



ELENI KOUNALAKIS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 9, 2022

On behalf of the state of California, it is my pleasure to honor the celebration of the 200th birthday for General and President Ulysses S. Grant. This occasion is a reminder of his great leadership and presents an opportunity to share the connections President Grant had to our great state.

President Grant spent significant time in California. He was stationed at Fort Humboldt in 1854 while serving in the peacetime army. In 1879, he returned from his storied two-year trip around the world to San Francisco, where a throng of well-wishers gave him a nationally publicized welcome back.

President Grant was twice elected president, in 1868 and 1872, both times winning California. While in office, he secured the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, which prohibits racial discrimination with respect to voting rights which are shared values and priorities in California. Moreover, President Grant signed into law the creation of the Department of Justice, several Enforcement Acts, and a Civil Rights Act that upheld the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendment rights. He also achieved significant benchmarks in peace, including the successful resolution of disputes with Spain and Great Britain that threatened war. These acts helped to shape our country into what it is today.

In recognition of the Ulysses S. Grant Bicentennial, I encourage Californians to celebrate the memory of President Ulysses S. Grant, to further educate on his life and legacy, and to advance the highest principles of service to the country he embodied.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eleni".

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis (RET.)
Lieutenant Governor of California