TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

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

WHEREAS: The story of Greek military tactics used at the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC is still mandatory reading at the National War College in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS: The Founding Fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative democracy of the United States; and

WHEREAS: Many Americans fought alongside the Greeks in their fight for Greek independence, while stirring speeches by President James Monroe and Daniel Webster led Congress to send funds and supplies to aid the Greeks in the struggle for freedom; and

WHEREAS: Greece consistently allied with the United States in major international conflicts throughout the 20th century; and

WHEREAS: The governments and people of Greece and the United States are working to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights, through organizations such as the Order of American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), which was founded in 1922, to assist Greek immigrants to become part of the American social fabric; and

WHEREAS: Those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the people of Greece and the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim March 25th, 2021, as

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

across the state, I encourage my fellow citizens to celebrate with the people of Greece and reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two great countries were founded.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 15th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2021.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State