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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**CELEBRATING MARCH 25, 2012, AS THE 191ST ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Mattiello, Tomasso, Costa, and Newberry

Date Introduced: March 27, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On March 25, 1821, the Feast Day of the Annunciation, the Greek nation
2 reclaimed its ancient heritage as the "Cradle of Democracy" by overthrowing the yoke of
3 oppression which had enslaved its people since the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Conquered by
4 the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century, Greece waged a successful War of Independence (1821-
5 1829) and re-instituted a democratic form of government; and

6 WHEREAS, The people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance
7 to the Greek people during their struggle for independence; and

8 WHEREAS, The price for Greece in holding onto our common values in their region was
9 high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II; and

10 WHEREAS, Greece is only one of three nations in the world, beyond the former British
11 Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict in the last
12 100 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Greece was extraordinarily responsive to requests by the United States
14 during the war in Iraq, granting unlimited access to its airspace and its base in Souda Bay, and
15 refueling many ships of the United States that delivered troops, cargo, and supplies to Iraq; and

16 WHEREAS, Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism,
17 maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel and demonstrates religious
18 tolerance; and

19 WHEREAS, Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom,

1 democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; and

2 WHEREAS, Those and similar ideals have forged a close bond between Greece and the
3 United States and their peoples; and

4 WHEREAS, March 25, 2012, Greek Independence Day, marks the 191st anniversary of
5 the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire and
6 celebrates the aspirations for democracy and tolerance that the peoples of Greece and the United
7 States share; and

8 WHEREAS, The Government of Turkey refuses to recognize the rights and religious
9 freedoms of Ecumenical Patriarchate, the head of Greek Orthodox Christian Church, which is a
10 minority religion in Turkey; and

11 WHEREAS, It is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate this anniversary
12 with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two great
13 nations were born; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
15 Providence Plantations hereby celebrates March 25, 2012, as the 191st Anniversary of Greek
16 Independence, reaffirms Rhode Island's abiding commitment to the magnificent principles of
17 democracy and religious freedom, and urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms
18 of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of
21 Cranston, the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Pawtucket, the St. Spyridon Greek
22 Orthodox Church of Newport, the members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, and
23 Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Archdiocese of America.

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