

Calendar No. 322107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. RES. 214**

Designating March 25, 2002, as “Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2002

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BREAUX, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLELAND, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

MARCH 7, 2002

Reported by Mr. LEAHY, without amendment

RESOLUTION

Designating March 25, 2002, as “Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy”.

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, “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 Greece is 1 of only 3 nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict for more than 100 years;

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete and in Greece, presenting the Axis land war with its first major setback, which set off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece holding our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece in the World War II period;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in a letter to the Prime Minister of Greece, Constantinos Simitis, in January 2001, referred to the “stable foundations and common values” that are the basis of relations between Greece and the United States;

Whereas President Bush in his January 10, 2002 meeting with the Greek Prime Minister, said, “I am most appreciative of your strong stand against terror. You have been a friend in our mutual concerns about routing out terror around the world,” and, “I look forward to the Olympics. It’s going to be a magnificent moment for the sporting world to have the Olympics return to Athens. I’m confident your country will do a fine job”;

Whereas as a member of NATO, Greece has assigned members of its air force to fly surveillance missions over the United States;

Whereas Greece is a stabilizing force by virtue of its political and economic power in the volatile Balkan region, is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe, and will hold the presidency of the European Union in 2003;

Whereas Greece, geographically located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas Greece has had extraordinary success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural understanding and reducing tensions between Greece and Turkey;

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

Whereas those and other ideals have forged a close bond between our 2 nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2002, marks the 181st anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles

from which our 2 great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates March 25, 2002, as “Greek
3 Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of
4 Greek and American Democracy”; and

5 (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
6 mation calling on the people of the United States to
7 observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and ac-
8 tivities.

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