

HR 9087

2008

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating March 25, 2008, as "Greek  
3 Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek  
4 and American Democracy."  
5

6 WHEREAS, the ancient Greeks developed the concept of  
7 democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in  
8 the people, and

9 WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers of the United States drew  
10 heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient  
11 Greece in forming our representative democracy, and

12 WHEREAS, Greece played a major role in the struggle to  
13 protect freedom and democracy during World War II by exhibiting  
14 the kind of bravery that was demonstrated in the historic Battle  
15 of Crete, which provided the Axis land war with its first major  
16 setback and set off a chain of events that significantly  
17 affected the outcome of World War II, and

18 WHEREAS, throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of  
19 only three countries in the world, apart from the former British  
20 Empire, that allied itself with the United States in every major  
21 international conflict, and

22 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush, in recognizing Greek  
23 Independence Day, said: "Greece and America have been firm  
24 allies in the great struggles for liberty. Americans will always  
25 remember Greek heroism and Greek sacrifice for the sake of  
26 freedom . . . [and] as the 21st Century dawns, Greece and  
27 America once again stand united; this time in the fight against  
28 terrorism. The United States deeply appreciates the role Greece

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29 | is playing in the war against terror. . . . America and Greece  
 30 | are strong allies, and we're strategic partners," and

31 |       WHEREAS, Greece, located in a region where Christianity  
 32 | meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with  
 33 | Muslim nations and Israel, and

34 |       WHEREAS, the Government of Greece has had extraordinary  
 35 | success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural  
 36 | understanding and reducing tensions between Greece and Turkey,  
 37 | and

38 |       WHEREAS, Greece and the United States are at the forefront  
 39 | of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and  
 40 | human rights, and

41 |       WHEREAS, a common belief in those ideals and many others  
 42 | has forged a close bond between the nations of Greece and the  
 43 | United States and their citizens, and

44 |       WHEREAS, March 25, 2008, marks the 187th anniversary of the  
 45 | beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the  
 46 | Ottoman Empire, and

47 |       WHEREAS it is fitting and appropriate to celebrate this  
 48 | anniversary with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic  
 49 | principles from which these two great nations were born, NOW,  
 50 | THEREFORE,

51 |  
 52 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 53 | Florida:

54 |  
 55 |       That the House of Representatives of the State of Florida  
 56 | hereby designates March 25, 2008, as "Greek Independence Day: A

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57 | National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy" in  
58 | recognition of the numerous contributions the nation of Greece  
59 | has made to world democracy.

60 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of  
61 | the State of Florida, on behalf of the citizens of Florida,  
62 | extends its sincerest and best wishes to the people of Greece  
63 | and to all individuals of Greek descent as they celebrate Greek  
64 | Independence Day.