
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 317 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY McGARRIGLE, DINNIMAN, SCAVELLO, GREENLEAF,
TEPLITZ, ARGALL, BREWSTER AND MENSCH, MARCH 23, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 23, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2016 as "Greek-American Heritage
2 Month" in Pennsylvania and recognizing the constructive role
3 Greek Americans continue to play in the economic and cultural
4 development of our nation and this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, The 2010 census identified more than 1.3 million
6 people of Greek ancestry in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Greek Americans remain proud of their heritage by
8 passing their traditions and loyalty to the United States on to
9 new generations of Greek Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, "Greek Independence Day" is a national holiday that
11 commemorates the start of the War of Greek Independence in 1821
12 and is celebrated annually in Greece on March 25; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1821, the Greek Commander-in-Chief Petros
14 Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, remarked to
15 citizens of the United States that "it is in your land that
16 liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall
17 imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we
18 succeed in resembling you"; and

19 WHEREAS, The founding fathers of our nation, many of whom

1 read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek, drew upon
2 the experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our
3 nation's representative democracy; and

4 WHEREAS, The modern Greek national anthem, "Hymn to Liberty,"
5 illustrates Greece's strong bond with and respect for our nation
6 and ideals by including the words "most heartily was gladdened
7 George Washington's brave land"; and

8 WHEREAS, Ancient Greeks in the city-state of Athens made
9 vital contributions to democratic governance by inventing the
10 concept of citizenship where laws were proposed by citizen
11 assemblies and subject to popular vote, by recognizing the
12 principle of separation of powers in independent Athenian
13 legislative, executive and judicial branches and by conceiving
14 and implementing the concept of trial by jury; and

15 WHEREAS, Sir Winston Churchill said of the Greeks, "Hence, we
16 will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes
17 fight like Greeks," recognizing that Greece played a major role
18 in World War II by delaying the German invasion of Russia; and

19 WHEREAS, Greek Americans served with distinction in all
20 branches of the United States military during World War II and,
21 through the American Hellenic Educational Progressive
22 Association, raised more than \$263 million in war bonds for the
23 United States; and

24 WHEREAS, Throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of only
25 three nations to ally with the United States in every major
26 international conflict, and to this day, the Greek nation
27 remains a reliable strategic partner and steadfast ally of the
28 United States; and

29 WHEREAS, Greek Americans continue to demonstrate loyalty to
30 the United States and the ideals of our founding fathers;

1 therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2016
3 as "Greek-American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all residents to
6 recognize the constructive role Greek Americans continue to play
7 in the economic and cultural development of our nation and this
8 Commonwealth.