

WHEREAS,

Two hundred years ago, nearly half a century after the Stars and Stripes first flew over our country, a flag was raised on a mountaintop in Greece, and the Greek people began a revolution in which they regained their freedom and brought democracy back to her birthplace; and

WHEREAS,

Greeks and Americans enjoy a close relationship, which is reflected in our shared values. Throughout our storied pasts, our people have upheld the fundamental ideals we cherish, like our representative democracy and institutions. We have long stood shoulder-to-shoulder in defense of freedom and the love of independence which inspired both our revolutions; and

WHEREAS,

The Greek-American community of Nebraska carries forward the legacy of their ancestors who inspired the world by enriching our state in unique ways; and

WHEREAS,

By joining in the celebration of the Greek people on the 200th anniversary of Greece's independence, we celebrate the unbreakable bond forged between our two countries and honor the contributions the Greek-American community has made to Nebraska's character.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the 25th day of March, 2021 as

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

in Nebraska, and present this proclamation to Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church of Omaha. Home to the George H. and Peggy C. Payne Hellenic Cultural and Community Center, Saint John the Baptist was built by the Greek-American community of Omaha and continues to serve as its home today.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Third day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twentyone.

Attest:

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Secretary of State

Re River

Governor