

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**CELEBRATING MARCH 25, 2022, AS THE 201ST ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE  
UNITED STATES**

Introduced By: Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis

Date Introduced: March 22, 2022

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, Former United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Greece on  
7 October 4, 2019, where he met with Greek leaders and together they signed the Mutual Defense  
8 Corporation Agreement (MDCA); and

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

17 WHEREAS, A high-level review of the United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue took  
18 place in Greece on September 28, 2020, which underscored Greece's importance to the United  
19 States as a geostrategic partner in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans and as an important  
20 NATO ally; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates March 25,  
22 2022, as the 201st Anniversary of Greek Independence, reaffirms Rhode Island's abiding  
23 commitment to the magnificent principles of democracy and religious freedom, and urges Turkey  
24 to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and be it further

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

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