

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 24, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, we are writing with respect to a tradition of great pride for us and the Greek-American community. For more than two decades, the White House has recognized the friendship between the United States and Greece by hosting a White House celebration in honor of Greek Independence Day. This friendship, which is based on mutual respect, a commitment to common goals, and a sharing of fundamental values, extends back to the days of the Founding Fathers who referenced ancient Greece when establishing our great nation. After achieving independence on March 25, 1821, Modern Greece looked to America to establish its own democratic government.

By hosting a celebration in honor of Greek Independence Day, we strengthen the relationship between the United States and Greece while acknowledging and thanking Greek-Americans for their many contributions to our nation's cultural, economic, and political heritage. Therefore, we respectfully request that you consider extending this great tradition next month when we celebrate the 188th anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance to you in planning such an event.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress