

New York City Celebrates Greek Independence with Annual Parade



Sunday, March 30, 2025, the annual Greek Independence Day Parade took place in New York City, with the theme of “GREECE: The Birthplace of Democracy & Strategic Partner of America.” The parade brought the Greek-American community together to celebrate Greece’s struggle for freedom and honor its rich history and contributions to American society and beyond.

The day began with a Doxology at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, joined by Archbishop Demetrios, former of America, His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Patras, His Grace Bishop Nektarios of Diokleia, V. Rev. Archimandrite Artemios, Chancellor of the Metropolis of Patras, Archdiocesan District Chancellor Fr. Elias Villis, Fr. Gabriel Galifinakis, assistant priest at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Washington DC, and parish priest V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Gilbert.

“Our Doxology today is the perfect commencement to the Parade that will follow. For we glorify God for His many mercies to the People of Greece. We give thanks for the Heroes of 1821 and those who came after them to bring liberty to Lands of Hellas. The Revolution may have started in a single day, but it took many years and many lives, live that we remember today in our prayers, even as we praise the

Theotokos as the Προστάτης of our Γένος,” Archbishop Elpidophoros remarked.

Following the service, the parade commenced on Fifth Avenue, filling the streets with vibrant displays of Greek pride. Participants dressed in traditional attire, waving Greek and American flags, while marching bands and cultural organizations showcased the enduring spirit of Hellenism. The Greek Presidential Guard began the procession, their marches echoing along Fifth Avenue. Spectators packed onto the sidewalk, proudly sporting their blue and white.

The annual parade is organized by the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York, with Philip Christopher serving as General Chairman, leading a thirty-five-member parade committee.

Colorful dancers from Corfu captivated the crowd, sports fans erupted in shouts as the Olympiakos float passed, and everyone cheered especially loud for the schoolchildren and parishes who proudly marched in the parade.



The parade served as a testament to the unity and resilience of Greeks worldwide, reaffirming their commitment to preserving their heritage for future generations.

Distinguished guests included Ambassador of Greece to the United Nations Evangelos Sekeris, Ambassador of Greece to the USA Ekaterina Nassika, and former Ambassador of the United States to Greece George Tsunis.

The 2025 Parade Grand Marshals were General Andrew Poppas, the first Greek

American-born four-star U.S Army General and commanding officer of the United States based forces; His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Patras, the Metropolis where the Greek War of Independence began; and the Olympiacos Soccer Team, which celebrates its centennial this year and is the 2024 European Conference League champion.

The Honorary Marshals included renowned actor, director and screenwriter Christoforos Papakaliatis (Netflix's Maestro in Blue) and three-time Olympic champion Pyrros Dimas.

Also in attendance, Hon. Georgios Georgantas - Second VP of the Hellenic Parliament; Hon. Nikolaos Androulakis - Leader of the Main opposition and President of PASOK-KINAL; Hon. Andreas Katsaniotis - MP of New Democracy (Achaia); Hon. Vasilios Kokkalis - MP of Syriza (Larissa); Hon. Nektarios Farmakis - Governor of Western Greece; Hon. Georgios Moutzouris - Governor of Northern Aegean; Hon. Maria Kamma - Mayor of Tilos; Hon. Giannis Garnellis - Deputy Mayor of Corfu; Hon. Iphigenia Kanara - Consul General of Greece in New York; Hon. Michael Firillas - Consul General of Cyprus in New York; Hon. Charalambos Agelopoulos - Maritime Attaché of Greece to New York.

General Poppas was represented by Colonel Joseph Katz. U.S. Members of Congress Gregory Meeks, Grace Meng, Mike Lawler, Nicole Malliotakis, and Senator Charles Schumer. State officials in attendance also include Rhode Island State Senator Lou Raptakis, New York State Senate Deputy Majority Leader Michael, Assemblyman Michael Tannousis and New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

Photos: Orthodox Observer/Dimitrios Panagos.

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