

The Council Chambers City Hall Portsmouth, New Hampshire A Proclamation

Whereas: The Founding Fathers of America drew direct inspiration from the ideals and practices of Ancient Greece when forming the world's first modern democracy and framing the Constitution that provides the guidance by which we live; and

Whereas: 201 years ago, inspired by the same ideals of liberty, self-governance, and passionate belief in democracy that sparked the American Revolution, the people of Greece declared their independence from the Ottoman Empire. Now, every March 25th marks Greek Independence Day, a celebration of the history and values that unites the United States of America and the Hellenic Republic, a crucial NATO ally and friend of the U.S.; and

Whereas: Today, Greeks around the world gather on Greek Independence Day to reflect with pride and passion on the liberation of their home nation and the resolute actions of their forebears; and

Whereas: Portsmouth has a thriving Greek community, many of whom are parishioners of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, which celebrated its 90th Anniversary in 2021. The founding congregation of only 25 men and 3 women arrived from Greece with great dreams and determination and established a lasting legacy of hard work and generosity. Saint Nicholas is now the flourishing and active home of worship and culture to over 250 families. It is fittingly located on Andrew Jarvis Drive, an homage to the Greek American businessman and politician who served as Mayor of Portsmouth from 1958-1959; and

Whereas: Each year, the Saint Nicholas community proudly leads Portsmouth in its celebration of Greek Independence Day. Residents young and old gather to enjoy traditional dancing, poetry, costumes, speeches and food in recognition of the influence and contributions the Greek community has made to New Hampshire; and

Whereas: The global pandemic impacted the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church's 90th Anniversary festivities, so 2022 will see a continuation of this celebration with the return of the Saint Nicholas Greek Festival on June 24th and 25th. It will be a wonderful showcase of ethnic pride and invitation for all community members to be Greek for a day.

Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim March 25th, 2022 as

Greek Independence Day

and call upon the residents of Portsmouth to join in observation and celebration.



Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 21st day of March, 2022


Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth