

**PROCLAMATION
BICENTENNIAL OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY
MARCH 25, 2021**

WHEREAS, March 25, 2021 marks the Bicentennial of Greece's Independence from the suppressing rule of the Ottoman Empire. For 400 years, the Greeks were not allowed to teach about their venerable heritage, practice religion or even speak their native Greek language; and

WHEREAS, When the Greek people had enough, they declared independence and fought a terrible and bloody war. No one was exempt; men, women and children were all needed to fight the outnumbering enemy. Finally, after eight-plus years of horrific fighting, on September 25, 1829, the war ended with Greece being victorious. Greece, the birthplace of Democracy, was once again a free country; and

WHEREAS, The people of ancient Greece developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people; and

WHEREAS, The City of Troy is home to close to 1,000 proud Greeks and the home of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church where they celebrate OPA Fest each June; and

WHEREAS, The City of Troy has Greek roots in its name. The ancient City of Troy, existing over 4,000 years ago, was attacked and conquered by the Greeks after they gained access to the city by means of the Trojan Horse, as described in Homer's classic novel, "The Iliad." It is an honor that the City of Troy is named after this epic Greek battle, and that we can celebrate 2021 as Greece's Bicentennial;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Troy does hereby celebrate **March 25, 2021 as the Bicentennial of Greek Independence Day** in the City of Troy and urges all citizens to join us in recognizing this day as we celebrate with our Greek neighbors and friends on Greece gaining its independence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council urges all residents to commemorate the **Bicentennial of Greek Independence Day** and expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and commends the Greek-American community for its contributions to the United States and its role as a bridge between the two countries.

Presented the 22nd day of March 2021.