Happy 4th of July

US Ambassador to Athens Geoffrey Pyatt
Speaks to TNH about the 4th of July

Our Favorite 4th of July BBQ Sides and Drinks with a Greek Twist

The Three Presidents Who Died on the Fourth of July

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Celebrating the Fourth of July and 242 Years of Independence

By Theodore Kalmakos

United States Ambassador to Greece Mr. Geoffrey Pyatt in an exclusive interview with The National Herald on the occasion of the 242nd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on Independence Day, spoke about the importance of the Declaration of Independence in the context of our shared values and principles.

Ambassador Pyatt: It is a special honor to celebrate the Fourth of July with the people of Greece. The Declaration of Independence is a symbol of freedom, democracy, and the values that have shaped our nation’s journey as a country.

THNH: Which are the most pivotal principles and values that emanate from the 4th of July celebrations for today’s world?

Ambassador Pyatt: Democratic values, accountability, freedom, and the values that inspired America’s founders have been the bedrock of the United States’ alliance with Greece, and in turn inspired American support for Greek independence, nearly 200 years ago.

The “Mother of Exiles” is a potent symbol, for all those immigrants who came to the United States in search of a better life. The Statue of Liberty, as the “Mother of Exiles,” sent a message to the world “yearning to breathe free,” as the famous poem written by Emma Lazarus in 1883 to raise money for the construction of the Statue of Liberty’s pedestal. Of Porfirio Sephardic Jewish descent, Lazarus worked as a volunteer helping refugees who had been detained by immigration officials on Ward’s Island. By autumn of 1885, the pedestal was fully funded and Lazarus’ poem was soon put in the statue. The Statue of Liberty opened in 1886 without any mention of the poem. Lazarus’ poem was added, probably in 1887. Her friend, Georgina Schuyler organized an effort in 1901 to commemorate Lazarus and her poem. In 1905, the poem was engraved and placed inside the pedestal’s lower level.

By Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering steps astride from land to land;
Not of soused, sea-soaked, sensuous swell:
A mighty man with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and his name
Mother of Exiles. From the beacon-hill
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" she said.
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost,
I 4th of July at the Ambassador’s Residence in Athens in 2017.

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Our Favorite 4th of July BBQ Sides and Drinks with a Greek Twist

By Eleni Sakellis

The iconic 4th of July barbecue always features hot dogs and hamburgers, but it’s also an opportunity to impress your guests with some Greek flavors in the side dishes as well. Enjoy the following recipes to celebrate the USA’s 242nd birthday this year.

Grilled Asparagus

- 1 pound fresh asparagus
- Greek extra virgin olive oil
- Greek sea salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1 lemon

Trim the tough ends of the asparagus, then wash the asparagus and pat dry with a paper towel. Season the asparagus with salt and freshly ground pepper to taste, then drizzle with extra virgin olive oil.

Place the asparagus on a preheated grill outdoors or grill pan on the stove over high heat for 2-3 minutes or to desired doneness, turning every now and then to avoid burning.

Remove the asparagus from the grill and place on a serving dish, drizzle with a squeeze of fresh lemon juice, and serve immediately.

Marinated Potato Salad

- 5-6 medium Yukon gold or red new potatoes
- 1 large red onion, chopped
- 2 small jars (6 ounces each) marinated artichoke hearts, drained
- 1 large green bell pepper, cut into strips
- 2-3 medium roma tomatoes, sliced
- Black olives, of your choice
- 1/2 cup Greek extra virgin olive oil
- 1/3 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley

Wash the potatoes and place them in a large deep pot with enough water to cover them and bring to a boil, over medium high heat. Reduce the heat to medium, add a pinch of salt, and continue boiling the potatoes until they are tender, but not disintegrated.

When the potatoes have reached the desired tenderness, remove from heat. A cup of cold water will stop the cooking process.

Drain the potatoes and while they are still warm, cut into cubes, placing them in a large mixing bowl.

Add the rest of the ingredients and mix.

The potato salad may be served immediately, or cover tightly and keep refrigerated until needed even up to a day in advance, just give it a stir every so often to make sure the flavors are evenly distributed.

Romaine Salad with Feta

- 1 head romaine lettuce, thinly sliced
- 1 large red onion, thinly sliced
- 2-3 small cucumbers, peeled and sliced
- 2-3 roma tomatoes, sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- Greek sea salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 4 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Greek extra virgin olive oil

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Chris Madonis, Owner and Staff

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NATIONAL HERALD FOR PUBLISHING A SPECIAL ISSUE FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY

The Birthday of our Country

Recently, we lost our Father, Gust C. Karas, who was part of the “Greatest Generation of Americans.” To 1944, while serving in the U.S. Army with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in the occupied mainland of Greece, he always told us that he and his fellow soldiers never forgot the 4th of July celebration.

His Group was in between rotations that day and gathered with some of the local residents. They explained to them the significance of the 4th of July and how they fired their weapons in the air in celebration of their freedom.

So today, we salute our Father and all the men and women who fought throughout the years to keep this country free.

The Family of Gust C. Karas

U.S. Army, Group I OSS, Reading, PA

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Chris Madonis, Owner and Staff

THE NATIONAL HERALD, JUNE 30, 2018
The financial mismanagement that has occurred is inexcusable. Saint Nicholas at Ground Zero should be our crowning jewel; instead we are a national embarrassment. The Archdiocese has misused funds, the priests’ pensions, and God knows what else! The Seminary is in danger of closing, but the Archbishop refuses to resign, saying that he wants to fix the problems. But he is the one who was in charge when these problems happened in the first place!”

He emphasizes that “unfortunately, Archbishop Demetrios is holding on to his office at the expense of the Church.” The entire text of Catsimatidis’ open letter follows: I have been involved in Church affairs my whole life.

As an Altarboy, as a donor to numerous Churches, Ministries and Institutions, as an advisor, as Vice Chairman of the Archdiocesan Council, as a participant in the life of our Archdiocese. I served both Archbishops prior to Archbishop Demetrios and I have never seen a worse crisis than what we are facing now.

Loss of Credibility Unfortunately, Archbishop Demetrios is holding on to his office at the expense of the Church. The time has come for the crisis of Church leadership and management to come to a close.

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When I think of my late friends, Nicholas Bouras and Michael Jaharis, and how they supported Archbishop Demetrios, and how their sacrifices have been squandered by a combination of inexperience and pride, I feel embarrassed that this has been allowed to go on.

Archbishop Demetrios is ninety years old, and whatever good he did is now being wasted by his refusal to accept responsibility, and his desire for position and glory. But there is no glory in failure. All of us, clergy and laity alike, are responsible for the health of our Church. I, for one, know there are many who are ready and willing to step up and fix the problems. But we will only step up to our responsibilities when the Archbishop accepts his responsibility for the mess we are in and steps down.

Even retired Pope Benedict says it was his “duty” to resign from papacy. Your Eminence its time that you retire. It should be done before the Clergy Laity Congress. Let’s have a New Beginning for the Church on America’s 4th of July.
The Three Presidents Who Died on the Fourth of July

By Dr. Constantin E. Karouzos

A fascinating yet largely overlooked fact in history is that on exactly one date in the year of 1826, all three presidents who served under George Washington as the nation’s first president died. It is likely that this was a coincidence, but it is nonetheless interesting to note the timing of these events.

The Three Presidents Who Died on the Fourth of July

John Adams

Thomas Jefferson

James Monroe

On this day in 1826, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe all died. Adams and Jefferson were both members of the Founding Fathers and served as presidents of the United States. Adams was the second president, while Jefferson was the third. Monroe, on the other hand, was the first to serve as president after the War of 1812.

In the 1800s, the American political landscape was highly polarized, with presidential elections often being a source of great contention. The three presidents who died on the Fourth of July were all involved in heated political debates and were known for their strong political beliefs.

John Adams

John Adams was the second president of the United States and served from 1801 to 1805. He was a strong advocate for federalism and was skeptical of a strong central government. Adams was also a key figure in the early years of the United States, serving as a delegate to the Continental Congress and later as a diplomat in Europe.

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was the third president of the United States and served from 1801 to 1809. He was a strong supporter of the American Revolution and was one of the key authors of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson was also a major figure in the early development of the United States, serving as a delegate to the Continental Congress and later as the nation’s first secretary of state.

James Monroe

James Monroe was the fifth president of the United States and served from 1817 to 1825. He was a strong advocate for the Monroe Doctrine, which stated that European nations should not colonize or interfere with the Americas. Monroe was also known for his strong anti-federalist views and his belief in a small, limited government.

The significance of the fact that the three presidents who died on the Fourth of July were all members of the Founding Fathers is that it highlights the importance of these individuals in the early years of the United States. Their contributions to the country’s development and their strong political beliefs continue to be remembered and celebrated today.

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Dwight D. Eisenhower

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