patriarchate, the head of Greek Orthodox Christian Church, which is a
8 minority religion in Turkey; and

9 WHEREAS, It is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate this anniversary
10 with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two great
11 nations were born; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
13 Providence Plantations hereby celebrates March 25, 2011, as the 190th Anniversary of Greek
14 Independence, reaffirms Rhode Island's abiding commitment to the magnificent principles of
15 democracy and religious freedom, and urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms
16 of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of
19 Cranston, the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Pawtucket, the St. Spyridon Greek
20 Orthodox Church of Newport, the members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, and
21 Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Archdiocese of America.

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