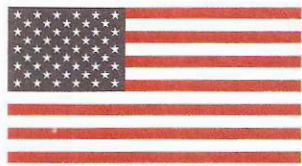




# 238TH INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY



Senior Greek leaders were among those who joined Ambassador of the United States of America and Mrs. David Pearce at the Embassy's 238th Declaration of Independence Day celebrations.



Addressing the hundreds of distinguished guests present, Ambassador Pearce said that "Today we are living through another period of profound and historic change... It is a transition period, and I feel privileged to be Ambassador at such a time in Greek history. I will do all I can to strengthen and improve the many ties between us, to build on and invest even more in our relationship."



*First row:* Ambassador of the United States of America and Mrs. David Pearce pictured with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos; with Parliament President Evangelos Meimarakis; with Defence Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos; with HNDGS Chief, Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Mikhail Kostarakos. *Second row:* with MoFA Secretary General, Ambassador Anastasios Mitsialis; with MoFA Spokesman Constantinos Koutras; with the Ambassadors of Iraq Burhan Jaf; of France Jean Kuhn-Delforge; of Mexico Tarcisio Navarrete-Montes de Oca. *Third row:* with the Ambassadors of the Philippines Meynarido LB Montealegre; of Turkey Kerim Uras; of Moldova and Mrs. Valentin Ciumac; of Lithuania Alfonsas Eidintas; of Palestine Marwan Toubassi. *Fourth row:* with the Ambassadors of Indonesia and Mrs. Benny Bahanadewa; of Thailand and Mrs. Joompol Manachuang; with Mr. and Mrs. Soiris Papadimitriou from Intracom Defense Electronics. *Fifth row:* with George Mermelas and his son; the Ambassadors of Switzerland Lorenzo Amberg, Bangladesh and Mrs. Golam Mohammad and of Vietnam and Mrs. Vu Binh and Mr. and Mrs. Csaba Schultheisz (Hungary); Mr. and Mrs. Ben Nicholls (Great Britain) and IOM Head of Office, Greece and Mrs. Daniel Esdras.