

2014 -- S 2782

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MARCH 25, 2014, AS THE 193RD ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Nesselbush, Gallo, Paiva Weed, and Algieri

Date Introduced: March 25, 2014

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 Greece in holding onto our common values in their region was
9 high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II; and

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

13 WHEREAS, The Government and people of Greece actively participate in peacekeeping
14 and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United
15 Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, and the Organization for
16 Security and Co-operation in Europe, and have more recently provided critical support to the
17 operation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Libya; and

18 WHEREAS, Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism,
19 maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel and demonstrates religious

1 tolerance; and

2 WHEREAS, Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom,
3 democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; and

4 WHEREAS, Those and similar ideals have forged a close bond between Greece and the
5 United States and their peoples; and

6 WHEREAS, March 25, 2014, Greek Independence Day, marks the 193rd anniversary of
7 the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire and
8 celebrates the aspirations for democracy and tolerance that the peoples of Greece and the United
9 States share; and

10 WHEREAS, The Government of Greece has taken important steps in recent years to
11 further cross-cultural understanding, rapprochement, and cooperation in various fields with
12 Turkey, and has also improved its relations with other countries in the region, including Israel,
13 thus enhancing the stability of the wider region; and

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

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
18 hereby celebrates March 25, 2014, as the 193rd Anniversary of Greek Independence, reaffirms
19 Rhode Island's abiding commitment to the magnificent principles of democracy and religious
20 freedom, and urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical
21 Patriarchate; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
23 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of
24 Cranston, the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Pawtucket, the St. Spyridon Greek
25 Orthodox Church of Newport, the members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, and
26 Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Archdiocese of America.

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