

11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 251—DESIGNATING MARCH 25, 2000, AS “GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY”

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROTH, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. WARNER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S.RES. 251

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was invested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew heavily upon the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the founders of the modern Greek state modeled their government after that of the United States in an effort to best imitate their ancient democracy;

Whereas Greece is one of the only 3 nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century;

Whereas the heroism displayed in the historic World War II Battle of Crete epitomized Greece's sacrifice for freedom and democracy as it presented the Axis land war with its first major setback and set off a chain of events which significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas President Clinton, during his visit to Greece on November 20, 1999, referred to modern day Greece as “a beacon of democracy, a regional leader for stability, prosperity and freedom, helping to complete the democratic revolution that ancient Greece began.”

Whereas these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our 2 nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2000, marks the 179th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution which freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our 2 great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 25, 2000, as “Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy”; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today I am pleased to submit a resolution along with 25 of my colleagues to designate March 25, 2000, as “Greek Independence Day: A Celebration of Greek and American Democracy.”

One hundred and seventy-nine years ago, the Greeks began the revolution that would free them from the Ottoman Empire and return Greece to its democratic heritage. It was, of course, the ancient Greeks who developed the concept of democracy in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people. Our Founding Fathers drew heavily upon the political and philosophical experience of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy. Thomas Jefferson proclaimed that, “to the ancient Greeks * * * we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness.” It is fitting, then, that we should recognize the anniversary of the beginning of their efforts to return to that democratic tradition.

The democratic form of government is only one of the most obvious of the many benefits we have gained from the Greek people. The ancient Greeks contributed a great deal to the modern world, particularly to the United States of America, in the areas of art, philosophy, science and law. Today, Greek-Americans continue to enrich our culture and make valuable contributions to American society, business, and government.

It is my hope that strong support for this resolution in the Senate will serve as a clear goodwill gesture to the people of Greece with whom we have enjoyed such a close bond throughout history. Similar resolutions have been signed into law each of the past several years, with overwhelming support in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Accordingly, I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the resolution submitted by Senator SPECTER designating March 25, 2000 as Greek Independence Day. The Greek-American community has made significant contributions to the United States. It is in honor of those achievements that we recognize Greek Independence Day.

The ancient Greeks conceived the very notion of democracy when they placed the power to govern in the hands of the people. Our founding fathers relied on the political and philosophical experiences of ancient Greece to create the government we have today. As a result, America's close relationship with Greece is long and historic. I believe that James Monroe best expressed America's feelings toward Greece when he said, “The mention of Greece fills the mind with the most exalted sentiments and arouses in our bosoms the best feeling of which our nature is susceptible.”

As Greece fought for its independence in the 1820s, the American Revolution became a driving ideal. In fact, Greek intellectuals translated our own Declaration of Independence to use as their statement of freedom. By the end of World War II, Greece was one of our most important allies in the region as it fought to stem the Communist tide

across Europe. In 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appropriately noted this effort when he said, “. . . Greece asked no favor except the opportunity to stand for the rights which it believed, and it gave to the world an example of battle, a battle that thrilled the hearts of all free men and free women everywhere.”

Today, we know that Greece is one of only three nations in the world which has allied itself with the United States in every major international conflict this century. Through immigration, we have grown even closer. During the early 1900s, one out of every four Greek males between the ages of 15 and 45 emigrated to the United States. Greek-Americans have the highest median educational attainment among all American ethnic nationalities, and they are now a successful and integral part of this country.

The relationship between Greece and America is a unique one which has survived the test of war and the looming threat of Communism. We owe a great deal to Greece, and to its people who have chosen to make America their home. Greek civilization touches our lives as Americans and enhances the cultural existence of this great nation. I hope my colleagues will join me in expressing our gratitude to Greece and all Greek-Americans for the role they have played in building this country.

SENATE RESOLUTION 252—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT REBIYA KADEER, HER FAMILY MEMBER AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, SHOULD BE RELEASED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. WELLSTONE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 252

Whereas members of the Uighur minority population in Xinjiang, China, are subject to ongoing repression and violations of their internationally recognized rights of free expression, association, and belief;

Whereas on August 11, 1999, the Government of the People's Republic of China arbitrarily detained Rebiya Kadeer, a prominent and respected Uighur businesswoman well-known in the United States;

Whereas from 1993 to 1998, Ms. Kadeer was an elected member of the Provincial People's Political Consultative Conference in Xinjiang;

Whereas in 1995, Ms. Kadeer was a delegate to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing;

Whereas the police have detained Ms. Kadeer previously and kept her under close surveillance, threatening her because of the alleged separatist activities of her husband, who came to the United States in 1996 and was granted political asylum after publishing articles critical of the Chinese Government;

Whereas on September 2, 1999, Chinese authorities formally charged Ms. Kadeer with “illegally offering state secrets across the border”, and she is currently detained in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang;

Whereas Ms. Kadeer's son, Ablikim Abdyirim, and her secretary, Kahrman