

Senate Resolution No. 1716

BY: Senator GIANARIS

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
March 2026 as Greek History Month in the State of
New York

WHEREAS, The year 2026 will mark the 205th Anniversary of Greek Independence; and

WHEREAS, The Greek people proudly trace their heritage back thousands of years in Europe where they developed an advanced civilization unlike any the world had yet seen; and

WHEREAS, Upon the fall of the City of Constantinople in 1453, the Greek people began almost four centuries under foreign rule in the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, In March 1821, the yearning for Greek independence inspired multiple militias to engage in battles against the Ottoman Empire, including an incursion into Moldavia led by Alexandros Ypsilantis, and various skirmishes in the Peloponnese and on several islands; and

WHEREAS, On March 25, 1821, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the Greek flag at the Monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponnese, marking the beginning of the Greek War of Independence; and

WHEREAS, In January 1822, the Greeks officially declared independence from the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, The Greeks valiantly waged war against their Ottoman rulers, under the brave leadership of Theodoris Kolokotronis, for almost nine years until a part of modern Greece was declared independent; and

WHEREAS, The Greek War of Independence was formally concluded in 1832 with the signing of the Treaty of Constantinople, further expanding the borders of a modern, independent Greek State; and

WHEREAS, March 25th is celebrated as Independence Day in Greece and in Greek communities around the world, commemorating the beginning of the Greek War of Independence; and

WHEREAS, Throughout history, the Greek people have exhibited an enduring sense of bravery in rising against oppressors; Winston Churchill noted, in a famed World War II speech, "Until now, we used to say that the Greeks fight like heroes. Now we shall say, 'The heroes fight like Greeks.'"; and

WHEREAS, Ancient Greece has shaped modern society by originating the concepts of logic, science, lyrics, philosophy, and history and being the birthplace of democratic ideals, inspiring the notion of participation in government, which influenced the framing of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Greece has continued to enrich American culture in the fields of literature, philosophy, and architecture and has promoted the modern Olympic Games, hosting the first in 1896 and, most recently, in 2004; we also honor Greek Americans in New York State who have improved our community, shown love for family, and shared with us their traditions to learn and celebrate; and

WHEREAS, In many ways, including the presence of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the great State of New York has been blessed; the Archdiocese serves as a beacon of moral and ethical guidance throughout the hemisphere from its Manhattan headquarters; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York is further enhanced by its long-standing partnership with the Federation of Hellenic-American Societies which continues its tradition of strong leadership within the Greek-American community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those New Yorkers of Hellenic descent for their enduring contributions to the educational, social, moral, and economic principles that are so deeply ingrained in the fabric of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2026 as Greek History Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the commemoration of the 205th Anniversary of Greek Independence, and to publicly encourage the citizens of New York State to reflect upon the contributions of the Greek community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (Lambriniadis) of America, Most Honorable Exarch of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.