

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
_____, 2013

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the anniversary of the start of the Greek war of independence and celebrating the contribution of Greek Americans to our nation and this Commonwealth, and designating March as "Greek–American Heritage Month" in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, the 2010 census identified more than 1,300,000 people of Greek ancestry in the United States, and Greek Americans remain proud of their heritage by passing their traditions and loyalty to the United States on to new generations of proud Greek-Americans;

WHEREAS, Greek Independence Day, is national holiday celebrated annually in Greece on March 25, commemorating the start of the War of Greek Independence in 1821;

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

WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek, drew upon the experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming its representative democracy;

WHEREAS, the modern Greek national anthem, the 'Hymn to Liberty', illustrates Greece's strong bond with and respect for the United States and our ideals by including the words, 'Most heartily was gladdened George Washington's brave land;

WHEREAS, ancient Greeks in the city-state of Athens made vital contributions to democratic governance as practiced in the United States today, by inventing the concept of citizenship, where laws were proposed by citizen assemblies and subject to popular vote, by recognizing the principle of separation of powers in independent Athenian legislative, executive and judicial branches, and by first conceiving and implementing trial by jury;

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

WHEREAS, Greek Americans, through The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), founded in 1922, raised over \$263 million in war bonds for the United States During World War II and served with distinction in all branches of the US military, in every theatre of the conflict; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of only three nations to ally with the United States in every major international conflict, and to this day, the Greek nation remains a reliable strategic partner and steadfast ally of the United States and Greek Americans continue to demonstrate loyalty to the United States and the ideals of our founding fathers:

RESOLVED, that all citizens are encouraged to recognize the constructive role Greek Americans continue to play in the economic and cultural development of this Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives hereby designate March as "Greek-American Heritage Month" in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.