

Senate Resolution No. 13

Introduced by Senator Alquist

Relative to Greek History Month

WHEREAS, On March 25, 1821, the Greek flag was raised at the monastery of Agia Lavra, marking the beginning of the Greek War of Independence; and

WHEREAS, Many Americans fought alongside the Greeks in their fight for independence, and President James Monroe and Congressman Daniel Webster delivered stirring speeches which persuaded the Congress to send funds and supplies to aid the Greeks in their struggle for freedom, which continued until 1829, when Greek independence was achieved, thus ending 400 years of occupation; and

WHEREAS, The story of Greek military tactics used at the Battle of Marathon in 490 B.C. is still mandatory reading at the National War College in Washington, D.C., and Greek soldiers were with the United States Marines on the shores of Tripoli in the military operations memorialized in the United States Marines' Hymn; and

WHEREAS, Greece is one of only three nations in the world, excluding nations formerly under the control of the British Empire, that has allied with the United States in every major international conflict in the twentieth century, including World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the Balkans; and

WHEREAS, Greeks played a major role in the struggle to protect freedom and democracy from the advance of the Axis powers during World War II, showing incredible bravery and valor against overwhelming forces in the historic Battle of Crete, in which the Axis land war suffered its first major setback; and

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

WHEREAS, Greek Commander-in-Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode ... in

imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you”; and

WHEREAS, The ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people, and the ancient Greeks established the Olympic Games, the largest display of athletic skill and competitive spirit in the ancient world; and

WHEREAS, The founding fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy, and those, as well as other ideals, have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate designates March 2009 as Greek History Month in the state and urges all residents of the state to celebrate the accomplishments of Greek Americans and thank them for their innumerable contributions to our nation’s cultural, economic, and political heritage; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 13 read and adopted by the Senate March 31, 2009.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate