



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, March 25, 2021 marks the bicentennial of the Greek Revolution which led to the modern independence of Greece; and

WHEREAS, Petros Mavromichalis, the former Commander in Chief of Greece and a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "It is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and ... in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you"; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States sent humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence, often through philhellene committees; and

WHEREAS, our founding fathers drew upon the inspiration of the ancient Greeks who developed the concept of democratic governance where power is vested in the people; and

WHEREAS, Greek Orthodox congregations across Tennessee have made enormous contributions to the spiritual and cultural fabric of this great state; and

WHEREAS, today at our State Capitol we extend our warmest welcome to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Church in America and Exarch Extraordinaire of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople; and

WHEREAS, we are also greatly honored by the presence of Ambassador Alexandra Papadopoulou of the Hellenic Republic;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby join Greek-American communities around our state in celebrating March 25, 2021, the

200th Anniversary of the Independence of Greece

and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this sixteenth day of March, 2021.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Hargett".

Secretary of State