

# BIRTHPLACE OF DEMOCRACY



As AHEPA's entry in the 112<sup>th</sup> Tournament of Roses Parade® depicts the Athenian Assembly, the supreme political body, or the Council of Citizens. Ancient Athenians decided issues by a simple majority vote within a council of 500 citizens, all chosen by lot – not status or class. In this manner they conducted their business.

Never has there been a political arena in which citizens participated more fully. Pericles, considered by many to be the "Father of Democracy," declared: "We do not say that a man who takes no interest in politics is a man who minds his own business. We do say that he has no business here at all." In one of his many eloquent orations, Pericles foretold: "Future ages will wonder at

us now. Our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority, but of the whole people!"

Ancient Greece still exerts a peculiar enchantment over our imagination. Even today, the Hellenic view of life excites and exalts us. Hellenic achievement and thought, its glories and difficulties, its simplicity, fairness and beauty, all have been so carefully woven into the – "FABRIC OF AMERICA."

The AHEPA Family represents the largest Greek-American association in the world with over 800 chapters in the United States, Canada, Greece and Australia. Their mission is to promote the Hellenic ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence.

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