

House Resolution 1665

By: Representative Cheokas of the 138th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 25 as Greek Independence Day; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Greek Independence Day on March 25 is a national holiday celebrated annually
3 in Greece and among the Greeks of the Diaspora and Philhellenes everywhere, including
4 Greek-Americans, because this date commemorates Greece's independence in 1821 from
5 nearly 400 years of oppressive Ottoman Turkish rule; and

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

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, at the forefront of the contributions to the United States is the Order of the
21 American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), which was established
22 in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 26, 1922, and it is now a world-wide organization which

23 promotes Hellenism through the shared American and Greek values of education,
24 philanthropy, civic responsibility, family, and individual excellence; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper for the citizens of Georgia to join their
26 Greek-American friends and neighbors in celebrating March 25 as Greek Independence Day.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize March 25 as Greek Independence Day and join the
29 citizens of this state in celebrating.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
32 Order of AHEPA.