



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The concept of democracy by which the supreme power to govern is vested in the people, was developed by the ancient Greeks; and
- WHEREAS: The Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily upon the political experience and philosophies of ancient Greece when forming our representative democracy; and
- WHEREAS: Greek soldiers were with the United States Marines on the shores of Tripoli in the military operations memorialized in the *Marines' Hymn*, the United States Marine Corps' official song; and
- WHEREAS: Many Americans fought alongside the Greeks in their fight for independence, while stirring speeches by President James Monroe and Congressman Daniel Webster led the United States Congress to send funds and supplies to aid the Greeks in their struggle for freedom; and
- WHEREAS: Greece is one of only three nations in the world beyond the former British Empire to ally with the United States in every major international conflict in the twentieth century, including World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the conflict in the Balkans; and
- WHEREAS: Greece played a major role in World War II in the struggle to protect freedom and democracy, through bravery shown in the Battle of Crete and in Greece, presenting the Axis with its first major setback; and
- WHEREAS: The Government of Greece has declared its solidarity with the American people and has pledged to back efforts to combat and eradicate terrorism in the aftermath of terrorist attacks in the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS: The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), with four chapters in Minnesota, has contributed to strengthening the fabric of America since 1922 through community services and volunteerism; and
- WHEREAS: Friday, March 25, 2016, marks the 195<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the revolution, which freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, March 25, 2016, as:

## GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

in the state of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the state of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE