Celebrating Greek Independence

This special edition of March 25th was partially supported by Michael and Robin Psaros and Drs Spiros and Amalia Spireas.
Happy and Joyous
Independence Day

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Happy Greek Independence Day, the historic and glorious of March 25th, 1821.

Honor and gratitude to the heroes of 1821.

Michael and Robin Psaros
The Greek Independence Day Celebration at Gracie Mansion is NYC's official recognition of the March 25 Greek national holiday. Among those present, host of the event Mayor Bill de Blasio, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, and Arina Huffington who was honored for her work for the media industry.

The communications of the Greek revolution over the Monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponnese, the commemoration is that rare honor the Mother of God – the Theotokos – and through the brutal years of war in the fight for freedom. The powerful connection in the minds and hearts of the community between faith and history is clear in all the events and celebrations surrounding the holiday, leading up to the victory of March 25.

The names of many of the heroes of the Greek War of Independence are well known, Theodoros Kolokotronis, Georgios Karaiskakis, Yannis Mavrogenes, Andreas Miaoulis, Ottoman Ar- chonstantinou, Lamia Kafanos, Constantine Karaman, Marinos Margarou, Andreas Manolakis, Ottoman Ar- chonstantinou, Lamia Kafanos, Constantine Karaman, Manolis Meimaroglou, Consul General of Cyprus Alexis Phe- donos-Vadet, and everyone who helped organize the event be- longed to the celebration including the Patristic City – a city of immigrants – that gives everyone a chance to maintain the fight. At some point all the fighters, including the Mayor, who struggle for democracy and the world that gives everyone a chance to maintain that freedom in the face of all threats.

The struggle for freedom which began in 1821 and continued on for much longer than the establish- ment of the modern Greek state in 1830. Only part of what we call Greece today was in- cluded in the Greek revolution, and the story is always at the center of the people and the struggle. By her actions the shoe from the Greek Rev- olution that illustrated the spirit of democracy. The Mayor honors the anniversary every year, and we are very happy and proud we are in Greece. I hope your warp’s parade will be the most impressive and grand of all time. Our country is in need of support more now than ever, and the parade is an oppor- tunity for all of us to honor our heritage.

The Mayor thanked Arch- bisophos Demetrios for “every- thing that he has done for the city of New York,” and named “the war of the Greek revolution.” The Mayor also thanked the New York City public for “every- thing that you all do for the city of New York.” The Mayor also thanked the New York City public for “every- thing that you all do for the city of New York.”

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The Hellenic Community of the United States is being threatened as its youth leaves the metropolis you see today. – carrying on our culture’s dedication to freedom and the rights of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Constantinople, the Holy Sepulchre which continues to be closed since 1974, and the illegal occupation of Cyprus. The Greek flag will be placed at the governor’s room.

New York City representatives Nick Nikolaidis accepted the HANAC’s Director of Social Services, Greek-American writer, and AHEPA Delphi Chapter #25 President Lou Katsos, and many more.

NYC Council Member Paul Vallone, honors Dr. Florentia Christodoulidou, and Council Member Costa Constantinides.

The Vallone family have appreciated their Greek-American culture in so many ways. Their reputation of excellence is well-deserved, as their hard work and community service have made it a wonderful success, and their selection at the event every year. I am proud to join Council Member Constantinides in hosting this Greek Independence Day Special, which will be adopted by vote in the Senate chamber and in the corridor Greek Orthodox parish of St. Demetrios, Cranston, Assumption of Providence, Church of the Assumption, and St. Spyridon of Newport, will recite patriotic poems and songs.

Hellenic Independence Day means freedom from oppression, heroism of Hellenic freedom fighters through the ages, democracy, and the contemporary message of the Filiki Etaireia.

The demographics of Greece are being threatened as its youth leaves for opportunities abroad, birth rates decline, the economy falters, foreigners are being resettled in masse in its territory that could be occupied by its neighbors. The Hellenic Community of the United States is demanding a unified front against all aggressors and rejuvenation of its organized societies!

In unison we stand! ΖΗΤΩ το ΕΘΝΟΣ!

Dr. Spyros Mezitis
New York City
The flag of the Filiki Eteria.

By Savvas T. Stavridis

Stylianos Plagiannis wrote an interesting piece dedicated to Greek Independence Day which appeared in The National Herald. The National Herald, the major newspaper in the Greek-American community in the United States and Europe who believed that the struggling Greeks were the descendants of the ancient Hellenes.

The flag of Greece.

The Oath of Initiation into the Filiki Eteria, painting by Dionsysios Tsokos, 1849.

Continued from page 1 of the main section

and Greece, and its leaders were war
cry "Freedom." The Filiki Eteria
raised the banner for independence
and a handful of individuals filled
With courage and determination
handful of individuals filled
With courage and determination
and sense of one day attaining their
freedom.

The Filiki Eteria, a secret or-
ganization established in Athens
(present-day Ukraine) in 1814,
directed its energies toward the
creation and development.

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Provinces of the Ottoman Em-
pire. These boys were between
12-14 and were given Muslim names
and instructed in the teaching and
practices of Islam. They were
trained as soldiers and formed
fantry troops of the Ottoman Empire.

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The giant struggle of 1821
was something to be proud of,
against overwhelming odds, the
Greeks had achieved the impossible—freedom.

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The president backed up that
statement by saying that most
Greek last names that his aides
usually do— to make points
Trump went off script— as he
recreations and developments.
More than ever, President Trump
went off script—as he usually
does— to make points
regarding his overall manage-
ment of the nation and to change
in up-coming chants from admiring
readers.

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Greeks had achieved the impossible—freedom.
Greece ended up paying war reparations to the Turks. The reputation of the Greek monarchy was dented when King George I failed to call out the navy and with the palace surrounded by hostile and angry crowds. An international financial commission created by the major European powers: Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Italy collected Greek tax revenues to pay for war reparations and foreign loans. The only comfort for Greece was that Crete was now ruled by a Christian Governor under nominal Ottoman rule.

The Greek army soon resumed its liberating mission, however, and new diamonds were added to the crown of the Greek nation with Salonika, Ioannina, Adrianople, and Smyrna coming under Greek control. The largest diamond missing from this crown was Constantinople. Constantinople hoped he would become king of this renowned city, like the last Byzantine Emperor who shared his name. With the Treaty of Berlin in 1878, the dream of the Greek race would be fulfilled with the saying “Again with the years The City will again be ours.”

Wishful thinking on the part of the Royalists, as Constantinople was under Allied control in the period 1919-23. There was no way the Allies would allow Greece to threaten or occupy Constantinople. Britain ensured the Sultan’s government remained in power to block any Russian pretensions in occupying the Ottoman capital. Constantinople was an important financial and economic center in the Near East. Nevertheless, Plagiannis was correct to note that the Greece of 1921 was ten times the size of 1821. She was big, free, strong, glorious, and respected by her friends but terrible to her enemies. Greece was celebrating its centenary under the most optimistic atmosphere. Still, he failed to mention the successes of Eleftherios Venizelos as Greek Prime Minister during the Balkan Wars and presenting his nation’s territorial claims at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. During the Balkan Wars, Venizelos proved to be a great and popular commander in the army and with the Greek public.

The Treaty of Sevres signed on August 10, 1920 was the closest that Greece got to realizing the Great Idea but the electoral victory of the Royalists including the return of Constantine in late 1920 led to the abandonment and isolation of Greece by the allied powers. Allies opened discussions with the Turks to amend the Treaty of Sevres. Of course, Greece was most unhappy with their decision.

Plagiannis sense of “celebrating [the nation’s] centenary under the most optimistic times” was somewhat misplaced. To celebrate its centenary was an important milestone for Greece. However, the catastrophe that engulfed Greeks in Asia Minor some 18 months later proved how wrong he was.

In conclusion, Plagiannis praised King Constantine whom he considered a champion in the revival of a strong and proud Greece, but he failed to acknowledge the achievements of Venizelos.
Athenian’s Society of New York Cultural Evening Honors the 25th of March

The National Herald, March 23, 2019

Students from the Academy of Hellinikos Paideia danced in traditional costumes at the celebration.

The charming paintings by Fr. Ioannis Apostolopoulos.

The Athenian’s Society of New York presented a cultural event which began with a documentary film-screening and concluded with an art exhibition at the Hellenic Society ‘Elliniki’ in Astoria.

Athena’s Society of NY Cultural Evening Honors the 25th of March

By Helen Schatz

The Athenian’s Society of New York presented a cultural event which began with a documentary film-screening and concluded with an art exhibition at the Hellenic Society ‘Elliniki’ in Astoria.

The first artist presented was Fr. Ioannis Apostolopoulos, whose charming oil paintings inspired by scenes of nature in Greece were on display. He noted that the church does a lot of painting, and every church has a large collection of paintings which they keep active through the art of painting. Fr. Apostolopoulos explained that he is 85 years old and we should honor him, since he is an artist and a painter, especially since old people make old things look new. Apostolopoulos explained that he is not a professional artist, but he has been painting for years, and he has contributed so much to the city’s development. He is proud to be part of this special event, which aims to promote Greek heritage daily through our schools, churches and community engagements. They have their deepest appreciation for lifting up our Greek community and the beautiful bouquest of Greece that we call Greek-American.

Athenian’s Society Executive Director Lucie Simotas emphasized that one of the Greek immigrants who influenced her the most was her mother, who now better understands the educational significance of the March 25th celebration. She said, “It is a privilege to see my colleagues in government and the community celebrate Greek Independence Day, which has become a cherished tradition in Astoria. These immigrants and their families have enhanced our beautiful community while they pursue their own American dreams. The extraordinary Helikon that left us at this year’s celebration strengthens our Greek heritage daily through our schools, churches and community engagements. They have their deepest appreciation for lifting up our Greek community and the beautiful bouquet of Greece that we call Greek-American.”

Simotas continued, “As a Greek-American, it is important to celebrate this day, which focuses on our history and the common ideals that connect Greece to the United States. It is a reminder of the values that are the DNA of the Greek-American community in Astoria to celebrate Greek Independence Day. We recognize the achievements that all our honorees have made in promoting the Hellenic and democratic values that our ancestors have instilled in us. These community leaders have made the city and United States a better place.”

Athenian’s Society President Katina Constantinides explained that the purpose of the evening is to celebrate the Greek community and its achievements, especially the achievements of its educators and leaders. She emphasized that the event is not just for the community, but also for the rest of the world, where people can learn about the Greek-American community and its contributions.

For his part, NYPD chaplain Fr. George Anastopoulos said, “I am very pleased to be here today to celebrate the 25th of March, the Greek Independence Day. I am proud to be part of this special event, which aims to promote Greek heritage daily through our schools, churches and community engagements. They have their deepest appreciation for lifting up our Greek community and the beautiful bouquet of Greece that we call Greek-American.”

New York Konstantinos Koutras, Consul General of Greece in New York, spoke in Greek about her artistic journey and the importance of art in society. She noted that the path of art may be long, but it is not a solitary journey, since art is always with us.

The five extraordinary Hellenic Society students who opened the exhibition were created at the University of Athens, discussing the history of the Greek capital city through the years of ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary times.

Among the places visited was the Church of St. Demetrios, in Astoria. New York State Senator, the Greek community to the event held under the auspices of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, who was unable to attend. “I am very pleased to be here today to celebrate the 25th of March, the Greek Independence Day. I am proud to be part of this special event, which aims to promote Greek heritage daily through our schools, churches and community engagements. They have their deepest appreciation for lifting up our Greek community and the beautiful bouquet of Greece that we call Greek-American.”

Simotas congratulated the Greek elected officials for their role in celebrating Greek Independence Day. “Thank you to my colleagues in government and the community for their role in promoting the Hellenic and democratic values that our ancestors have instilled in us. These community leaders have made the city and United States a better place.”

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Long Live Greece!

Celebrating Greek Independence Day

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Dear AHEPA Family and Friends: ZETO E ELLAS!

On behalf of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the nation's largest and oldest association of Americans citizens of Greek heritage and Philhellenes, I am writing to commemorate Greek Independence Day on March 25, 2019.

The ancient Greeks forged the notion of democracy. They believed in the right of self-governance – one of the foundations of our great nation. In fact, our Founding Fathers relied heavily on the political and philosophical experience of the ancient Greeks, and believed enough in its principles and values to risk their lives for it. Thomas Jefferson called ancient Greece “the light which led us selves out of Gothic darkness.”

March 25th marks the 198th anniversary of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire. The Greek people sought the right to govern themselves and to determine their own destiny. It is important for us to recognize and celebrate this day together with Greece to reaffirm our common democratic heritage. Many Americans fought and died alongside the Greeks during their struggle for freedom in the Greek War of Independence. The Greeks received the support of President James Monroe, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, and U.S. Representatives Daniel Webster and Henry Clay.

Like the Fourth of July, Greek Independence Day reminds us that we have a duty to defend freedom at whatever cost. We are glorifying all of history’s freedom fighters by honoring the triumphant spirit of those who valiantly fought and died for the ideals we hold dear. Moreover, Greece has been allied with the United States in every major conflict of the 20th Century and has contributed significantly to the International War on Terrorism. In 2018, President Donald J. Trump noted, that all of the United States and Greece: “…have an enduring bond based on mutual respect, shared values, and an abiding commitment to freedom and sovereignty.”

In closing, I would like to remind all of our chapters that our organization is the largest and the greatest one of its kind. Please take part in this celebration of democracy by proclaiming March 25, 2019, as Greek Independence Day, in your chapters, cities and districts. I look forward to seeing you at our 98th AHEPA Family Supreme Convention July 1-6, 2019 in Chicago, IL. Visit our site for more: ahepa.org

Fraternally,

George E. Loucas
Supreme President
HAPPY GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY!

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HYMN TO LIBERTY - DIONISIOS SOLOMOS
(A translation in English by Rudyard Kipling in 1918)

I KNOW YOU of old
Oh divinely restored,
By the light of your eyes
And the edge of your sword.

From the graves of our people
Shall your spirit prevail
As we greet you again-
Hail, Liberty, Hail!

Long did you dwell
Amid the peoples that mourn
Awaiting some voice
That should tell you to return

Ah, slow broke that day
and no man dared call,
For the shadow of tyranny
Lay over all.

Long you have awaited
for a freedom-loving call
and in despair one hand
hits the other one.

Oh, unfortunate one!
The only consolation you had
were the past glories,
and remembering them you cried.

Lyrics: Dionysios Solomos, 1824
Music: Nikolaos Mantzaras, 1828
Adopted: 1864

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