



HELLENIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

ΕΛΛΗΝΟΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ - USA, CANADA, & MEXICO

2506 Wisconsin Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60515

HELLENIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL – UNITED STATES

4/16/2026

Office of the Former President

Federation of Hellenic Societies of Illinois

OFFICIAL CALL FOR UNITY, PRIDE, AND NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE

Greek Independence Day Parade – Chicago | April 19, 2026

To:
All Member Organizations, Community Leaders, and Esteemed Members of the Greek-American Community of Illinois

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the sacred celebration of Greek Independence Day, we are called not only to remember, but to honor—with **unity, dignity, and deep respect**—the sacrifices of those who came before us.

Our ancestors did not offer words.
They offered their lives for the freedom of our Nation, for Faith, and for Hellenism.

The upcoming Greek Independence Day Parade in Chicago, on April 19, 2026, is not simply an event. It is a living tribute to their sacrifice, a continuation of their legacy, and a declaration that Hellenism lives on—strong, united, and proud—here in the United States of America.

For this reason, I wish to express, clearly and wholeheartedly:

This Parade must unite us all.
It belongs to every Greek-American, to every family, to every organization, and to every generation that carries forward the spirit of our ancestors.

The anticipated presence of the Presidential Guard of Greece—the Evzones—elevates this moment to one of profound national honor. Their presence symbolizes the continuity of our history, the strength of our identity, and the sacred duty we share to preserve what was entrusted to us.

At this defining moment, I call upon all of you:

Let us stand together—as one community.
Let us honor our history—with one voice.
Let us support this Parade—with unity, dignity, and pride.

Let us set aside any differences, and remember that above all else, we are bound by something far greater—our Faith, our heritage, and the sacrifice of those who secured our freedom.

Let this Parade be a reflection of who we truly are:

A united people, rooted in history, guided by faith, and committed to the future.

With respect, honor, and brotherly love,

I am very happy that Enosis is coming back to unite the Hellenic Community of Illinois

Bill Mataragas

Former President of Enosis

Federation of Hellenic-American Organization of Illinois