

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 51

Recognizing the 190th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MARCH 17, 2011

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 190th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek, drew heavily on the political experience and phi-

losophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821 that “it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you”;

Whereas the Greek national anthem, the “Hymn to Liberty”, includes the words, “Most heartily was gladdened George Washington’s brave land”;

Whereas the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the Greek people during their struggle for independence;

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete, which provided the Axis land war with its first major setback, setting off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Greek civilians were killed in Greece during World War II in defense of the values of the Allies;

Whereas, throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of a few countries that allied with the United States in every major international conflict;

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the volatile Balkan region, having invested more than \$20,000,000,000 in the countries of the region, thereby helping to create more than 200,000 new

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

Whereas Greece actively participates in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe;

Whereas Greece received worldwide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympic Games of more than 14,000 athletes and more than 2,000,000 spectators and journalists, a feat Greece handled efficiently, securely, and with hospitality;

Whereas Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas the Government of Greece has taken important steps in recent years to further cross-cultural understanding and rapprochement with Turkey, as seen by Prime Minister of Greece George Papandreou's trip to Turkey, just days after being elected and the Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Greece in May 2010, during which Greece and Turkey established a Joint Ministerial Council, made up of 10 ministers from each country, to discuss tangible ways to enhance cooperation in various fields of interest;

Whereas Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those and similar ideals have forged a close bond between Greece and the United States; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate March 25, 2011, Greek Independence Day, with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) extends warm congratulations and best
3 wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the
4 190th anniversary of the independence of Greece;

5 (2) expresses support for the principles of
6 democratic governance to which the people of Greece
7 are committed; and

8 (3) notes the important role that Greece has
9 played in the wider European region and in the com-
10 munity of nations since gaining its independence
11 190 years ago.

○