

2015 -- H 5980

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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

**CELEBRATING MARCH 25, 2015, AS THE 194TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, McNamara, Carson, Johnston, and Coughlin

Date Introduced: March 25, 2015

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, 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, In February of 2015, President Barack Obama expressed support for the
7 new Greek government; and

8 WHEREAS, March 25, 2015, Greek Independence Day, marks the 194th anniversary of
9 the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire and
10 celebrates the aspirations for democracy and tolerance that the peoples of Greece and the United
11 States share; and

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

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

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
20 Providence Plantations hereby celebrates March 25, 2015, as the 194th Anniversary of Greek
21 Independence, reaffirms Rhode Island's abiding commitment to the magnificent principles of
22 democracy and religious freedom, and urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms
23 of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and be it further

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

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