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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**COMMEMORATING MARCH 25, 2024, AS THE 203RD ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE  
UNITED STATES**

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Gallo, Euer, Murray, Felag, Gu, Cano, F. Lombardi,  
Ujifusa, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: March 28, 2024

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, United States Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met with Greek Prime  
7 Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on January 6, 2024, in Crete. The two underscored the strength of  
8 the bilateral relationship and shared commitment as NATO Allies to democracy, peace, and  
9 prosperity. They discussed the ongoing situation in the Middle East. The Secretary thanked the  
10 Prime Minister for Greece's regional leadership, including its continued support for Ukraine,  
11 delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza, and for freedom of navigation  
12 in the Red Sea through its participation in operation Prosperity Guardian; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates March 25,  
14 2024, as the 203rd Anniversary of Greek Independence, reaffirms Rhode Island's abiding  
15 commitment to the magnificent principles of democracy and religious freedom, and urges Turkey  
16 to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby commends the Greek-American community for its  
18 contributions to Rhode Island and its role as a bridge between two countries; and be it further

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

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