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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The people of ancient Greece developed the
3 concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was
4 vested in the people; and

5 WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of the United States, many
6 of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek
7 language, drew heavily on the political experience and
8 philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative
9 democracy of the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, Petros Mavromichalis, the former
11 commander-in-chief of Greece and a founder of the modern Greek
12 state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "It
13 is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode, and ... in
14 imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought
15 worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you."; and

16 WHEREAS, The Greek national anthem, the Hymn to Liberty,
17 includes the words, "most heartily was gladdened George
18 Washington's brave land"; and

19 WHEREAS, Few brave American Philhellenes took an active
20 part in the Greek Revolution and became heroes of the Greek
21 liberation struggle; and

1 WHEREAS, The people of the United States generously
2 offered humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during
3 their struggle for independence; and

4 WHEREAS, Greece heroically resisted the Axis Powers at a
5 crucial moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change
6 his timeline and delaying the attack on Russia; and

7 WHEREAS, Winston Churchill said that "if there had not
8 been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which
9 the outcome of World War II would have been" and "no longer
10 will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes
11 fight like Greeks"; and

12 WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of the people of Greece
13 were killed during World War II; and

14 WHEREAS, Greece consistently allied with the United States
15 in major international conflicts throughout the 20th century;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the
18 United States in bringing political stability and economic
19 development to the volatile Balkan region, having invested
20 billions of dollars in the countries of the region and having

1 contributed more than \$750,000,000 in development aid for the
2 region; and

3 WHEREAS, The government and people of Greece actively
4 participate in peacekeeping and peace-building operations
5 conducted by international organizations, including the United
6 Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European
7 Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in
8 Europe; and

9 WHEREAS, Greece received worldwide praise for its
10 extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympic Games of more
11 than 14,000 athletes and more than 2,000,000 spectators and
12 journalists, a feat the government and people of Greece
13 handled efficiently, securely, and with hospitality; and

14 WHEREAS, Greece, located in a region where Christianity
15 meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with
16 Muslim countries and Israel; and

17 WHEREAS, Greece remains an integral part of the European
18 Union; and

19 WHEREAS, The government of Greece has taken important
20 steps in recent years to further cross-cultural understanding,
21 rapprochement, and cooperation in various fields with Turkey

1 and has also improved its relations with other countries in
2 the region, including Israel, thus enhancing the stability of
3 the wider region; and

4 WHEREAS, The governments and people of Greece and the
5 United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance
6 freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; and

7 WHEREAS, Those efforts and similar ideals have forged a
8 close bond between the people of Greece and the United States;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, It is proper and desirable for the United States
11 to celebrate March 25, 2021, Greek Independence Day and the
12 bicentennial anniversary of the Greek Revolution against the
13 Ottoman Turks, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the
14 democratic principles from which these two great countries
15 were founded; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we extend our warm
18 congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as
19 they celebrate the 200th anniversary of the independence of
20 Greece; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we express our support for the principles

1 of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are
2 committed; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we recognize the important role that Greece
4 has played in the wider European region and in the community of
5 nations since gaining its independence 200 years ago; and be
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, That we declare 2021 as the Year of Friendship
8 between Greece and the State of Illinois.