

HR 9031

2011

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution designating March 25, 2011, as "Greek Day" in
3 Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, the ancient Greeks established the Olympic Games
6 and developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme
7 power to govern is vested in the people, and

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

13 WHEREAS, the first Greek colonists arrived on the shores of
14 Florida on June 26, 1768, establishing their new lives in the
15 city of Saint Augustine, and later, in the 1880s, Greek
16 immigrants infused the city of Tarpon Springs with their rich
17 culture and values, and

18 WHEREAS, the story of Greek military tactics used at the
19 Battle of Marathon in 490 B.C. is still mandatory reading at the
20 National War College in Washington, D.C., and Greek soldiers
21 were with the United States Marines on the shores of Tripoli in
22 the military operations memorialized in the Marines' Hymn, the
23 official hymn of the United States Marine Corps, and

24 WHEREAS, many Americans fought alongside the Greeks during
25 their struggle for independence, and a stirring speech by Daniel
26 Webster led Americans to send funds and supplies to aid the
27 Greeks in their campaign for freedom, which continued until 1829

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28 | when Greek independence was achieved and the 400-year occupation
 29 | ended, and

30 | WHEREAS, Greek Commander-in-Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a
 31 | founder of the modern Greek State, said to the citizens of the
 32 | United States in 1821, ". . . it is in your land that liberty
 33 | has fixed her abode in imitating you, we shall imitate
 34 | our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in
 35 | resembling you," and

36 | WHEREAS, Greece gave the Allies their first military land
 37 | victory of World War II when the Greek Army defeated the
 38 | Fascists in defense of Greece, and

39 | WHEREAS, Greece is one of only three nations in the world,
 40 | beyond the former British Empire, that was allied with the
 41 | United States in every major international conflict of the
 42 | twentieth century, and

43 | WHEREAS, Sir Winston Churchill once said of the Greeks,
 44 | "Hence we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that
 45 | heroes fight like Greeks," NOW, THEREFORE,

46 |
 47 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 48 | Florida:

49 |
 50 | That March 25, 2011, is designated as "Greek Day" in the
 51 | State of Florida.