

Proclamation 8227—Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, 2008

March 20, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Greek Independence Day, we recognize the important contributions Greek Americans have made to our national character, celebrate the deep friendship between our two countries, and honor the anniversary of the Greek call for independence.

The United States and Greece share a close relationship based on our common belief in the power of freedom. The ancient Athenians gave birth to the principles of democracy, and America's Founding Fathers were inspired by Greek ideals that honored and respected human dignity and rights. When the people of Greece claimed their independence in 1821, they had the strong support of the United States. Greek patriots risked their lives because they knew freedom and democracy were both their proud legacy and their ultimate destiny. Today, our nations remain allies in the cause of freedom and are working to lay the foundations of peace and spread the blessings of liberty around the world.

In celebrating Greek Independence Day, we commemorate the heritage of freedom our countries hold dear, and we remember the Greek Americans whose strong spirit, resolve, and courage helped shape America.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2008, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of March, in the

year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 24, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 25.

Message on the Observance of Easter 2008

March 21, 2008

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

John 11:25

Laura and I send greetings to all those celebrating the joyful holiday of Easter.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ reminds people around the world of the presence of a faithful God who offers a love more powerful than death. Easter commemorates our Savior's triumph over sin, and we take joy in spending this special time with family and friends and reflecting on the many blessings that fill our lives. During this season of renewal, let us come together and give thanks to the Almighty who made us in His image and redeemed us in His love.

On this glorious day, we remember our brave men and women in uniform who are separated from their families by great distances. We pray for their safety and strength, and we honor those who gave their lives to advance peace and secure liberty across the globe.

Happy Easter. May God bless you, and may God bless our great Nation.

George W. Bush

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this message. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 15

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared an emergency in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by wildfires beginning on March 14 and continuing.

March 16

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC. Later, he met with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., who informed him of the Federal Reserve's latest actions to help the economy.

March 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Gov. David A. Paterson of New York to wish him well in his new position.

In the afternoon, at the U.S. Capitol, the President attended the Speaker of the House of Representatives annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he met with the President's Working Group on Financial Markets. Then, on the South Portico, he participated in a photo opportunity with Children's Miracle Network Champions Across America representatives.

In the evening, in the State Dining Room, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a St. Patrick's Day social dinner.

March 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Jacksonville, FL, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Holly Cleveland.

In the afternoon, at a private residence, the President attended a Republican National Committee luncheon. Later, at the Jacksonville Port Authority Blount Island

Marine Terminal, he toured Coastal Maritime Stevedoring, LLC.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Palm Beach, FL, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Cheryl Crowley. Then, at a private residence, he attended a Republican National Committee reception.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Philip T. Reeker to be Ambassador to Macedonia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christopher R. Wall to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce (Export Administration).

The President announced his intention to nominate Miguel R. San Juan to be U.S. Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The President announced his intention to appoint Peter Pace as a member of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint James B. Peake as a member of the Advisory Council to the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross.

The President announced his intention to designate Peter Schaumber as Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

March 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had a working lunch with President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia.

The President declared an emergency in Wisconsin and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by record snow and near record snow on February 5 and 6.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on March 17 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael E. Leiter to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.