

# MESSAGE BY H.E. ALEXIOS G. CHRISTOPOULOS, AMBASSADOR OF GREECE TO AUSTRALIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, MARCH 25, 1821

**T**oday we commemorate the declaration of the war for our Independence, fought to regain our freedom and all the principles implied by this word in our language and in our civilization.

Greece's Declaration of Independence coincides with the Evangelismos tis Theotokou. This too is a very significant day in Greece and celebrates the Annunciation, which in Christian faith is the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would become the Theotokos (Mother of God). The two events share the symbolism of new life and the heralding of a new era.

The liberation of our Nation commenced with the 1821 revolution. It was a time of rebirth. The revolution inspired a renaissance of political life bringing forward principles and systems which had been suppressed for so many years, while living under tyrannical regimes. In the end, we were victorious.

The principles of our civilization – so widely studied today in modern universities – are based on an organised society in which all its members must take an active role. Only by such rigorous participation can each one of us gain a unique identity – an absolute necessity in order to gain freedom – because an individual without a unique identity cannot call him/herself free.

This freedom was the basis of the democratic ideal which we hold so dear today. On this basis, and throughout the ages, the Greeks, using different methods, have attained varying political systems which we call either Politia or Constitutions.

Freedom is manifest in our every day. The essential element to freedom is continuous development. Whatever is not developing stops to exist – and so is not free.

The Hellenes of 1821, our ancestors, came from everywhere, with whatever means each one had at their disposal, to attain the same goal: their freedom.

Death and destruction abounded. Those who had economic means contributed to the “ideal”, the educated gave their talents. Those who managed to survive are our parents and grandparents.

The governing bodies of the time were astounded

when they heard of organised revolutionaries covering an extended territorial land of eastern and southern Europe, who had risen to demand their freedom. These people were voting in National Assemblies, adopting both federal and federated Constitutions, organizing armies and navies and declaring their demand for inalienable rights. All this, which many of us have the luxury of taking for granted, was previously unheard of.

Their demand was to be free citizens of an organised State, practicing their own customs. It was ultimately clear that they were not a new group of anarchists, but that they were the very descendants of those who had given the original light of civilization. They now demanded precisely those rights which belonged to them.

Our first leaders were imprisoned and very many were put to death even though our right to fight had been acknowledged and supported throughout the world.

We celebrate this anniversary each year to commemorate our struggle and our victory. To remind ourselves that the thousands of years of the existence of our Nation and civilization demand a clear knowledge of the past, in order to be able to face the challenges of the future. Only when one lives in full knowledge of these principles, do they truly understand their roots – and only then can they teach their children to be an individual and free and to be citizens of the future.

From the time of this war until today, for the first time, our nation created a State with its own name – Hellas – uniting scores of tribes and many more sub-tribes. To reach the present day, we have faced many new situations of heroism and catastrophe, reorganizations of our political and social life, always adapting ourselves to new international situations, international demands and economic systems. We are adaptable, because we are developing and we are developing because we are free.

Today, we find ourselves at the dawn of a new era. We are facing a great economic crisis which is at the same time an international economic crisis. Our decision is to comply with it, to face it, with readjust-



ment, sacrifice and unity. It is the demand of the new era. We believe we shall overcome obstacles as those we have confronted many times in our past. This is the great opportunity given to us. Through the crisis a new Greece will emerge – modern, more organised and more democratic, as the present demands, as the future dictates.

Here in Australia, our National Day attains a broader dimension – that of the classic essence. It is about the community, the members of our Nation, but not necessarily citizens of our State. It is an admirable community, full of energy, residing on this continent and State, comprising citizens of Australia.

The fame of the Hellenes of Australia is world renown. When I arrived here a few months ago, I found a community with full knowledge of our civilization and with full functioning of our principles in which it is rooted. I found a community respected by everyone for its social organisation, for its social and political life and thought, for its cultural and education. It is recognised for being industrious and for its financial strength. It is a community that everyone respects, accepts and even emulates. I am proud that I belong to them and that I represent the State from which they came.

I would like to assure you that I will offer all of my capabilities so that you will continue to feel proud of your origins. With your support for Hellas, Hellas stands by you.

My warmest wishes on this auspicious day.

Long live Greece!

March 25, 2010



## ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΗΛΕΙΩΝ “Ο ΕΡΜΗΣ”

Το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο  
και η Γυναικεία Επιτροπή διοργανώνει

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το **Σάββατο 8 Μαΐου 2010**

και ώρα 7 μ.μ.

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Πρόγραμμα: Περιήγηση ότι το καλύτερο στο Μπρίσμπακ καθώς θα  
παρευρεθούμε στο Φεστιβάλ και θα απολαύσουμε Ελληνικά συ-  
γκροτήματα. Ο Σύλλογός μας προσφέρει ψυχαγωγία και δεν  
κάνουμε διακρίσεις από όποιο χώρο της Ελλάδας κατάγεστε.

Παρακαλούμε όσοι έχετε κλείσει θέσεις και όποιοι θέλετε να  
συμμετέχετε τηλεφωνήστε στο Γραφείο 9567 6005

για να τακτοποιήσετε τα εισιτήριά σας.

Εκ των Δημοσίων Σχέσεων - Δημήτριος Ψαρρός 9699 2782