

Senator Denise Ricciardi
March 26 Speech Before NH Senate
Greek Independence Day
March 25, 2026

Madame President, and members of the Senate:

I rise today to recognize Greek Independence Day, which was celebrated yesterday, March 25, 2026, and to reflect on its significance.

In 1821, the people of Greece began their long and determined struggle for independence after centuries of rule by the Ottoman empire. It was a fight grounded in a simple but powerful belief – that people should have the right to govern themselves and shape their own future.

That is an idea that is deeply familiar to us as Americans.

Our two Nations are connected, not only by our shared values, but by a shared history, rooted in the principles of democracy and a thirst for freedom. Those principles trace back to ancient Greece, with the idea first took hold that Citizens should have a voice in their government. While that system was not perfect, it laid the foundation for the democracy we have today.

When Greeks rose up and started their war for independence, Americans recognized that same spirit. Speaking in support of the Greek war of independence, Daniel Webster said, *"The Greeks are contending for their existence as a nation, and for their liberties; and it is impossible not to feel that their cause is the cause of freedom."*

That sentiment reflects the enduring connection between our two nations – across generations and across history.

Here in New Hampshire, that connection was on display yesterday. Greeks and Greek Americans across our state marked the occasion with flag raising ceremonies and gatherings, honoring their heritage, their history, their families, and the sacrifices that made independence possible.

Today, we recognize not only the independence of Greece, but the lasting bond between Greece and the United States – grounded in democracy, self-governance, and freedom.

ZHTO H ELLAS!

Thank you, Madam President.