

House Resolution 726

By: Representative Cheokas of the 138<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Georgos Panagiotidis, Consul of the Greek Government, on  
2 the grand occasion of Greek Independence Day and inviting him to be recognized by the  
3 House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Georgos Panagiotidis is the newly appointed Consul of the Greek Government  
5 for the states of Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky; and

6 WHEREAS, Greek Independence Day is a national holiday celebrated annually on March 25,  
7 and it commemorates Greece's independence from nearly 400 years of oppressive Ottoman  
8 Turkish rule, which began on that date in 1821; and

9 WHEREAS, Greek independence was the result of Hellenes, inspired by the founding fathers  
10 of the American Revolution, coming together and restoring democracy to its birthplace; and

11 WHEREAS, the admiration that Greeks held for America's founding fathers can be found  
12 in the Greek national anthem, the "Hymn of Liberty," through these words, "...most heartily  
13 was gladdened and George Washington's brave land"; and

14 WHEREAS, the governments and people of Greece and the United States are united in their  
15 efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, and human rights, and have stood side-by-side  
16 as allies in every major international conflict; and

17 WHEREAS, in one of the most consequential victories for freedom, the defeat of Germany  
18 in World War II, the Greeks played a pivotal role by defying all odds and delaying Hitler's  
19 attack on Russia, and Winston Churchill commended these efforts by saying, "no longer will  
20 we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks"; and

21 WHEREAS, the American form of government owes much to the small group of Greek  
22 city-states that pioneered democracy thousands of years ago; and

23 WHEREAS, the Greek people who immigrated to the United States and are now counted as  
24 valuable Greek-American members of this nation have enriched this country through their  
25 contributions as leaders of culture, community, business, and government; and

26 WHEREAS, Consul Georgos Panagiotidis is committed to fostering Greece's relations with  
27 Georgia and the United States, and his dedicated work and commitment to mutual respect  
28 and understanding between cultures enhances stability and promotes prosperity, both in the  
29 United States and throughout the world, making it abundantly fitting and proper that the  
30 outstanding achievements of this noble gentleman be appropriately recognized.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body recognize and commend Georgos Panagiotidis for his dedication  
33 and work for democracy, extend to him their most sincere best wishes on the grand occasion  
34 of Greek Independence Day, and invite him to be recognized by the House of  
35 Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the House of  
36 Representatives.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
39 Consul Georgos Panagiotidis.