

HR 9089

2009

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution designating March 2009 as "Hellenic History
3 Month" in Florida.

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

8 WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers of the United States drew
9 heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient
10 Greece in forming our representative democracy, and those and
11 other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations
12 and their peoples, and

13 WHEREAS, George Washington, the first President of the
14 United States, sought to have our nation's capitol represent a
15 modern day Olympus, and

16 WHEREAS, the frescoes of the Capitol Building Rotunda are
17 adorned with the founders of the United States standing
18 alongside the mythic figures of the Hellenic enlightenment, and

19 WHEREAS, Solon of Athens and Lycurgus of Sparta are two of
20 the twenty three celebrated law givers with reliefs that adorn
21 the legislative chamber of the United States House of
22 Representatives in honor of their constitutional reforms that
23 led to the creation of governmental checks and balances, which
24 inspired the American founding fathers in the creation of the
25 checks and balances within the government of the United States
26 of America, and

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27 WHEREAS, on March 25th, 1821, the Greek flag was raised at
28 the monastery of Agia Lavras, marking the beginning of the War
29 for Greek Independence, and

30 WHEREAS, many Americans fought alongside the Greeks during
31 their struggle for independence and stirring speeches by
32 President James Monroe and Daniel Webster led the Congress to
33 send funds and supplies to aid the Greeks in their campaign for
34 freedom, which continued until 1829 when Greek independence was
35 achieved and the 400-year occupation ended, and

36 WHEREAS, Greek Commander-in-Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a
37 founder of the modern Greek State, said to the citizens of the
38 United States in 1821, "it is in your land that liberty has
39 fixed her abode . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our
40 ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in
41 resembling you," and

42 WHEREAS, in 1891, Loukas Miltiades Miller was the first
43 American of Greek origin to be elected to the Congress of the
44 United States of America, and

45 WHEREAS, the story of Greek military tactics used at the
46 Battle of Marathon in 490 B.C. is still mandatory reading at the
47 National War College in Washington, D.C., and

48 WHEREAS, Greek soldiers were with the United States Marines
49 on the shores of Tripoli in the military operations memorialized
50 in the Marines' Hymn, the official hymn of the United States
51 Marine Corps, and

52 WHEREAS, General John Pershing listed George Dilboy, the
53 first American of Greek descent to be awarded the Medal of
54 Honor, as one of the ten greatest heroes of the World War I, and

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55 WHEREAS, Greece gave the United States and the Allies our
56 first military victory of World War II when the Greek Army
57 defeated the Fascists in defense of Greece, and

58 WHEREAS, Greece is one of only three nations in the world,
59 beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the
60 United States in every major international conflict of the
61 twentieth century, including the Balkan Wars, World War I, World
62 War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Operation Desert
63 Storm, and

64 WHEREAS, Greece played a major role in the struggle to
65 protect freedom and democracy during World War II, through such
66 bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete and in
67 presenting the Axis land war with its first major setback, and

68 WHEREAS, Sir Winston Churchill said of the Greeks after
69 this fighting, "Hence we will not say that Greeks fight like
70 heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks," and

71 WHEREAS, Greece gave the Free World its first military
72 victory over communism after World War II when it defeated the
73 communist insurgency with the aid of American Army Advisors, and

74 WHEREAS, the first Greek colonists arrived on the shores of
75 Florida on June 26, 1768, and established their new lives in the
76 city of Saint Augustine, and

77 WHEREAS, in the 1880's, Greek immigrants infused the city
78 of Tarpon Springs with their rich culture and values, NOW,
79 THEREFORE,

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81 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
82 Florida:

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That the Florida House of Representatives designates the
month of March 2009 as "Hellenic History Month" in Florida.