



HR0201

LRB102 17980 ECR 24750 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Greek Independence Day marks the 200th  
3 anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrates  
4 democracy in Greece and the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The people of ancient Greece developed the  
6 concept of democracy in which the supreme power to govern was  
7 vested in the people; and

8 WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of the United States, many  
9 of whom studied Greek political philosophy in the original  
10 Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and  
11 philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative  
12 democracy of the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Many Americans fought alongside the Greeks in  
14 their fight for Greek independence; stirring speeches by  
15 President James Monroe and Daniel Webster led Congress to send  
16 funds and supplies to aid the Greeks in the struggle for  
17 freedom; and

18 WHEREAS, The Greek national anthem the "Hymn to Liberty"  
19 includes the words "most heartily was gladdened George  
20 Washington's brave land"; and

1           WHEREAS, The people of the United States generously  
2 offered humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during  
3 their struggle for independence; and

4           WHEREAS, Greece heroically resisted Axis forces at a  
5 crucial moment in World War II, and this forced Adolf Hitler to  
6 change his timeline, which delayed the attack on Russia; and

7           WHEREAS, Winston Churchill said "if there had not been the  
8 virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the  
9 outcome of World War II would have been" and "no longer will we  
10 say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like  
11 Greeks"; and

12           WHEREAS, Greece consistently allied with the United States  
13 in major international conflicts throughout the 20th century;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, The government and people of Greece actively  
16 participate in peacekeeping and peace-building operations  
17 conducted by international organizations, including the United  
18 Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European  
19 Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in  
20 Europe; and

21           WHEREAS, Greece received worldwide praise for its

1 extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympic Games of more  
2 than 14,000 athletes and more than two million spectators and  
3 journalists; the government and people of Greece handled this  
4 feat efficiently, securely, and with hospitality; and

5 WHEREAS, Those efforts and similar ideals have forged a  
6 close bond between the people of Greece and the United States;  
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
9 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
10 we declare March 25, 2021 as Greek Independence Day in the  
11 State of Illinois and join the Hellenic-American  
12 organizations, the estimated three million Americans of Greek  
13 descent, and the people of Greece in celebrating this historic  
14 milestone.