

when Greece began to reassert its historic role as a leading light of democracy. In 1821, when valiant Greeks raised the flag of revolt against their Ottoman Turk oppressors, they were striking a blow for liberty that captivated freedom-loving men and women all over Europe, and in the young American Republic. Thomas Jefferson was inspired enough to become involved in the Greek struggle in the twilight of his life. In the summer of 1823 the Greek Hellenist and patriot Adamantios Koraes wrote to our third president, requesting advice on drawing up a constitution for the liberated Greece he was certain would be achieved.

Jefferson's lengthy reply detailed his views on the fundamentals of democracy—freedom of religion, freedom of person (habeas corpus), trial by jury, the exclusive right of legislation and taxation reserved to the representatives of the people, and freedom of the press. The 80-year-old scholar-president concluded his letter with a moving tribute to Greece's unique importance to the world.

It took nearly a decade more of struggle until Greeks once again became masters in their own house. And maintaining Greece's independence and freedom over the ensuing 163 years has proven not to be easy.

Greece has had to cope with internal divisions and external threats. Seemingly unending arguments over the Greek constitution and form of government occupied much of the nineteenth century. Then came the two Balkan wars, World War I, the Anatolian War, World War II, the Civil War that pitted Greek against Greek, and after a peaceful, if troubled, interlude, the short-lived dictatorship of the Colonels.

Thankfully, today we can celebrate nearly a quarter-century of restored democracy and peace in Greece. Greece is now solidly integrated economically and politically in the European Union.

Greece's relations with most of its neighbors have improved. Despite some lingering problems, relations are relatively good with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and with Albania. Greece continues to maintain a solid relationship with Bulgaria.

I will not hide the fact that—like every other country—Greece still faces formidable problems. Athens' relations with Ankara remain stormy. Turkey continues its illegal occupation of Northern Cyprus and its belligerent behavior in the Aegean.

Moreover, the state of the Greek economy still leaves much to be desired. Let us be honest—as in the United States, there have been gross inefficiencies and wasteful policies. Greece will have to put its financial house in order if it hopes to take part fully in the ambitious integration that the European Union foresees in the coming years. I am confident that Prime Minister Simitis' reform program will bear fruit.

Improving Greece's economy and finding ways to improve relations with Turkey are daunting tasks. But one look at hard-working, talented Greek-Americans, assures me that Greeks everywhere will continue to triumph over adversity and will remain an inspirational democratic ally.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 171) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 171

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

Whereas March 25, 1998, marks the 177th 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, 1998, 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.

#### AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 238, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 238) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds

for a breast cancer survivors event sponsored by the National Race for the Cure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements on this resolution appear in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 238) was considered and agreed to.

#### PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 206, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 206) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask consent the resolution be deemed agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 206) was deemed agreed to.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1998

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, before closing I ask consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19; immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then begin a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 11:30 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes each with the following exceptions: Senator COVERDELL or his designee, 30 minutes from 9:30 until 10:00; Senator REID, 30 minutes from 10:00 until 10:30; Senator HAGEL or his designee, 30 minutes from 10:30 until 11 a.m.; Senator TORRICELLI for 10 minutes; Senator BRYAN for 10 minutes; and Senator GRAHAM of Florida for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I also ask unanimous consent that at 11:30 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to resume