

A Senate resolution

celebrating March 25, 2021, as the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence Day and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

WHEREAS, On March 25, 1821, the Greek nation reclaimed its ancient heritage as the "Cradle of Democracy" by overthrowing the yoke of oppression which had enslaved its people since the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Conquered by the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century, Greece waged the successful War of Independence, from 1821 to 1829, and reinstated a democratic form of government; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the Greek people during their struggle for independence; and

WHEREAS, the price for Greece in holding onto common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Greece is one of only three nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict over the last 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel and demonstrates religious tolerance; and

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

WHEREAS, Turkey has continued to destabilize the Aegean Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea region. As a result, Greece, Israel, and Cyprus have formed a trilateral cooperation agreement against the aggressive regional policies of Turkey; and

WHEREAS, a high-level review of the United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue took place in Greece on September 28, 2020, which underscored Greece's importance to the United States as a geostrategic partner in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans and as an important NATO ally; and

WHEREAS, in support of the Greece 2021 Committee established by the government of Greece, the United States Mission in Greece has launched a campaign to celebrate the bicentennial of the Independence of Greece and the 200 years of friendship between the United States and Greece; and

WHEREAS, it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate this anniversary with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two great nations were born; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it hereby celebrates March 25, 2021, as the 200th anniversary of Greek independence and reaffirms Minnesota's abiding commitment to the magnificent principles of democracy and religious freedom.

Cal R. Ludeman
Secretary of the Senate

Paul E. Gazelka
Senate Majority Leader

Jeremy Miller
President of the Senate

Sandra L. Pappas
State Senator, District 65

Jennifer A. McEwen
State Senator, District 7

D. Scott Dibble
State Senator, District 61