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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MARCH 25, 2019, AS THE 198TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Euer, Ruggerio, Gallo, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: March 26, 2019

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

13 WHEREAS, Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism,
14 maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel, and demonstrates religious
15 tolerance; and

16 WHEREAS, The Ancient Macedonians were Hellenes and the northern Province of
17 Greece, Macedonia, are their Hellenic descendants; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Over the past year, the United States has significantly increased its
2 engagement with Greece in the maritime sector. In partnership with the Greek shipping fleet, the
3 United States is helping Greece and all of Southeast Europe ensure energy independence; and

4 WHEREAS, March 25, 2019, Greek Independence Day, marks the 198th Anniversary of
5 the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire and
6 celebrates the aspirations for democracy and tolerance that the people of Greece and the United
7 States share; and

8 WHEREAS, The role of United States innovation and technology in Greece's shipping
9 sector where ONEX also announced its additional plans for other operations here in Greece were
10 highlighted at the 2018 Thessaloniki International Fair; and

11 WHEREAS, In December of 2018, at the United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue, it was
12 clear that both nations, along with their EU partners, are united in their belief that Greece is a
13 pillar of stability in a region that stretches from the Black sea to the Mediterranean and on to the
14 Persian Gulf that is vital to United States Interests; and

15 WHEREAS, In September of 2018, the United States participation as the host nation in
16 the Greek City of Thessaloniki in the 83rd Thessaloniki International Trade Fair, under the
17 auspices of United States Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt, highlighted a landmark event in Greek-
18 United States relations and an economic partnership between the two nations; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, stressed during the
20 energy conference organized by the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), that
21 the presence of major American companies at the TIF is a sign of trust in the future of Greece's
22 economy and of America's desire to be a part of it; and

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

26 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
27 hereby celebrates March 25, 2019, as the 198th Anniversary of Greek Independence, reaffirms
28 Rhode island's abiding commitment to the magnificent principles of democracy and religious
29 freedom, and urges Turkey to respects the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical
30 Patriarchate; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That this Senate commends Greece as it assumes an increasing leadership
32 role in resolving long-standing diplomatic issues in its neighborhood, and we affirm our common
33 vision to integrate the countries of the region firmly in European and Euro-Atlantic institutions;
34 and

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
2 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of
3 Cranston, the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Pawtucket, the St. Spyridon Greek
4 Orthodox Church of Newport, the member of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, the
5 Honorable Stratos Efthymiou, Consul General of the Hellenic Republic in Boston, and
6 Archbishop Demtrios of the Greek Archdiocese of America.

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