

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 40

Welcoming the Prime Minister of Greece to the United States for an address
to a joint meeting of Congress.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2022

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Welcoming the Prime Minister of Greece to the United States
for an address to a joint meeting of Congress.

Whereas the concept of democracy—that the people have the
power to govern—was developed in ancient Greece;

Whereas the United States and Greece have enjoyed more
than 150 years of diplomatic relations and share deep
cultural connections and values;

Whereas the United States and Greece have been partners
and allies in all major international conflicts throughout
modern history;

Whereas Greece heroically resisted Axis forces at a crucial
moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change
his timeline and delaying the attack on the Soviet Union;

Whereas Winston Churchill said that “if there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been” and “no longer will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks”;

Whereas the metropolitan area of Mariupol, Ukraine, where forces of the Russian Federation have committed unconscionable war crimes against the local population during the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by President Vladimir Putin, is home to approximately 120,000 ethnic Greeks;

Whereas, after forces of the Russian Federation bombed a hospital in Ukraine on March 9, 2022, Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis said, on March 18, 2022, “Greece is ready to rebuild the maternity hospital in Mariupol, the center of Greek minority in Ukraine, a city dear to our hearts and the symbol of barbarity of the war”;

Whereas Greece has sent at least 4 humanitarian aid shipments to Ukraine, including non-perishable food, bottled water, antiseptics, medical supplies, and power generators;

Whereas Greece has provided Ukraine with security assistance, including Kalashnikov rifles and portable rocket launchers;

Whereas membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has further enhanced cooperation between the United States and Greece;

Whereas Greece is an integral part of the European Union;

Whereas the commitment of the United States and Greece to security cooperation led to the Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement Between the Government of the United

States of America and the Government of the Hellenic Republic, done at Athens July 8, 1990, which was updated in 2021 to enhance defense ties between the countries and promote stability in southeastern Europe;

Whereas the Greek port of Alexandroupoli has been instrumental in allowing the United States to help reinforce the eastern flank of NATO and deter further aggression by the Russian Federation against allies and partners of the United States;

Whereas the Floating Storage and Regasification Unit of Alexandroupoli, recently inaugurated, will contribute significantly to energy diversification of Greece and southeastern Europe, especially in light of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation;

Whereas the United States has demonstrated its support for the trilateral partnership of Greece, Israel, and Cyprus by enacting into law the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (title II of division J of Public Law 116–94) and through joint engagement with Greece, Israel, and Cyprus in the 3+1 format;

Whereas this support was bolstered in the United States-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act of 2021 (subtitle B of title XIII of Public Law 117–81), establishing a 3+1 Interparliamentary Group to discuss the expansion of cooperation in other areas of common concern;

Whereas the United States is home to a robust Greek-American community of approximately 3,000,000 people, who meaningfully contribute to the cultural fabric of the United States; and

Whereas the Speaker of the House has invited Prime Minister Mitsotakis to address a joint meeting of Congress on May 17, 2022: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
 2 *concurring)*, That the Senate—

3 (1) warmly welcomes Prime Minister of Greece
 4 Kyriakos Mitsotakis to the United States;

5 (2) eagerly anticipates the address of Prime
 6 Minister Mitsotakis before a joint meeting of Con-
 7 gress;

8 (3) appreciates the historic and present role of
 9 Greece in the defense of democracy, including
 10 through the provision of support to Ukraine amid
 11 the ongoing brutal and unprovoked invasion by the
 12 Russian Federation;

13 (4) commits to a continued partnership with
 14 Greece to bolster energy cooperation through the
 15 3+1 format and help accelerate energy security in
 16 Europe;

17 (5) reaffirms the steadfast and bipartisan sup-
 18 port for the friendship between the people and Gov-
 19 ernments of the United States and Greece; and

20 (6) appreciates the important role that Greek-
 21 Americans play in supporting the strong bonds that
 22 exist between the United States and Greece.

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