
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 661 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MACKENZIE, MALAGARI, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO, BOBACK,
BROWN, BURNS, DONATUCCI, FREEMAN, HEFFLEY, HILL-EVANS,
JOZWIAK, KIM, KNOWLES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MATZIE, MILLARD,
MURT, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROTHMAN, RYAN, SAINATO, SCHLOSSBERG,
STAATS AND DeLUCA, JANUARY 14, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 14, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2020 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 Greek War of 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

1 succeed in resembling you"; and

2 WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of our nation, many of whom
3 read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek, drew upon
4 the experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our
5 nation's representative democracy; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Greek Americans served with distinction in all
22 branches of the United States military during World War II and,
23 through the American Hellenic Educational Progressive
24 Association, raised more than \$253 million in war bonds for the
25 United States; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Greek Americans continue to demonstrate loyalty to
2 the United States and the ideals of our Founding Fathers;
3 therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
5 month of March 2020 as "Greek-American Heritage Month" in
6 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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