



# AHi

## ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022

American Hellenic Institute  
American Hellenic Institute Foundation





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**AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE**

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## INTRODUCTION

Dear Members and Friends:

It is with great pride to present the American Hellenic Institute's and the American Hellenic Institute Foundation's 2022 Annual Report.

As AHI begins its 49<sup>th</sup> year as the leading Greek American think tank and public policy center advocating for the rule of law, AHI members and supporters can take pleasure with the Institute's commitment to meeting its mission to the fullest. As we exited the worst of the pandemic, we would like to thank again our dedicated board members, members, and staff, who ensured we did not miss a beat during an unprecedented time.

This substantive report captures all of AHI's policy-based programs and initiatives that advocate for the rule of law and advance the best interests of the United States in our policy agenda. The AHI Foundation's educational programs and publications that benefit our community are also presented.

In 2022, we were excited for the return of popular in-person special events that brought the community together, such as our Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards dinner and Greek Heritage Night at the Philadelphia Phillies, even as we maintained our popular virtual programming because of their ability to attract broader audiences effectively. Also last year, we were pleased to welcome three prominent members to the AHI Board of Directors, a new president of the AHI-Athens Chapter, and an outstanding editor to AHIF's *Online Policy Journal*. We also held our second productive joint retreat for AHI and AHIF board members to discuss organizational matters and to engage with policy influencers. Working together, AHI and AHIF continued to make a difference.

The majority of AHI's efforts focus on advancing U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus as in the best interests of the United States. The need to hold Turkey accountable for its belligerence and illegal provocations in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Aegean Sea, and broader region, and its atrocious record on human rights and religious freedom, also remained at the forefront of AHI's policy agenda. In this regard, AHI engaged with policymakers in the Biden administration and Congress through meetings with high-ranking administration officials and members of Congress and their staffs, policy letters, and written testimony. AHI maintained its

consistent presence on Capitol Hill, which you will see in detailed fashion in this report. For example, AHI successfully fought for increased funding for Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) program and executed an issue advocacy campaign to oppose the sale of arms, namely F-16 fighter jets and their modernization kits, to Turkey.

AHI also is proud of its contributions to commemorate events of importance to our Hellenic history. We virtually hosted (as the U.S. Capitol Complex had not reopened fully) our annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" that featured 16 legislators and our annual commemoration to mark the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus with 15 legislators from the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. We also marked Oxi Day, the Battle of Crete, and the Asia Minor Catastrophe. Additionally, AHI and AHIF representatives were proud to have been actively engaged during the visit of Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis to Washington in May where he delivered a historic address to a Joint Meeting of Congress and belatedly celebrated the bicentennial of Greek Independence at the White House, in pre-pandemic fashion.

Furthermore, AHI has been the spearhead of the U.S.-Greece defense relationship. This year, AHI physically hosted the leadership of the Hellenic Armed Forces and Ministry of Defense, including Greece's Minister of Defense Nikos Panagiotopoulos, at AHI's headquarters in Washington, DC, Hellenic House. In December 2022, AHI President Larigakis conducted a successful 4-City European Trip, which included stops in four cities: Alexandroupolis, Thessaloniki, Brussels, and Athens. The trip included President Larigakis delivering lectures, engaging with government officials and religious leaders, touring military facilities, and AHI's well-established annual Athens panel discussion.

Popular programs familiar to our audience also met with success. The AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus concluded a 14th season, bringing firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues that concern U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus to our community's next generation of leaders. Our presence in Athens remains strong as the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Athens Dinner honored a former Greek President and our AHI-Athens President Emeritus and December's policy panel discussion placed emphasis on Greece as regional hub for commerce, energy, and defense. The number of



visitors to Hellenic House also returned to pre-pandemic levels. We were thrilled to welcome high-level State Department officials as well as Greek and Cypriot government officials and military officers, among other dignitaries.

Furthermore, although it was delayed until May to avoid any possible ramifications from traveling during a winter spike in Covid infections, we were pleased to proceed with a Fifth Leadership Mission with our successful collaboration with the American Jewish community leaders in support of the burgeoning Greece-Cyprus-Israel partnership. In an increasingly dangerous and geopolitically significant part of the world, it is important for us to do our part to ensure the trilateral partnership continues to expand across all sectors, lending stability to the region.

To keep audiences and stakeholders informed, AHI issued statements, most of which condemned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for outlandish and incendiary rhetoric; published fact sheets, issued action alerts, circulated op-ed pieces and articles in a weekly e-news, and hosted our ongoing “Virtual Speakers Forum” series. Further, AHI is an important resource for media outlets seeking the Greek American perspective on U.S. policy in the Eastern Mediterranean. As such, journalists sought AHI’s take on Prime Minister Mitsotakis’ visit to Washington, the fight in Washington to oppose F-16s to Turkey, and the outcome of the November midterm elections. Moreover, the AHI Foundation published the 13th volume of its *Online Policy Journal*, now under the editorial oversight of Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou, that provides expert policy analysis and commentary.

Sadly, AHI and AHI Foundation lost a tremendous contributor, dedicated board member, and most importantly, devoted friend, with the passing of James L. Marketos, Esq., in May. Jim always was there for AHI and the AHI Foundation. He was a key contributor to our panel discussions, especially about the Smyrna Catastrophe, and at our special events. He leaves an irreplaceable void for AHI and AHIF, the Greek American community, and for us, personally. May his memory be eternal.

### 2023: A New Congress Awaits

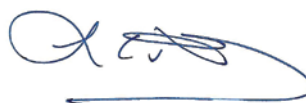
The Eastern Mediterranean is immensely important to U.S. interests. Greece is a democratic, reliable, and trusted NATO ally-- a frontline state in the fight against terrorism. U.S.-Greece relations remain at an “all-time high.” Further, the Republic of Cyprus is a proven strategic partner of the U.S. and EU member nation that unacceptably remains under illegal occupation by 40,000 Turkish troops. Going forward, U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus must remain

on the upswing. The instability for which Turkey is responsible includes constant aggression in the Aegean, which unnecessarily places lives in harm’s way, and inflammatory rhetoric from its president directed at Greece and Cyprus as well as the United States and its strategic partners in the region. Moreover, religious freedom in Turkey remains under assault. The plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the conversion of Hagia Sophia from a museum to a mosque, despite condemnations from U.S. and international bodies, remain. Turkey is a failed NATO ally, and it must continue to be held in check and accountable for its actions. We must not take anything for granted.

A new 118<sup>th</sup> Congress awaits us. As advocates for the rule of law, we must work harder. New members must be educated about our policy agenda. We must continue to be strong and resourceful advocates for our champions on Capitol Hill and cultivate new ones on both sides of the aisle. As the Biden administration enters its third year, we must work with the Administration and Congress to press for more accountability for Turkey. Turkey must not come into possession of F-16s, or any other arms, for its violations of the Arms Export Control Act and as it is rightfully imposed sanctions by the U.S. for violating the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). This policy matter will be at the forefront in 2023, and we must be ready for any new ones that arise.

Finally, as we reflect on 2022, we are deeply grateful and appreciative of the members, board officers and staff for their dedication. Everyone worked together in a safe and healthy manner to make it another productive year. Alongside our own activities in Washington, and abroad, AHI’s and AHIF’s strength relies on the many significant contributions and generous support of our members and sponsors. We also look to you to communicate your suggestions, share your knowledge, and provide your insights so that we can continue to fulfill the needs of our most valuable asset—our members. Thank you.

With warm regards and gratitude,



Leon Andris  
President  
AHI Foundation



Nick Larigakis  
President and CEO  
American Hellenic  
Institute

The logo for the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) features the letters 'AHI' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'A' and 'H' are connected at the top, and the 'I' is a simple vertical bar. The background of the entire page is a photograph of the United States Capitol building at dusk, with its dome and columns illuminated by warm lights against a dark, cloudy sky.

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**AMERICAN  
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FOUNDATION**

The **American Hellenic Institute, Inc. (AHI)** is a respected and independent non-profit, public policy and advocacy center that works to strengthen relations between the United States and Greece and Cyprus, and within the Greek American community. It was founded on August 1, 1974, following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus with the illegal use of American-supplied arms in violation of U.S. laws and agreements. The AHI initiated the rule of law issue in the Congress in the interests of the U.S., thus changing the face of American politics. In the years since 1974, AHI has kept the spirit of the rule of law alive.

The **American Hellenic Institute Foundation, Inc. (AHIF)**, established in 1975, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt educational and research organization and is the first "think tank" devoted exclusively to the study of the issues confronting the Greek American community.

AHI and AHIF have championed the rule of law and American values in foreign policy as in the best interests of the U.S. This is especially true in the Eastern Mediterranean, a region critically important to American national interests. Through our deep understanding and knowledge of issues affecting Greece, Cyprus, and U.S. interests in the region, we serve as the leading voice to American, Greek, and Cypriot policy makers and within the community. With our newsletters, conferences, seminars, publications and social media, we serve as a resource to our members and our network of supporters; providing them with the information necessary to be active at the grassroots level and to strengthen our voice in Washington.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**NICK LARIGAKIS** is president & chief executive officer of the American Hellenic Institute. He has held numerous positions at AHI since joining the organization in 1987.



**ELIZABETH Z. BARTZ** is the founder, president, and CEO of State and Federal Communications, Inc. The company provides government compliance information and consulting to Fortune 500 companies, trade and professional associations, and legal and accounting firms in all 50 states, federal, more than 300 municipalities, and international countries.



**PETER BOTA** is co proprietor of the Metro 29 Diner Restaurant in Arlington, Virginia. He is involved in the daily operation of this very well known, high volume eating establishment. In addition to being a successful entrepreneur, he also enjoys investing in real estate.



**VIOLETTA KAPSALIS BUHLER** is a Chicago native and an attorney specializing in crisis management. For more than 20 years she practiced law in the financial institution industry, including as VP and Regional Counsel for Fannie Mae.



**KOSTAS ALEXAKIS, ESQ.** is a businessman, engineer, lawyer, and political activist. He serves as Chairman and CEO of USL Financials, a software and systems implementation and consulting company that publishes and markets financial accounting and procurement systems to governments, non-profit organizations, and universities.



**NICHOLAS E. CHIMICLES, ESQ.** is the founder and senior partner of Chimicles Schwartz Kriner & Donaldson-Smith LLP (until recently and for the past 25 years known as Chimicles & Tikellis LLP), a 20-lawyer law firm with offices in Haverford PA and Wilmington DE that specializes in representing consumers and investors in class action litigation.



**TIMOTHY ANANIADIS** was the Managing Director and General Manager of the Hotel Grande Bretagne & King George from 2003 to 2020. He has almost 40 years of international experience in the hospitality industry.



**VAN COUFOUDAKIS, PH.D.** is Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Dean Emeritus of the College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University-Purdue University. He is also Rector Emeritus of the University of Nicosia, in Nicosia Cyprus.



**LEON ANDRIS**, a native Washingtonian, has been a member of AHI since its inception and a Board member since 2014. A graduate electrical engineer, he spent his career in real estate, specializing in multi-family affordable housing.



**DEMITRIOS HALAKOS** is a founder and principal member of Halakos Management and its various subsidiaries with real estate holdings and restaurant/entertainment enterprises in Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**ALEXANDROS (ALECO) HARALAMBIDES** is a founding member of the Archimedean Schools—conservatories of mathematics and the Greek language—where he continues to serve on the board of directors. In 2004 he formed a company called Aristo Mortgage Investments to invest in equity-based mortgages and non-performing mortgage loans. Aleco has also been an attorney for twenty years.



**YANNI SIANIS** is the Chief of Staff at Calamos Investments. Prior to this position, he served as Vice President of Global Business Development and was responsible for managing domestic and international relationships for the private and institutional channels, as well as developing strategies for new business development for Calamos Wealth Management and Calamos Investments as a whole.



**JAMES H. LAGOS, ESQ.** is a partner in the law firm of Lagos & Lagos PLL in Springfield, Ohio for almost 49 years. Jim and his wife Nike are partners in a variety of philanthropic, civic and business ventures. Among their most celebrated achievements is the restoration of the Bushnell Building in Springfield, Ohio.



**GEORGE TSETSEKOS, PH.D.** is the Francis professor of Finance and Dean Emeritus at Drexel's LeBow College of Business. He served as Dean of LeBow (2002-2012) and under his transformative leadership the college achieved national rankings and quality milestones in research and teaching.



**JAMES PEDAS** is a co-founder of Circle Films, one of the foremost backers of 1990s American independent cinema. While attending law school, he and his brother Ted became involved in motion picture exhibition, distribution and production. Their Circle Theatre company expanded throughout the metropolitan Washington, DC area with emphasis on the best independent and foreign films.



**JOHN VASILIOU** is a principal and Vice President of Astra Foods, a Philadelphia based protein manufacturing company. He is also a principal of Tasty Breads International, a Chicago-based frozen dough manufacturing company.



**GEORGIA POLIZOS** is a skilled communications professional with experience in international relations, fundraising, and program management, with a specialty in Balkan issues. She is currently a consultant at the US Department of Energy's Office of the Chief Information Officer, focusing on strategic communications and international engagement on matters related to cybersecurity and technology modernization.



**MARIA WILLS** is a long-time active member of the American Hellenic Institute. Together with her husband Don, they own and operate Donmar Heating, Cooling and Plumbing company serving northern Virginia and Maryland.



**NICO BAMBERGER PRISKOS** is the Managing Partner for InterNet Properties; a boutique, locally and family-owned full service commercial real estate firm licensed in Utah and several surrounding States.

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**ELENIA. ROSSIDES** is the Senior Product and Customer Insights Manager at Amazon responsible for measuring Amazon's customer experience end to end, to drive change, solve identified issues and to achieve Amazon's vision to be the Earth's Most Customer Centric Company.



**DR. SPIRO SPIREAS** is the owner, founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Sigmapharm Laboratories, an emerging specialty pharmaceutical company operating out of Bensalem, PA, and engaging in the development, manufacture and marketing of unique generic and branded pharmaceutical products.



**JOHN ALAHOUZOS** is a founding partner of Market Development Group, Inc. and the firm's executive vice president. An active philanthropist, John lends his talents to a variety of nonprofit organizations including the AHI Foundation.



**KYRIAKOS TSAKOPOULOS** serves with his father, Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, as Co-Chair of AKT Investments, Inc., a diversified, family-owned land development, and property investment company based in Sacramento, California. He also serves as President and CEO of Conaway Preservation Group, LLC that owns the 17,500-acre Conaway Ranch located in Yolo County, California.



**CONSTANTINE A. GALANIS** is the CEO of Apollo S.A., one of the largest chemical manufacturers of Mexico. He began his career as a consultant on international environmental and energy issues to Apollo Chemical Corp., and later became Commercial Director of Apollo Technologies International Corp.



**NICK LARIGAKIS** is president & chief executive officer of the American Hellenic Institute. He has held numerous positions at AHI since joining the organization in 1987.

*"As co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, we rely on the American Hellenic Institute's fervent advocacy of the rule of law and focus on pressing issues in Greece and Cyprus that demand Congressional attention. From the hands of legendary Gene Rossides to Nick Larigakis' leadership today, AHI continues to set the standard of passionate, reasoned education and advocacy. For the twenty-plus years of our Caucus' existence, AHI has been a principal contributor and advisor that has significantly helped shape the Eastern Mediterranean geopolitical landscape"*

— Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) & Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)  
Co-Chairs, Congressional Hellenic Caucus.

# PUBLIC POLICY: AN OVERVIEW



Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean combine to form an important geopolitical region to the United States due to the significant energy, commercial and communications resources that transit the region. The discovery of hydrocarbon reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean reinforces this position. Therefore, it is in the United States' best interest the region be politically, economically, and socially stable and peaceful and that

democratic ideals and principles flourish, including adherence to the rule of law.

Greece is a reliable, steady, and trusted NATO ally – a frontline state in the fight against terrorism. The Republic of Cyprus is a proven strategic partner of the U.S. Conversely, Turkey has proven to be a failed NATO ally and chronic violator of the rule of law.

## U.S.-GREECE RELATIONS

The American Hellenic Institute has long maintained the U.S. should have a “special relationship” with Greece, recognizing its strategic location in southeastern Europe where the U.S. has important political, economic, and military interests. A NATO member since 1952, Greece is a proven and reliable strategic ally for the United States. Greece is an immensely valuable link as “a pillar of stability” in the region as several high-level U.S. government officials have noted. Furthermore, Greece is a frontline state in the fight against terrorism. It is home to the most important naval presence in the Mediterranean Sea, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, Crete. Alexandroupolis is recognized as a city with increased geostrategic importance, which can also contribute to economic development and energy security. It has been referred to as the “Souda of the North” by the Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff, Gen. Konstantinos Floros because it has become an important staging point for the transiting of equipment to Ukraine and Europe’s Eastern flank. Larisa Air Force Base and Stefanovikio Hellenic Army airbase are key contributors to security, too.



The U.S.-Greece relationship remains healthy even as Administrations change in Athens and Washington. The ongoing U.S.-Greece Strategic Dialogue, the revised Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement (MDCA) signed in October 2021, and the enactment of the U.S.-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act as part of the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), all demonstrate a mutual commitment exists between both countries to deepen their cooperation and relationship across many sectors, especially defense and security.

- AHI successfully fought for the increase of funding of Greece’s International Military Education and Training (IMET) program to \$1.8 million for fiscal year 2023.

All these factors that demonstrate U.S.-Greece relations are at a high point reached a climax when Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis delivered a historic address to a Joint Meeting of Congress in May 2022—the first for a Greek prime minister—that celebrated 200 years of partnership between Greece and the United States. It also reflected the strong, binding people-to-people ties between the two countries.

In addition to being a valued security partner, Greece is an important player in international commerce, shipping, and trade. Greece possesses tremendous potential as an energy hub. Future U.S.-Greece economic relationships that pursue commercial partnerships and opportunities for more U.S. investment in Greece must be encouraged and fostered.

AHI’s policy agenda aims to sustain this high point in relations and ensure the United States remains committed to ensuring Greece’s security and economic development amid malign influences in the region, especially Turkey. An ongoing cooperation that leads to strengthening across all sectors is a must.



## A WATCHFUL EYE ON TURKEY

AHI closely monitors Turkey's provocations and violations in the Eastern Mediterranean to keep key U.S. government officials apprised of developments that affect U.S. interests in the Eastern Mediterranean and are detrimental to allies and strategic partners, including Greece, Cyprus, and Israel.



Turkey continues to demonstrate it is not a true and dependable U.S. and NATO ally. The U.S. government, both executive and legislative branches, rightly sanctioned Turkey for its procurement of the Russian-made S-400 missile defense system under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) in December 2020. AHI contends those penalties should be expanded. The U.S. must hold Turkey accountable for its violations of the rule of law, including U.S. law, in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea, in addition to, its abysmal human rights record and overall disregard for international norms. Turkey's provocative and aggressive actions toward U.S. allies and strategic partners in the region—and "Blue Homeland" Doctrine ambitions—are a hinderance to U.S. interests and a detriment to the efforts of the U.S. and its allies to address malign influences in the region.

In the best interests of the United States, AHI urged the Biden administration and Congress to:

- Reiterate to President Erdogan the request to have the Turkish government immediately retire the Russian S-400 missile systems, as Turkey's purchase is in violation of U.S. law and threatens the integrity of NATO.
- Call upon Turkey to cease and desist from its continuous violations of Greece's territorial waters and airspace, citing that the actions are in violation of both international and U.S. law, including the Arms Export Control Act (AECA).
- Call upon Turkey to end its illegal military occupation of 37.3 percent of Cyprus.
- Call upon Turkey to cease and desist from its illegal interference in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- Demand that President Erdogan cease his support and promotion of a two-state solution regarding Cyprus, which is in violation of international law and United Nations resolutions.
- Rebuke President Erdogan's efforts to change the status of Varosha.
- Call upon Turkey to cease its transfer of illegal settlers to the occupied area of Cyprus, which is in violation of the Geneva Convention.
- Call upon President Erdogan to improve human rights and religious freedom in Turkey by demanding the Turkish government cease its persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to revert the Hagia Sophia back to a UNESCO-designated museum.
- Demand that Turkey cease its support of terrorist groups such as Hamas and end its documented ties with ISIS and point out that Turkey's support for international terrorism is also in violation of international and U.S. law, including the Arms Export Control Act (AECA).
- Call upon Turkey to cease its destabilizing interventions in Libya, Syria (which included attacking Kurdish allies of the United States), and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Given Turkey's violations of the rule of law, the Biden administration must not agree to Turkey's request for F-16s as well as modernization kits for existing warplanes. The Administration cannot circumvent United States sanctions and the will of Congress.

- As a result, in 2022, AHI embarked on an issue advocacy campaign to oppose the Biden administration's desire to sell F-16 fighter jets to Turkey. AHI repeatedly has noted the need for policymakers to see where violations of Greek airspace were in contravention of existing United States laws and pioneered the concept of employing the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) to hold Turkey accountable. Legislators eventually utilized AECA as the primary tool in the amendment they drafted to limit arms restrictions to Turkey.
- AHI advocated directly with Congress for Congress to oppose any sale of arms to Turkey, collaborated with like-minded organizations on the issue, and distributed action alerts to AHI advocates urging them to contact their legislators.

Finally, the U.S. government needs to have a proper official policy regarding the Eastern Mediterranean. While the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act is an important first step towards becoming more engaged with the region, additional steps need to be taken. The Eastern Mediterranean Policy Requirements (22 U.S. Code § 2373) must be reformed and updated to reflect current realities and circumstances and promote the enforcement of the rule of law and existing U.S. laws. For example, it contains the policy remnants of the Turkey arms embargo of 1975 and has not been updated since 1978. A proper update will ensure the enforcement of existing laws, such as the AECA, as it pertains to actors in the region.

## U.S.-CYPRUS RELATIONS

The United States and Republic of Cyprus significantly strengthened their strategic partnership, especially since the Statement of Intent two countries signed in November 2018. The Republic of Cyprus received its first International Military Education and Training (IMET) program funding in FY2021. It is critical for the U.S. to continue this investment because it helps to train and professionalize the Cypriot military. The investment also contributes to the strengthening of U.S. security interests and is a recognition that Cyprus is an important partner in countering malign influences in the Eastern Mediterranean. Furthermore, Cyprus has assigned a defense attaché to the Embassy in Washington and the Cyprus Center for Land, Open-Sea, and Port Security (CYCLOPS), an innovative security site that has been partially funded by the U.S., opened in April 2022.



A significant policy victory occurred in September 2022 when the Administration announced a full lifting of an arms prohibition on Cyprus, and removal of Cyprus from the list of countries to which arms sales are prohibited under International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), due to Cyprus' compliance under the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 and the National Defense Authorization Act of FY2020. The Administration's decision, which will be *reviewed annually*, demonstrated the evolving geostrategic importance the U.S. places on the Republic of Cyprus and strengthens U.S.-Republic of Cyprus relations. AHI strongly contends the U.S. must make the lifting of the arms prohibition a **permanent** measure.

- AHI joined with Greek and Cypriot American organizations to press Washington to lift the arms prohibition on Cyprus in meetings held with policymakers in July 2022.
- AHI's annual Policy Statements have long-called for a full and permanent lifting of the United States' arms prohibition on Cyprus and removal of Cyprus from the ITAR list.
- Over the past several years, AHI published a White Paper and an Issue Brief, wrote to then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, published an op-ed, issued statements, and met with State Department officials, members of Congress and their staffs, to advocate for the removal of the Republic of Cyprus from the list of countries to which arms sales are prohibited under ITAR.

### The Cyprus Issue

A key to peace and stability in the region is for good neighborly relations and respect for the rule of law. However, the community observed the somber 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion of Cyprus in 2022. Turkey's continuing illegal occupation of Cyprus, which a member of the European Union; its intransigence in solving the Cyprus problem, and its refusal to recognize the Republic of Cyprus, are detrimental to U.S. interests. Turkey continues to insist on antiquated and obstructive stances, such as remaining a guarantor power as part of a solution to the Cyprus issue, which led to the collapse of settlement talks in 2017, and refusing to withdraw its more than 40,000 illegally stationed troops on Cyprus. In addition, Turkey's illegal activities in the Cypriot exclusive economic zone (EEZ), illegal reopening of the beach in Varosha, and President Erdogan's open declaration of support for a two-state solution in Cyprus, in violation of international law and U.N. resolution, undermine efforts to resume Cyprus settlement talks.

Furthermore, Turkey's illegal occupation of Cyprus has had an impact upon The Committee on Missing Persons's ability to access certain Turkish military installations in Cyprus to excavate the remains of Cypriots missing since the tragic events that occurred on the island for proper identification. It also is equally important to raise awareness of the consequences of Turkey's illegal invasion as well, which include: over 180,000 illegal Turkish colonists/settlers in Cyprus, which is in violation of the Geneva Convention; the aforementioned humanitarian issue of The Missing, and the religious freedom and destruction of cultural heritage in Turkish-occupied Cyprus.

Regarding the U.S. and the international community more broadly, there needs to significantly larger condemnation regarding the division of Cyprus. Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974, and subsequent occupation, is parallel to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, and most recently, Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The U.S. must condemn Turkey's illegal and provocative actions on Cyprus. One of AHI's primary objectives is to keep the Cyprus issue and the basis for a solution at the forefront of the policy debate in Washington.

- In July, 15 legislators joined AHI to mark the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus.
- In November, AHI joined with Greek and Cypriot American organizations to mark the somber 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Unilateral Declaration of Independence of the Turkish-occupied North of Cyprus" with members of Congress who participated.

AHI supports a settlement of the Cyprus problem through negotiations based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation in a state with a single sovereignty and international personality, incorporating the norms of a constitutional democracy embracing key American principles, the EU *acquis communautaire* and EU Founding Treaty, UN resolutions on Cyprus, the pertinent decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and of other European Courts -- as in the best interests of the U.S.

## THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

The Turkish government's suppression of religious freedom for minorities and tolerance of assaults upon Greek Orthodox Christian community demonstrate how Turkey habitually violates the rule of law and international norms governing religious liberty.

In 1994, AHI became the first organization to raise the issue of religious freedom and protection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual home of the world's oldest and second largest Christian Church, and the reopening of Halki Seminary with Congress and the executive branch.

AHI strongly advocates its unequivocal position on what actions the U.S. government must take to secure religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey. The U.S. government must use its influence with the Turkish government to safeguard the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its personnel, and its property; and to reopen the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology. Under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the President is obligated to oppose violations of religious freedom in any country whose government "engages in or tolerates violations of religious freedom and promote the right to religious freedom in that country." The Act also obligates the Administration to impose a variety of diplomatic and economic sanctions, including suspending aid and restricting trade. Furthermore, assaults upon the Greek Orthodox minority violate U.S. law, more specifically, Section 2804 of the 1998 Omnibus Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (PL 105-277), which also calls for the Turkish government to respect the Ecumenical Patriarchate and reopen the Halki Seminary.

- AHI worked closely with Congress to introduce and raise awareness of legislation that promotes religious freedom in Turkey and calls out Turkey's violations of the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and religious minorities.

AHI also forewarned about developments in Turkey that unfortunately led to the eventual condemnable actions taken by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to convert Hagia Sophia and Church of St. Savior in Chora—UNESCO World Heritage Sites—to mosques. In January 2020, AHI testified to the State Department, urging it to reject Turkey's request for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cultural property originating prior to 1924 because with the MoU's approval, Erdogan would consider his intention to convert Hagia Sophia into a mosque to be justified. Unfortunately, the U.S. government agreed to Turkey's proposed MoU on January 19, 2021.

Finally, AHI contends the Administration should penalize Ankara and individual Turkish officials for gross human rights violations under the Global Magnitsky Act.



*"It is unconscionable for the U.S. State Department to even consider a proposed MoU on cultural property from the Turkish government, especially in the light of its conversion of Hagia Sophia and the Chora Church in Istanbul. The Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodox Christians are under assault by President Erdogan's regime. The last thing the State Department should do is reward and provide an endorsement for such behavior and that is what the proposed MoU would do."*

— Nick Larigakis, AHI President



## THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP (3+1)

The trilateral partnership between Greece, Cyprus and Israel is the most important regional development for the promotion of security and U.S. interests in the southeastern Mediterranean. The trilateral cooperation is strong on multiple levels, including security and energy development, and possesses the potential to allow the eastern Mediterranean to become a community of nations based on shared values and aspirations.

The United States' engagement with the trilateral partnership in a 3+1 framework is welcomed and must be sustained with the proper allocation of resources.

AHI is proud of its ongoing collaboration with the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), B'nai B'rith International, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, to support and advance the ever-developing Greece-Cyprus-Israel partnership and 3+1 framework.

- Our organizations completed its fifth Leadership Mission in April-May.
- The groups also held a virtual Ambassadors Forum with the American ambassadors to Greece, Cyprus, and Israel in January 2022.

Furthermore, AHI maintains the following policy recommendations:

- The Administration, in concert with Congress, should allocate the resources necessary to establish the Eastern Mediterranean Energy Center, as authorized by the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act.
- The Administration should encourage American energy companies to invest in the Eastern Mediterranean and protect them from illegal Turkish interference.
- The Administration should promote the Eastern Mediterranean as an energy corridor for the region and continental Europe.
- The Administration should comply with the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act as it pertains to supporting regional energy infrastructure, including the Eastern Mediterranean pipeline.
- The Administration should oppose Turkey's MoU with Libya, which contravenes international law, impinges upon the sovereignty of third parties, and undermines regional efforts to establish the Eastern Mediterranean as an energy hub.

AHI will continue to work with the Administration and Congress to ensure the United States remains steadfast engaged and allocates the resources necessary for the 3+1 framework to flourish.



# 2022 PUBLIC POLICY IN ACTION

## AHI on the Hill: Working with Congress to Advance Our Policy Agenda

AHI advanced the Institute's public policy agenda with congressional officials during 2022.

The policy agenda included: U.S.-Greece relations, U.S.-Cyprus relations, including the full lifting of the arms prohibition on Cyprus, and the Cyprus problem, opposition to the Administration's proposed arms sale to Turkey, religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and recommended federal funding for programs pertaining to Greece, Cyprus, and the Eastern Mediterranean. AHI representatives engaged with members of Congress, chiefs of staff, legislative directors, and national security advisers to discuss our policy agenda.

AHI is consistently in front of key committees with jurisdiction over the policy priorities that impact the Greek American community's policy agenda.

For example, AHI submitted written testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs on the Biden Administration's FY2023 foreign aid proposal on May 27 and June 30, 2022, respectively.

Based upon the best interests of the United States, the testimony stated AHI's opposition to: (1) any proposed foreign aid and assistance to Turkey from the United States, and (2) any proposed reduction in the aid levels for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. The testimony also advocated for meaningful investment in Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) program, recommending a \$1.8 million appropriation, an increase from the previous \$1 million funding level. In addition, AHI recommended robust Foreign Military Financing (FMF) assistance for Greece, including \$25 million for each fiscal year through to 2026 for European Recapitalization Incentive Program (ERIP) and an extra \$6 million in FMF funding. Finally, AHI's testimony recommended \$500,000 for the Republic of Cyprus' IMET program.



## AHI Backs Congressional Effort to Enhance U.S.-Greece Relations

U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH), together with Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairs U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), wrote to the lead appropriators of foreign assistance requesting that they provide \$1.8 million for Greece's IMET program for FY2023. The legislators also asked for \$100,000 for the Cyprus, Greece, Israel, and United States 3+1 Cooperation Interparliamentary Group. Thirty-one House members signed the April 27, 2022, bipartisan-backed letter.

AHI supported the letter alongside major Jewish and Hellenic organizations.

### Background

The United States-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act of 2021, signed into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (P.L. 117-81) (FY22 NDAA), authorized the \$1.8 million for IMET assistance for Greece and \$100,000 for the Cyprus, Greece, Israel, and United States 3+1 Cooperation Interparliamentary Group.

*"AHI is one of the shining examples I often use of how Greece's large American diaspora community can most constructively work with Greece and help us strengthen our bilateral relationship... the tremendous programs that Nick and the team put together... are examples of AHI's truly unique role as a facilitator of the strategic relationship between the United States and Greece."*

— Former U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt  
Nov. 29, 2017



## SIXTEEN LEGISLATORS JOIN AHI TO COMMEMORATE GREECE'S INDEPENDENCE


AHI virtually hosted its annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" to celebrate the 201st Anniversary of Greek Independence and the common democratic ideals held by Greece and the United States, March 30, 2022. The event was held in cooperation with the Congressional Hellenic Caucus's co-chairs, U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and featured bicameral participation.

In addition to U.S. Reps. Bilirakis and Maloney, members of Congress who provided remarks included: U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), and Gary Peters (D-MI); and U.S. Representatives Dina Titus (D-NV), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), Grace Meng (D-NY), Chris Pappas (D-NH), Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Chris Smith (R-NJ), Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), Ted Deutch (D-FL), and Donald Payne Jr. (D-NJ).

Special guest speakers included: Ambassador of Greece to the United States Alexandra Papadopoulou and Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Marios Lysiotis. In addition, AHI presented a pre-recorded video from His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. President Nick Larigakis served as event moderator. He thanked U.S. Reps. Bilirakis and Maloney for their sponsorship of the event.

The speakers emphasized their admiration for the Greek American community, Hellenic culture, U.S.-Greece bilateral relations, and for the valiant struggle for Greek Independence, achieved over 200 years ago. They also expressed their desire for a proper settlement of the Cyprus issue, peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and the need to hold regional actors such as Turkey accountable.

George Theodoridis, director of Music Arts at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, D.C., performed the National Anthems of Greece and the United States.



### AHI Rejoices as Traditional Greek Independence Celebrations Return

March 25, 2022

American Hellenic Institute (AHI) President Nick Larigakis has issued the following statement in celebration of the 201<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Greek War of Independence:

Today we commemorate the 201<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Greece's Independence and remember the heroes who fought and sacrificed to defeat Ottoman rule in a triumph for liberty. We also rejoice in being able to return to traditional in-person large celebrations of Greek Independence such as parades and gatherings in our community halls as we find ourselves returning to a sense of normalcy. Congratulations to the communities that have already held parades, and we look forward to more celebratory events to come.

Ancient Greece gave birth to the ideals and principles that are the foundation of western democracies. As such, all Americans share in the Hellenic spirit which is embedded in the DNA of our constitution and at the core of our cherished liberties. As Americans of Greek heritage, we take special pride in the success of our great nation knowing that these Hellenic principles have provided the basis for the unprecedented prosperity of our country.

The American Revolution was inspired by the same ideals of the Enlightenment which inspired the Greek War of Independence. The American people manifested their adherence to these ideals through their ardent vocal and humanitarian support for the Greek cause. Today, we must also look to the future and ensure the friendship and strategic partnership between the United States and Greece, two longstanding allies, remains strong and continues to flourish.

The celebration of Greek independence is an important reminder for free citizens around the world: the Hellenic ideals that yielded democracy, and the rule of law, must be defended, as we see brave Ukrainians doing against an unjust invasion by Russia, or else we can expect the slow erosion of the very principles that provide the underpinning of our society. Only anarchy would exist without the rule of law.

Despite the heroic sacrifices and battles our ancestors have fought, the struggle continues. We must not lose sight of the danger Turkey presents in the Eastern Mediterranean and to United States interests in the region. The community must engage our policymakers, educate them on these facts, and urge them to act. We look forward to celebrating future Greek Independence Days in a world free from threats to democracy and the rule of law and amid an Eastern Mediterranean region that is stable and at peace.



# CONGRESSIONAL SALUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

## HIGHLIGHTS OF MEMBERS' STATEMENTS AT THE EVENT



*"At such a momentous and critical time in the world, it is an honor to speak with you to celebrate and salute Greek Independence Day. I want to thank the American Hellenic Institute for inviting me and for its enduring commitment*

*to a healthy and strong relationship between the United States and Greece, and I want to acknowledge Nick Larigakis for putting on this event and for his leadership. . . The Hellenic Republic is not only a vital NATO ally and an important American partner, as the birthplace of democracy, Greece inspired America's Founding Fathers in the creation of our own nation."*

**– Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ)**



*"We look to Greece for so many things, [Greece] is an ally in a dangerous neighborhood, sets the tone for what is happening in the Balkans, and working with the [United States] on tourism, energy, and Israel."*

**– Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)**



*"To the sacred birthplace of democracy, I would like to congratulate Greece today, on marking 201 years of its independence. Our shared beliefs in democracy, freedom, and the rule of law are the foundation to our bilateral relationship."*

**– Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)**



*"Thank you [AHI] for your leadership, which has been absolutely extraordinary, you really help to keep all of us on Capitol Hill far better informed than we would otherwise would be, and motivated. . . I am strong advocate for the*

*need to preserve the rights of the [Ecumenical Patriarch], and to protest the incursion of the rights of the Patriarchate by President Erdogan and his government. I have called. . . for the re-opening of the Halki Seminary, and to protest Turkey's efforts to turn the churches of Saint Savior, and Hagia Sophia, into mosques. And I have also repeatedly condemned the looting and wholesale destruction of religious patrimony of occupied Cyprus by Turkish occupiers and have chaired Congressional hearings on that as well."*

**– Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)**



*"The Greek people have demonstrated an incredible spirit and courage throughout their history, and they broke free from Ottoman rule 201 years ago."*

**– Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH)**



*"Greece is a key partner and NATO ally, and the U.S.-Greece bilateral relationship is strong and deeply rooted in our shared commitment to democracy, rule of law, and regional security."*

**– Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL)**



*"The heart of every Greek, Cypriot, Greek-American, Cypriot-American, and Philhellene is warm when we think of the struggle for independence, and ultimately the success in achieving independence."*

**– Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)**

## ISSUE ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

In 2022, AHI advocated for the opposition of arms sales, namely F-16 fighter jets, by the Biden administration to Turkey. AHI worked with champions of the Greek American community in the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues and with like-minded organizational partners to make it clear to the Administration that any proposed arms sales to Turkey is unacceptable, especially as Turkey has repeatedly demonstrated it is a failed NATO ally, has been rightfully sanctioned by the United States, and is a habitual violator of the rule of law and international norms. Legislators eventually utilized the Arms Export Control Act as the primary tool in the amendment they drafted to limit arms restrictions to Turkey – a longstanding AHI policy position based on the rule of law. AHI repeatedly has noted the need for policymakers to see where violations of Greek airspace were in contravention of existing United States laws and pioneered the concept of employing the Arms Export Control Act to hold Turkey accountable.

### **AHI President Nick Larigakis communicated AHI's position in a July 6 statement:**

*"President Biden's position is particularly disappointing, given that AHI, through the efforts of former AHIPAC chairman, Dr. Dean Lomis, first educated a young then- Senator Biden about the Cyprus problem in 1974. It is a shame that the President now wants to appease the dictator of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan.*

*"President Biden's desire to give jets to Erdogan is the height of strategic malpractice. In addition to the continued occupation of Cyprus and constant violations of Greek airspace, Erdogan is threatening to re-invade Syria. We should not be abetting Turkey as it tries to destabilize the Middle East. AHI will work tirelessly to block the sale of F-16s in Congress."*

### **Congress Speaks Out**

Once news of the Administration's desire to sell F-16s to Turkey hit Capitol Hill, the Congressional Hellenic Caucus responded. In July, AHI applauded Congressional outrage directed at President Biden and his Administration.

Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairs U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), along with Caucus Member U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH), issued a statement opposing President Biden's plans to sell F-16 and F-16 modernization kits to Turkey. In addition, U.S. Reps. Bilirakis and Nicole

Malliotakis (R-NY) issued a joint statement condemning President Biden's support for Turkey's plan to purchase warplanes from the U.S.

Furthermore, Reps. Dina Titus (D-NV) led on a statement, along with U.S. Reps. Pappas, Maloney, Frank Pallone (D-NJ), John Sarbanes (D-MD), and Charlie Crist (D-FL), which expressed opposition to President Biden's support for the sale of F-16s and modernization equipment to Turkey and that they, "will continue to object to this weapons transfer and do everything we can to ensure that these F-16s are not delivered to the Turkish government." In addition, the statement noted, "If the United States were to proceed with the sale of F-16s, American-made warplanes would undoubtedly be used to enter Greek airspace. This would violate the Arms Export Control Act, which only allows the transfer of equipment for legitimate self-defense operations."

"We appreciate the resound objection voiced by a bipartisan group of Congressional Hellenic Caucus members and their willingness to block the sale of F-16s and modernization kits to Turkey," President Larigakis said. "AHI has long maintained to Washington DC policy circles, including to Congress and the Administration, how and why Turkey's violations of Greek airspace are in contravention to the Arms Export Control Act. The Titus-led joint statement is right to highlight this key point, and we appreciate it. Whenever Turkey uses an American-made planes to violate Greek airspace, it is a violation of the United States law. We are glad that this message is gaining increased resonance on the Hill."

AHI also commended U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), a senior member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, for his strong opposition to the Biden administration's plans to sell arms to Turkey. As a Foreign Affairs Committee member, the congressman has important influence over potential sale of F-16s to Turkey, which has jurisdiction over arms sales.

In a July 8 statement, Congressman Smith stated, "On Biden's unconscionable support for selling F-16 fighter jets and modernization kits to Turkey," in which he cited Turkey's many malign activities, including its continued occupation of Cyprus and violations of Greek airspace. AHI has worked closely with Congressman Smith over the years.

### ***Pallone Leads on Letter to Administration***

Congressman Pallone, along with U.S. Reps. Bilirakis, Maloney, Pappas, and Titus, spearheaded a letter sent President Biden, expressing objection to the sale of F-16s and F-16 modernization equipment to Turkey. The legislators also informed the President that a congressional effort will seek to prevent such a sale.

"We strongly support the Pallone-led letter to President Biden and are working to obtain additional congressional support for the letter," Larigakis said. "I strongly encourage every AHI member, every member of the Greek American community, and every American concerned about the rule of law and United States geostrategic interests in the Eastern Mediterranean, to contact your U.S. representative and urge them to block the sale of F-16s to Turkey."

## Outrage Turns to Legislative Action

In July, AHI applauded the House of Representatives for its passage of a bipartisan-supported amendment introduced by U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH) to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which AHI backed as the amendment used the Arms Export Control Act as the primary tool to limit arms restrictions to Turkey – a longstanding AHI policy position based on the rule of law. Co-leads on the amendment were U.S. Reps. Bilirakis, Maloney, Pallone, Malliotakis, Sarbanes, and David Cicilline (D-RI).

The Pappas amendment restricts the President from selling or exporting new F-16s or F-16 upgrade technology or modernization kits to Turkey unless the President provides a certification to Congress that such a transfer is in the national interest of the United States and includes a detailed description of concrete steps taken to ensure that such F-16s are not used by Turkey for repeated unauthorized territorial overflights of Greece.

Larigakis commented, “I am delighted that Congressman Pappas successfully uses the Arms Export Control Act as a tool vis-a-vis Turkey. This is a position that AHI has long advocated for on the Hill. AHI has always tried to analyze where United States laws can be applicable. United States laws, international law, and the rule of law must be brought into discussions with policymakers on how to hold Turkey accountable.”

AHI, along with a wide coalition of partners, worked to actively support the passage of the amendment. According to Congressman Pappas’ official press release, “The effort was supported by the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), American Hellenic Institute (AHI), American Jewish Committee (AJC), Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, American Friends of Kurdistan, American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), Middle East Forum, PSEKA, and Armenian Council of America (ACA).”

AHI also issued an action alert to the community, urging advocates to reach out to their U.S. representative to urge them to support the Pappas amendment.

The House adopted the amendment with bipartisan support, 244 to 179.

## Continued Congressional Opposition Applauded

Advocacy work continued in the fall as Congressman Pappas led on another bipartisan-backed letter on this policy issue. House members sent it to the leadership of the House and Senate’s Armed Services Committees, urging them to retain his bipartisan amendment in the final version of the NDAA.

“We applaud Congressman Pappas’ most recent letter and appreciate his stalwart leadership on restricting the sale of F-16’s to Turkey,” Larigakis said. “We have supported the Congressman’s efforts from the beginning, and we will continue to work with him, and the Congress more broadly, to restrict arms sales to Turkey.”

Again, AHI issued an action alert to the community, urging advocates to reach out to their U.S. representative to sign on to the Pappas letter.

The Senate-passed version of the NDAA did not contain an amendment similar to Congressman Pappas’, and therefore, the Pappas amendment did not make it out of Conference Committee. Ultimately, the final language included in the NDAA that became law was, “We believe that North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies should not conduct unauthorized territorial overflights of another NATO ally’s airspace.”

AHI, together with the Hellenic Caucus and like-minded partner organizations, will continue to press Washington to oppose the sale of arms to Turkey.

AHI’s perspective and opposition to the sale of F-16s to Turkey landed extensive media coverage (See page 32).

*“Turkey has been illegally occupying Cyprus for nearly 50 years, violating several international treaties, including the North Atlantic Treaty and the Treaty of Guarantee, which established and guaranteed Cyprus’ independence. With Turkey only becoming more aggressive towards Cyprus and our allies in the Eastern Mediterranean, it’s critically important for the United States to stand with our allies in support of freedom and democracy. I’m pleased to see my colleagues stand with me in condemning Turkey’s illegal acts and will continue to push for the reunification of Cyprus and the return of Varosha to its native Greek Cypriot inhabitants. The advocacy of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) was critical in advancing our resolution through the committee process and I thank them for their support.”*

— Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY)  
December 10, 2021



## FIFTEEN LEGISLATORS JOIN AHI TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS



AHI virtually hosted an event with U.S. policymakers to commemorate the dark 48-year anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus

AHI virtually hosted an event with U.S. policymakers to commemorate the dark 48-year anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, July 27, 2022. AHI hosted it in cooperation with the Congressional Hellenic Caucus's co-chairs, U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

Fifteen members of Congress from the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives participated. In addition to U.S. Reps. Bilirakis and Maloney, members of Congress who provided remarks included: U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Gary Peters (D-MI); and U.S. Reps. Dina Titus (D-NV), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), Grace Meng (D-NY), Chris Pappas (D-NH), David Cicilline (D-RI), Chris Smith (R-NJ), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Chuck Fleishmann (R-TN), Ted Deutch (D-FL), and Donald Payne Jr. (D-NJ).

Special guest speakers included: Ambassador of Greece to the United States Alexandra Papadopoulou and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United

States Maria Savvidou – Panayiotou, and Dr. Zenon Christodoulou, chairman, AHEPA Cyprus and Hellenic Affairs Committee. In addition, AHI presented a pre-recorded video from His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. AHI President Nick Larigakis served as event moderator. He thanked U.S. Reps. Bilirakis and Maloney for their sponsorship of the event.

The speakers emphasized their condemnation of Turkey's illegal invasion and continued occupation of Cyprus and expressed their desire for a proper settlement of the Cyprus issue, peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and the need to hold regional actors such as Turkey accountable.

President Larigakis ended the event by stating, "The American Hellenic Institute will continue to fight for a solution in Cyprus that falls in line with US interests, the rule of law, international law, human rights, and for the good people of Cyprus."

**On January 27, 1989, as a United States Senator, President Joe Biden wrote a letter to Dr. Dean Lomis, then AHIPAC Chairman:**

*"... we must urge the new Administration [President George H.W. Bush] to make Cyprus a higher policy priority in American foreign policy ... We cannot lose sight of the fact that the rights of Greek Cypriots have been trampled upon, and we must ensure that their claims to ancestral land and property seized during the 1974 invasion are not compromised. Finally, we must send a signal to Turkey that until it has removed every last soldier from Cyprus, it will never be recognized as a full member of the international community."*

# COMMEMORATING THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

## HIGHLIGHTS OF MEMBERS' STATEMENTS AT THE EVENT



*"I want to salute Nick Larigakis and all of my friends at the American Hellenic Institute as well as Congresswoman Maloney, Congressman Bilirakis and the members of the Hellenic Caucus... We have a solemn duty to continue to observe*

*the dark anniversaries of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, to continue to recognize the harsh past that led us to this point, and to continue to dedicate ourselves to lighting the way to a brighter, more just, and more peaceful future. 48 years of occupation is 48 years too long for all Cypriots."*

– Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)



*"Cyprus continues to serve as a valuable partner in combatting threats and terrorism to the international order and maintaining stability in the Eastern Mediterranean region. A united Cyprus is the best solution for prosperity, for the*

*island, as well as preserving the rich culture of its people. Which is why it is critical we keep working towards reunification and ensuring the rights of all Cypriots."*

– Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)



*"I urge the president, Secretary Blinken and congress to join calls for the immediate removal of Turkish troops, the return of property to rightful owners, and the reunification of Cyprus. Despite Turkish aggression, President Biden plans to sell US fighter jets to*

*Turkey. We cannot allow this to happen."*

– Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY)



*"With Turkey under Erdogan, a dictator who disregards human rights, both in Turkey and abroad: we see the past as prologue. In his mind he seeks to recreate the Ottoman Empire and is on a trajectory to remove Turkey from the West."*

– Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)



*"As a longtime member of the Hellenic Caucus and a strong supporter of Cyprus, I would like to start by thanking the American Hellenic Institute and its President Nick Larigakis... Cyprus's commitment to a long-standing friendship with the United States has*

*been resolute... I will continue working with my colleagues in congress to bring us closer to partners like Cyprus, while also addressing the reckless behavior of pseudo allies like Turkey in the process..."*

– Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)



*"While we've made great progress on the US, Cyprus bilateral relationship and the Eastern Mediterranean cooperation, Turkey is closing in on a half century of illegally occupying Cyprus. We must redouble our efforts to reunify Cyprus."*

– Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)



# AHI ADVANCED IT'S PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA IN WASHINGTON

## Executive Summary

Detailed below are the in-person meetings and/or direct engagements with the listed senior U.S. government officials. The following page does not include the engagement on a regular basis AHI has with congressional staff, including through frequent phone calls and email exchanges, as well as non-governmental groups, such as think-tanks. As such, the following page simply provides a sample of AHI's broad and multi-faceted public policy work.

### U.S. SENATE

Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) \* Chairman  
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) \* §

### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)\* Chairman  
Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) †  
Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) †  
Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)\*  
Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)\*  
Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY)\*  
Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)  
Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)\*  
Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)  
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)\*

### WHITE HOUSE

Dr. Amanda Sloat, National Security Council Senior Director for European Affairs

\* Foreign Affairs Committee  
§ Appropriations Committee  
† Congressional Hellenic Caucus (Co-Chair)

*"The American Hellenic Institute is an organization which contributes to the strengthening of the bond between the USA and Greece."*

— Greece's Minister of National Defense Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos during a Virtual Speakers Forum in honor of Hellenic Armed Forces Day, November 18, 2020.

### STATE DEPARTMENT

Amb. Geoffrey Pyatt, Former U.S. Ambassador to Greece (virtual meeting)  
Amb. Judith Garber, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus (virtual meeting)  
Amb. Julie Fisher, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus 4. Yaryna Ferencevych, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Cyprus  
Maria Olson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Athens, Greece  
Dr. Karen Donfried, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs  
Erika Olson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs  
Josh Huck, Director, Office of Southern European Affairs  
David Mendez, Greek Desk officer  
Sophia Berhie, Cyprus Desk officer  
Alice Shukla, Hellenic and Regional Affairs Desk officer



# ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS



President Biden delivering remarks at White House.

## AHI Engaged During Prime Minister's Visits to the United States

AHI representatives attended events scheduled for Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis' visit to Washington, D.C., May 16 and 17, 2022.

President Nick Larigakis and Board Member Demitrios Halakos attended the White House's Bicentennial Celebration reception in honor of Prime Minister and Mrs. Mitsotakis, May 16. President Larigakis, and Board Members Halakos and John Vasiliou, attended the prime minister's historic address to a Joint Session of Congress, May 17.

AHI co-sponsored a dinner in honor of Prime Minister Mitsotakis, which was supported by several community organizations. AHI board members who attended were: Kostas Alexakis, Esq., Leon Andris, who also serves as AHI Foundation president; Demitrios Halakos, Georgea Polizos, and Maria Wills. AHIF Board Member Constantine Galanis and AHI-Athens Chapter President retired Vice Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis, H.N., also attended.



Nick Larigakis welcoming Prime Minister Mitsotakis to the Greek American Advocacy Groups Dinner held in his honor. AHI was one of eleven organizations that sponsored the dinner.



(L-R) AHI Member Dimitri Athanasopoulos, AHI Board Member John Vasiliou, AHI President Nick Larigakis, AHI Board Member Demitri Halakos



(L-R) AHI Athens Chapter President Ret. Vice Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis, Mrs. Kyriazis, Greek Defense Minister Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos, Nick Larigakis, AHIF Board Member Constantine Galanis at dinner hosted in honor of Prime Minister by Greek American advocacy organizations.



(L-R) Demitri Halakos, Georgia Halakos, Nick Larigakis, Archon Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, Archon Ekdikos Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis



(L-R) Georgia Halakos, Lt. Governor of California Eleni Kounalakis, Markos Kounalakis, Nick Larigakis, Demitri Halakos, Constantine Larigakis

Furthermore, when Prime Minister Mitsotakis returned to the United States for the UN General Assembly in New York City, President Larigakis and several board members attended a reception in the prime minister's honor on September 21, 2022. The board members who attended were: Aleco Haralambides, Dimitri Halakos, Violetta Kapsalis Buhler, John Vasiliou, Maria Wills, and Yanni Sianis. Larigakis had an opportunity to engage in a discussion with Prime Minister Mitsotakis. AHI and several Greek American organizations co-hosted the reception.

## AHI President Addresses Joint Hellenic Parliament Committees



*Nick Larigakis Addressing Joint Greek Parliament Committees*

President Nick Larigakis delivered an address to the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad and Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament, on June 29, 2022. Savvas Anastasiadis, president of the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad, chaired the Joint Committee's session.

The visit to the parliament and presentation to the committees occurred in conjunction with the 14th annual AHI Foundation College Student Foreign Policy Trip. In his address, Larigakis explained how AHI advocates for stronger U.S.-Greece relations and the importance the annual student trip.

## Highlights from Events in the Nation's Capital



President Nick Larigakis attended a dinner meeting with Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides held in Washington, D.C., February 1, 2022. Several representatives of Greek American and Cypriot American organizations also

attended. Foreign Minister Kasoulides briefed the attendees about his itinerary in Washington that included meetings with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and then-Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi.



*President Nick Larigakis with Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs Miltiades Varvitsiotis*

Larigakis met with Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece Miltiades Varvitsiotis on the sidelines of the 3rd Southeast Europe & Eastern Med Conference in Washington, D.C., March 14.



*(L-R) Nick Larigakis with Greek Minister of Justice Konstantinos Tsiasaras*

At the request of Greek Minister of Justice Konstantinos Tsiasaras, Larigakis met with the minister at the Embassy of Greece, Washington, D.C., June 8. They discussed issues of mutual interest, and Larigakis reviewed how AHI works in the best interests of the U.S. to strengthen relations between the U.S. and Greece.



*Nick Larigakis presenting Deputy Defense Minister Hardalias with commemorative gifts*



Larigakis met with Greek Deputy National Defense Minister Nicholas G. Hardalias, October 6. Deputy Minister Hardalias visited Washington for a series of meetings and to serve as the keynote speaker at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hellenic Pavilion at the annual AUSA defense exhibit at the Washington Convention Center, which President Larigakis attended.



Ambassador Alexandra Papadopoulou (center) and Nick Larigakis (second from right) pictured with the parliamentary delegation.

Larigakis met with a delegation of members and high officials of the Hellenic Parliament at the Embassy of Greece in Washington, D.C., November 7. The delegation visited Washington to participate in the election observation mission of the OSCE.

*“Since its foundation in 1974, the American Hellenic Institute has proven to be a firm contributor to the advancement of the Greek- US relations. By organizing a large number of events and activities annually, AHI offers the opportunity to multiple American stakeholders for an in-depth understanding of issues related to Greece, Cyprus, Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean region in general.*

*This effort effectively connects decisionmakers in the United States with interlocutors in Greece and greatly supports the bilateral strategic partnership and broader regional cooperation.*

*At the same time, initiatives focused on the young generation of Greek Americans prepare the next leaders who will guide Hellenism in America towards a more confident future. I would like to commend President Nick Larigakis and all the AHI members for their hard work and dedication.”*

— Amb. Haris Lalacos, Former Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. (2017)

## AHI Applauds U.S.’ Lifting of Cyprus Arms Prohibition

AHI President Nick Larigakis issued a September 19, 2022, statement following the U.S. Department of State’s announcement that the United States lifted the arms prohibition on Cyprus.

“AHI applauds the U.S. State Department’s announcement of Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s decision to “allow the approval of exports, re-exports, and transfers of defense articles to the Republic of Cyprus for fiscal year 2023.” The Administration’s decision is based upon Cyprus’ compliance under the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 and the National Defense Authorization Act of FY2020 (Acts) that will be reviewed annually.

“The Administration’s decision demonstrates the evolving geostrategic importance the United States places on the Republic of Cyprus and strengthens U.S.-Republic of Cyprus relations. The Republic of Cyprus is a valued strategic partner of the United States that promotes regional stability and U.S. security interests.

“AHI has long advocated for the removal of the Republic of Cyprus from the list of countries to which arms sales are prohibited under the International Trade in Arms Regulations (ITAR); a list that includes North Korea, Iran, Libya, and Somalia; and furthermore had urged Administrations to waive the limitations placed upon the Republic of Cyprus by these Acts based upon the fact there never has been a legal basis for Cyprus to be on ITAR.

“We strongly contend the lifting of the arms prohibition must be made permanent. The Administration’s decision is for one year, and we will need to ensure it is renewed. AHI will continue to work with the State Department and allies on Capitol Hill to ensure this is the case especially because the United States values Cyprus as a strategic partner.”

“In addition to AHI’s efforts to end the United States’ arms prohibition on Cyprus, we acknowledge the contributions of all the Greek American and Cypriot American groups that played an important part in this victory. Moreover, we applaud the advocates of Cyprus in Congress in both chambers, and from both sides of the aisle, who were instrumental in forcing a change in established State Department policy, as well as the Cyprus government, which prioritized the repeal of the Cyprus arms prohibition.”

### Background

AHI’s annual Policy Statements have long-called for a full and permanent lifting of the United States’ arms prohibition on Cyprus and removal of Cyprus from the ITAR list.

Also over the past several years, AHI published a White Paper and an Issue Brief, wrote to then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, published an op-ed, issued statements, and met with State Department officials, members of Congress and their staffs, to advocate for the removal of the Republic of Cyprus from the list of countries to which arms sales are prohibited under ITAR.

# LEADERSHIP VISITS ABROAD



## American Hellenic, American Jewish Groups Hail Fifth Leadership Mission



Delegation with the President of Israel, Isaac Herzog.

A 19-member delegation of leaders of American Hellenic and American Jewish organizations completed a fifth, three-country Leadership Mission to Greece, Cyprus and Israel, to explore the major political, economic and security developments underway in the eastern Mediterranean and to advance the interests of the U.S. in the region. Meetings were held with more than 30 high-ranking government officials, military officers, and policy analysts from the three countries and the United States between April 26 and May 4. The participating organizations included: AHI, the Order of AHEPA, B'nai B'rith International, and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

In a post-mission statement, the groups noted:

“Our meetings clearly affirmed the trilateral partnership between Israel, Cyprus, and Greece is strong and vibrant and is well-positioned to sustain that course. Together with the United States, the 3+1 framework is committed to achieving peace, stability, and prosperity in the eastern Mediterranean



Delegation with the Foreign Minister of Cyprus Ioannis Kasoulides.



Briefing with Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nikos Dendias



Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff General Konstantinos Floros presenting AHI President Larigakis with a commemorative gift.

and broader region. We applaud the leaders of the 3+1 framework for their close cooperative partnership, recently evidenced by the Virtual Foreign Ministerial held May 9, and attended by each of the country’s foreign affairs leaders, that conveyed an aim to intensify their cooperation across a broad array of sectors. The outcome of this Ministerial echoes what our delegation heard in our productive discussions with public officials in each of the three countries.

“We further maintain the trilateral partnership possesses the potential to allow the eastern Mediterranean to become a community of nations based on shared common values and aspirations. This approach anticipates that the partnership is neither exclusionary nor exclusive, and we hope it expands to like-minded countries that respect democratic values, international law, and sovereign rights. This will only serve to strengthen the region.

“As dedicated supporters, the American Hellenic and American Jewish communities are committed to advancing the trilateral partnership and 3+1 framework. We will continue to work to foster closer cooperation with the United States and support the common efforts to achieve tangible and measurable outcomes across all areas. For example, we commend initiatives to combat antisemitism, joint response efforts to natural disasters, and innovations to bolster commerce, tourism, and green technologies.



AHI Board Member Demetrios Halakos in the cockpit of a Rafale jet.



# LEADERSHIP VISITS ABROAD

## AHI President Conducts Successful 4-City European Trip



(L-R) Major General Panagiotis Kavidopoulos, Nick Larigakis, Andre Cameron

President Nick Larigakis concluded a successful year-end trip that included stops in four cities: Alexandroupolis, Thessaloniki, Brussels, and Athens. The trip included President Larigakis delivering lectures, engaging with government officials and religious leaders, touring military facilities, and AHI's well-established annual Athens panel discussion.

## Alexandroupolis: Seaport's potential is "exceptional"

President Larigakis visited Alexandroupolis on November 22 and 23, 2022; a visit authorized by General Konstantinos Floros, who serves as chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff (HNDS).

The president of the Alexandroupolis Port Authority, Kostantinos Xatzimixail, and its CEO, Kostantinos Xatzikonstantinou, briefed President Larigakis about the master plan for the port and the seaport's potential, which Larigakis described as "exceptional." Andre Cameron, director, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, 598th Transportation Brigade, 839th Transportation Battalion, TC DET Eastern Med-Greece (SDDC), briefed Larigakis and gave him a tour of the seaport. During the tour, Larigakis witnessed the significant number of U.S. military assets docked at the port, which had just arrived on board an American vehicle carrier ship.

Larigakis received an update about Greece's military capabilities in the area when he visited the XII Mechanized Infantry Division Headquarters and met with the Division's Commander, Major General Panagiotis Kavidopoulos. There, he received a full briefing by the Division's Chief of Staff Colonel Vasileios Lampropoulos. Major General Kavidopoulos and Colonel Lampropoulos facilitated all the ground activities in Alexandroupolis, and Kavidopoulos also arranged a dinner for Larigakis at the Officer's Club. A visit was also arranged to the Hellenic Armor Simulation Center.

In addition, Larigakis assessed the situation at Greece's border with Turkey during a tour of the border fence of Evros, specifically in the area of Petalo.

The itinerary also included a meeting with His Beatitude Metropolitan Anthimos of Alexandroupolis.

## Thessaloniki: AHI President Delivers Lecture to Greece's Top Military Officers



Gen (Ret) Ilias Leontaris, Mayor Konstantinos Zervas, Nick Larigakis



Nick Larigakis pictured with Major General Ioannis Birmpillis and the student officers of the School.



Major General Ioannis Birmpillis, commandant of the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College with Nick Larigakis.

In Thessaloniki, November 24 and 25, President Larigakis delivered his first of three lectures on the trip to Greece when he spoke at the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College. He addressed an audience of 270 of Greece's top officers who hold ranks of major and colonel. Larigakis spoke about AHI's role in advocating for the rule of law in U.S. policy as it relates to the Eastern Mediterranean. A lively Q&A followed the lecture, which was very well received.

## LEADERSHIP VISITS ABROAD

“Thank you to Major General Ioannis Birmpilis, who serves as commandant of the War College, and who served previously in Washington, for the opportunity to present to such a distinguished group,” Larigakis said.

Larigakis met with Mayor Konstantinos Zervas. They discussed the challenges the city faces, the mayor’s goals and objectives, and how AHI can advance its mission in Thessaloniki. Lt. General Sotirios Kostakoglou, who is commander of C’ Army Corps / NDRC, hosted Larigakis for working lunch at the Officers’ Club. Larigakis expressed appreciation to retired Hellenic Army General Iliias Leontaris for helping to arrange his meetings with Mayor Zervas and Lt. General Kostakoglou.

Larigakis also met with Acting U.S. Consul General in Thessaloniki Salina Rico.

### Brussels: AHI President Visits European Parliament, NATO Headquarters



Nick Larigakis with Ambassador Kalamvrezos and luncheon guests.



Nick Larigakis meeting with His Beatitude Metropolitan Athenagoras of Belgium and Exarch of the Netherlands and Luxembourg.



Nick Larigakis and Eliza Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Member of European Parliament.



Nick Larigakis with Evangelos Meimarakis, member of the European Parliament.

President Larigakis’ itinerary in Brussels, November 28 and 29, included 15 meetings at the European Parliament and NATO Headquarters. In addition, Ambassador of Greece to Belgium Dionyssios Kalamvrezos hosted Larigakis for a working luncheon at the ambassador’s residence.

President Larigakis also had an audience with His Beatitude Metropolitan Athenagoras of Belgium and Exarch of the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

“My sincere thanks to Ambassador Ioannis Vrailas, who serves as Greece’s Permanent Representative to the EU, who helped to arrange for my successful visit to Brussels,” Larigakis said. “And to Stratos Efthymiou, who serves as head of European Parliament Unit at the Greek Permanent Mission to the EU, who escorted me on my meetings.”

### Athens Itinerary Includes Key Meetings, Presentations



Nick Larigakis with Minister of National Defense Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos.

President Larigakis’ Athens itinerary included a substantive working luncheon hosted by Minister of National Defense Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos. Also, on the defense front, Larigakis met with Lt. General Themistoklis Bourolias, who is the chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff (HAFGS), and Lt. General Charalambos Lalousis, who is the chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff (HAGS), at the Ministry of Defense.



## LEADERSHIP VISITS ABROAD



Lieutenant General Themistoklis Bourolias, Chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff with Nick Larigakis.



Lt. Gen. Charalampos Lalouis, chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff presenting Nick Larigakis with a commemorative gift.

In addition, during his 10-day visit to Athens, Larigakis met with: U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Maria Olson for a working breakfast; Deputy Foreign Minister for Greeks Abroad Andreas Katsaniotis, Secretary General of Public Diplomacy and Greeks Abroad, Prof. John Chrysoulakis; Ambassador Haris Lalacos, director general for Political Affairs at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a working breakfast. Meetings were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with: Director Ilias Kremmydas, A7 Directorate for North America, South America & the Caribbean; Ambassador Despina Lourbacou, A2 Directorate, Cyprus; Ambassador Apostolos Baltas, A4 Directorate, Turkey; and, First Counselor Pothiti Pappas, A6 Directorate, Arab Countries and the Middle East.

Additional meetings were held with Deputy Director Elina Kypreou, who serves as Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' representative to Hellenic Parliament; and Evangelos Kalpadakis, diplomatic adviser to Main Opposition Party Leader, Alexis Tsipras.



Nick Larigakis outside the Naval War College.

Larigakis delivered a lecture at Hellenic Naval War College, December 5, similar to the one he delivered in Thessaloniki.

"Thank you to Captain Prokopios Charitos, who serves as commander of the Hellenic Naval War College, and who served previously in Washington, for the opportunity to address a distinguish audience of approximately 70 Naval officers at the War College," Larigakis said.

Larigakis also presented on the topic, "The Role of Greek American Advocacy Organizations in Strengthening U.S.-Greece Relations" at the Greek Diplomatic Academy, December 7, thanks to the efforts of diplomat, Minister Plenipotentiary B Niki Kamba, who arranged it.

In addition, Larigakis appeared on a morning news program on *ERT1 TV* to discuss the status of legislation in the U.S. Congress, including the annual defense bill and efforts to limit the sale of F-16s to Turkey. Larigakis also discussed developments in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Further, Larigakis attended a concert in honor of the Feast Day of the Greek Navy of Saint Nicholas at the Athens Music Hall, December 4; and a celebration of the Greek Navy on the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas at the Greek Naval Academy in Piraeus, December 6.



(L-R) Vice Admiral Stylianos Petrakis Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, Nick Larigakis, Admiral (ret) Vasileios Kyriazis AHI-Athens Chapter President

"I wish to especially thank my good friend, Vice Admiral Stylianos Petrakis, chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, for the kind invitations to both events," Larigakis said.

## COLLABORATIONS



AHI collaborated with several different organizations when policy agendas aligned. AHI takes pride in sharing them with our audience.

In January, AHI formally joined the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) as a partner organization. CAM is a non-partisan broad-based grassroots movement focused on combatting antisemitism. It retains 400 partner organizations, and more than 360,000 individuals are involved worldwide.

“We are honored to join the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM),” President Nick Larigakis said. “AHI has been at the forefront in working with the American Jewish community, including organizations such as B’nai B’rith International and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, to promote and advance the Eastern Mediterranean partnership between Greece, Cyprus, and Israel and has advocated for the United States’ engagement to support it. It is equally important that a similar effort to work with our Jewish colleagues exists at the community level to combat antisemitism.”



Also in January, AHI, the Order of AHEPA, B’nai B’rith International, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, held a virtual Ambassadors Forum with the American ambassadors to Greece, Cyprus, and Israel. U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Nides, then-U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus Judith Garber, and then-U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt, briefed the leadership of each of the four organizations on the 3+1 framework in the Eastern Mediterranean, touching on developments in sectors such as energy, defense and security, commerce, and tourism. The organizations issued a brief statement following the forum that thanked the ambassadors and conveyed the organizations’ support for the 3+1 framework.



L-R) Dr. Panayiotis Baltatzis, Nick Larigakis, Mike Manatos, Tasos Zambas, Senator Robert Menendez, Philip Christopher, Andy Manatos, Zenon Christodoulou (Photo Credit Manatos & Manatos)

In July, AHI joined with Greek and Cypriot American organizations to press Washington to oppose a proposed arms sale to Turkey and to lift the arms prohibition on Cyprus. Turkey’s provocations throughout the region that affect all U.S. allies and strategic partners also were discussed. President Nick Larigakis participated in a delegation comprised of community leaders for a series of meetings with Biden administration officials and members of Congress to address this policy agenda.

The delegation met with the following top-level representatives from congress and the administration:

- Dr. Amanda Sloat, National Security Council Senior Director for European Affairs
- Dr. Karen Donfried, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs
- Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Senate Foreign Relations & Appropriations Committees
- Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee
- Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), House Foreign Affairs Committee
- Congressman David Cicilline (D-RI), House Foreign Affairs Committee
- Congresswoman Dina Titus, House Foreign Affairs Committee
- Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD)
- Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), House Foreign Affairs Committee
- Congressman Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)

In addition to Larigakis, representatives from the Order of AHEPA, the International Coordinating Committee - Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA), Manatos & Manatos, and Hellenic American National Council (HANC), participated.



# SPECIAL EVENTS



## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary Awards Dinner Makes Triumphant Return



2022 AHI Honorees (L-R) James H. Lagos, John Koudounis, and George Gigicos

AHI hosted its 48th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner, March 19, 2022, Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C. After a two-year absence due to the pandemic, the dinner returned to its traditional format, honoring a distinguished set of individuals based upon their important career achievements and contributions to the Greek American community or community at-large. They were: George Gigicos, Co-Founder and CEO, Dynamis Strategic Advisors, LLC and Co-Founder and Chairman, Orthodox Public Affairs Committee (OPAC); John Koudounis, President and CEO, Calamos Investments; Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis, Lt. Governor of California; and James Harry Lagos, Partner, Lagos & Lagos PLL Attorneys at Law.

AHI Board Member Elizabeth Z. Bartz introduced Mike Emanuel, chief Washington correspondent for *Fox News*, who served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. AHI Foundation President Leon Andris offered greetings and introduced AHI President Nick R. Larigakis, who reviewed the Institute's initiatives and programs that are provided to the community. The Marines of Headquarters Battalion presented the colors, and the American and Greek national anthems were performed by international soprano, Anastasia Zannis. Reverend Father Konstantinos Pavlakos of Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, Va., offered the invocation. Apollonia provided musical entertainment.

As part of the weekend's festivities AHI hosted a Greek Night held at WHINO in Arlington, Va., with live music by Golden Flame. DCGreeks co-sponsored the event.



Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Maria Olson, Director of the Office of Southern European Affairs, U.S. State Department and Nick Larigakis



Leon Andris, AHI President



Mike Emanuel, chief Washington correspondent for Fox News, served as the evening's emcee

# SPECIAL EVENTS



*James H. Lagos receiving his award from Leon Andris and Nick Larigakis*



*John Koudounis with his family*



*George Gigicos receiving his award from Leon Andris and Nick Larigakis*



*(L-R) Demetrios Halakos, Robert Buhler, Violetta Kapsalis Buhler, Nick Larigakis*



*John Koudounis receiving his award from Leon Andris and Nick Larigakis*



*AHIF Foreign Policy Program Alumni Georgea Polizos, Sophia Yphantides, Dina Douris, Margaret Skourlis, and Panayiotis Tsetsekos*



*Jim Lagos with his brother Tom Lagos and their families*



# SPECIAL EVENTS



## Former Greek President, AHI-Athens President Emeritus Feted at Athens Awards Dinner

The 18th Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner was held at The Grande Bretagne, May 3, 2022.

Former President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopios Pavlopoulos received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award and President Emeritus of the AHI-Athens Chapter George C. Economou received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Appreciation Award.

AHI recognized former President Pavlopoulos for his remarkably successful public service as well as a distinguished academic career and numerous lifetime achievements. In acceptance, he commended the work of AHI, and the AHI Foundation, to educate policymakers as well as the citizenry, about Hellenic issues, especially concerning the need to find a just resolution to the Cyprus tragedy.

AHI recognized AHI-Athens Chapter President Emeritus Economou for his professional accomplishments in the global shipping sector and for his outstanding service as AHI-Athens Chapter president. Economou noted the reverence with which Odysseus is held reflects the symbolic power of the 'journey' in life, and his own journey started in his native Cyprus to Athens via a distinguished career as a maritime attorney and eventual service to Hellenism through organizations like AHI.

AHI President Nick Larigakis and AHI-Athens Chapter President retired Vice Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis delivered remarks and commended the honorees. Olga Bornozi of Capital Link served as Master of Ceremonies. More than 200 people attended. Among the honored guests were Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff Konstantinos Floros and several high-ranking Greek government and military officials and officials representing the American Embassy in Athens.



*(L-R) Vasileios Kyriazis, George Economou, President Prokopios Pavlopoulos, Nick Larigakis.*



*Cynthia Harvey, Public Affairs Officer of US Embassy to Greece, giving remarks on behalf of the embassy.*



*Representing the Prime Minister, Deputy Foreign Minister Andreas Katsaniotes, offering greetings.*



*(L-R) Nicolas Bornozis, Olga Bornozi, Nick Larigakis*

# MEDIA IMPACT

In 2022, AHI issued a combined 106 press releases, statements, and announcements that were widely distributed to mainstream, Greek American, and foreign press, the Administration, Congress, and AHI members and friends. AHI also submitted letters to the editors to correct the record of publications and wrote commentaries to present AHI's policy positions to key audiences. In addition, AHI principals appeared for interviews on TV and radio outlets.

## Interviews & Media Coverage



Nick Larigakis with Yanna Darili of New Greek TV.

Three Greek media outlets interviewed AHI President Nick Larigakis for his analysis and reaction to Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' May 2022 visit to Washington, D.C. The outlets that interviewed Larigakis included: *ERT-3 TV Thessaloniki* via Skype, *ERT-1 Radio First Program*, which aired it live; and *Radio Thessaloniki*.

Also, *ERT-TV* published an article reporting on AHI's letter to President Joe Biden touting Greece's leadership in the lead-up to his White House meeting with Prime Minister Mitsotakis.

*Man & Culture Magazine*, an online lifestyle magazine celebrating the modern man, including leaders in business, politics, and culture, also interviewed Larigakis as part of the magazine's profile of Prime Minister Mitsotakis' visit to

Washington, D.C. Sigurd Neubauer, owner of *Man & Culture Magazine*, and a highly respected international affairs authority, interviewed Larigakis.

Following the New York City Greek Independence Day Parade, held June 5, 2022, *New Greek TV* interviewed President Larigakis after he marched in the parade

*ERT-TV* also interviewed President Nick Larigakis to gain his perspective in the lead up to the 2022 U.S. midterm elections. The interview, conducted by Journalist Dimitris Apokis, aired on *ERT News* and *ERT* on November 5, 2022.

## AHI's Opposition to Turkish Military Upgrade Request Lands Media Coverage



Nick Larigakis on Star News

*Skai TV*, which is part of one of the largest media groups in Greece, interviewed President Larigakis for two different segments that aired on October 13, 2022. Both segments focused on the actions of the U.S. Congress to restrict the sale of F-16s to Turkey, including the recent removal of amendments from the annual defense authorization bill. Larigakis participated in a live panel discussion on the *Skai TV* morning show *Simera* with Dimitris Economou and Akis Pavlopoulos that aired the morning of October 13. Later in the day, Diplomatic Editor of *Skai TV News* Maria Tsilnikou held a one-on-one interview with Larigakis at the Grande Bretagne Hotel that aired on the channel's primetime news broadcast.



Larigakis participated in a discussion on STAR-TV, one of the main television channels in Greece, July 15, 2022. Larigakis discussed the advocacy by the U.S. Congress, and AHI, to restrict the sale of F-16s to Turkey that took place over the summer.

In addition, *Middle East Eye*, an online news outlet that specializes in covering the Middle East and North Africa, cited the AHI's opposition to any potential arms sales to Turkey in its reporting on the response from Washington's policy circles to the Biden administration's request for an arms deal.

The May 19, 2022, article, "Opponents of US arms sales to Turkey mobilise in Washington," reported on AHI's May 13, 2022, letter to President Joe Biden, written by President Nick Larigakis, that called any arms sales to Turkey "the height of strategic malpractice."

The article goes on to quote from AHI's letter, "Turkey has masqueraded its closeness with Russia as an asset, pitching itself as a 'mediator' between Russia and Ukraine. However, Turkey is more of a 'fence-sitter,' rather than a mediator."

### [Greek Print, Broadcast Media Cover AHI's Letter to POTUS on Turkey's Threats](#)

Several print and broadcast media outlets reported on AHI's September 29, 2022, letter to President Joe Biden that cited the need for a strong U.S. response to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Turkish government officials for threats they directed at the United States and Greece.

Following initial coverage by *Athens-Macedonian News Agency (ANA-MPA)*, news of AHI's letter received coverage in *Kathimerini*, *Liberal*, *CNN Greece*, *Hellas Journal*, *Law and Order*, *efsyn.gr*, and *The President*.



Nick Larigakis giving an interview on ANT1

Additionally, *Star* and *ANT1* interviewed AHI President Nick Larigakis, who authored the letter.

AHI's letter detailed several recent examples of Turkish inflammatory statements and provocative actions, including Turkey's September 27 issuance of demarches to the U.S. and Greek governments to protest the deployment of U.S.-made armored military vehicles to Greece.

### [Letters to the Editor & Rebuttals](#)

**August 26:** AHI responded to clarify several inaccuracies made in an opinion piece titled, "The U.S. should mediate the maritime dispute between Turkey and Greece-Cyprus," authored by Nicholas Saidel and published August 8, 2022, by *The Hill*, a top U.S. political website vital to policy, politics, and election campaigns.

**September:** AHI responded to a September 15, 2022, opinion piece authored by Professor Joseph Massad, titled, "Turkey-Greece tensions: A clash of nationalisms," which was published in *Middle East Eye*, to set the record straight about Massad's bizarre series of accusations against Greece. AHI rebutted several claims made by Massad that President Larigakis described as being rooted in "obvious anti-Western and anti-American sentiment, masquerading as political analysis."

### [Op-Eds and Commentary](#)

**June 24:** *The National Herald* published a Guest Viewpoint submitted by President Nick Larigakis titled, "TNH Is Correct: The Time Has Come for Community Assemblies.: The viewpoint was in response to *The National Herald's* May 25, 2022, editorial titled, "Ideas for Building on the Success of Mitsotakis' Visit." Larigakis commended the editorial for proposing the idea of establishing Greek American community assemblies to facilitate people-to-people ties with Greece, and he recommended that a roundtable discussion be held with the Greek prime minister and Greek American stakeholders every time the prime minister visits the United States.



ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ

HellasJournal



THE NATIONAL HERALD



## CONFERENCES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### Greek, Cypriot Ambassadors to U.S. Outline State of Relations



L-R Panelists Ambassador Marios Lysiotis, Ambassador Alexandra Papadopoulou, and AHI President Nick Larigakis



Breakfast attendees.

AHI hosted a breakfast briefing with Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the U.S. Alexandra Papadopoulou and Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Marios Lysiotis, at the Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C., March 19, 2022. One hundred persons attended.

AHI President Nick Larigakis moderated the briefing. He opened by stating U.S.-Greece and U.S.-Cyprus relations continue to “reach new heights,” and he commended the “3+1” framework. Larigakis cited the U.S.-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act, the assignment of a Cypriot defense attaché to the Embassy of Cyprus in Washington, and Cyprus’ inclusion into the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program as welcomed developments in relations. He also mentioned the common challenges Greece and Cyprus face from a common neighbor, Turkey.

#### On Ukraine

Prior to speaking about their respective country’s relations with the United States, each ambassador touched upon Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine. Ambassador Papadopoulou expressed her shock about Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine, stating that such actions are a display of a “ruthless regime.” Ambassador Lysiotis expressed sympathy for Ukraine, adding that Cyprus knows what it is like to go through an illegal military invasion and occupation.

#### U.S.-Greece Relations “Stronger than ever before”

Ambassador Papadopoulou stated U.S.-Greece relations are “stronger than ever before” and highlighted its multifaceted nature and the bipartisan support it receives in the United States and Greece as pros. She cited the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act, the U.S.-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act, and the emergent “3+1” alliance between Greece, Israel, Cyprus, and the United States, as crucial developments. On the latter, the ambassador noted the important role the trilateral alliance can play to help Europe wean off Russian oil and gas, a pressing matter in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Pivoting to Greece-Turkey relations, Ambassador Papadopoulou stated the two countries must learn to “live together” given their proximity to each other. This would require Turkey to abide by the rule of law and respect Greece’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, she said.

#### Cyprus Problem Remains “Frozen”

Ambassador Lysiotis stated Cyprus has a role in contributing to peace and stability in Europe. He added it is important for Cyprus to work with the U.S. administration and Congress to boost bilateral ties across sectors further. He also stated Cyprus can assist in the diversification of Europe’s energy supply. Lastly, the Ambassador stated the Cyprus problem remains “frozen,” and Cyprus must remain vigilant, given Turkey’s aggression and hostility.

The audience included: Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs Erika Olson and Director of the Office of Southern European Affairs Maria Olson from the U.S. Department of State; Member of Hellenic Parliament Demetrios Kairidis, Embassy of Greece Defense Attaché Col. Panayiotis Vlachopoulos, and Embassy of Cyprus Defense Attaché Lt. Col. Georgios Ioannou.

### Athens Presentation Focuses on Greece as Energy, Commerce, Defense Hub



(L-R) Athanasios G. Platias, Panagiotis Chinofotis, Yannis Maniatis, and Apostolos Mangiriadis.

AHI, in cooperation with the AHI-Athens Chapter, hosted the panel discussion, “A New Focal Point for U.S.-Greece Relations: Alexandroupolis, a Hub for Energy, Commerce, & Defense,” at the Hotel Grande Bretagne, December 8, 2022.

The program featured a panel of experts that included Professor Yannis Maniatis, former minister of Environment,

## CONFERENCES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS



Commandant of the Hellenic Coast Guard Vice Admiral HCG Alexandrakis Georgios, Vice Admiral Stylianos Petrakis Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, Lieutenant General Charalampos Lalouis Chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff, Konstantinos Gkioulekas Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on International Relations and Defense, Nick Larigakis, General Konstantinos Floras Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff.

Energy, and Climate Change; retired Admiral Panagiotis Chinofotis, former chief, Hellenic National Defense; and Athanasios G. Platias, professor of Strategy, Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus. Apostolos Mangiriadis, news anchor for ERT, moderated the panel discussion, which was followed by a Q&A session with the audience of 140 people. AHI-Athens President retired Vice Admiral Vasilis Kyriazis delivered opening remarks and AHI President Nick Larigakis delivered closing remarks and thanked everyone for attending.

In addition to hosting timely panel discussions, AHI representatives are often asked to share their expertise and participate on panel discussions or make presentations on topics impacting the Greek American community and on foreign policy.



AHI President Larigakis at Ideagen Global Washington Roundtable

President Nick Larigakis spoke at Ideagen's February 23, 2022, Global Washington Roundtable on the topic, "The Current State of Eastern Mediterranean Diplomacy." He shared his perspective on U.S. foreign policy as it relates to Greece, Cyprus, and the Eastern Mediterranean based upon his frequent trips to the region. He underscored the geostrategic importance of Greece and Cyprus to the interests of the United States and how they contribute to fostering peace and stability in a region where malign



Panelists pictured with Nick Larigakis delivering closing remarks.

influences are ever-present. Larigakis added analysis about the current state of relations between the United States and Greece and Cyprus. He also shared his thoughts on trends in diplomacy related to the role of innovation and new technologies. A video is available at [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org).

### AHI President's OXI Day Speech Drives Student's Action



AHI President Larigakis presenting to the students.

On November 1, President Nick Larigakis addressed a group of about 50 students from Georgetown University, George Washington University, and American University, at a presentation hosted by the Georgetown Hellenic Association at Georgetown University. In his presentation, "OXI Day: Does the World Know?," Larigakis emphasized the importance of educating others about Greece's fervent stance against evil in WWII, and he provided an overview of U.S. policy in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Larigakis also urged students to share the story of Greek bravery and resistance toward the Axis in WWII to their school newspapers. He reminded students that this story of defiance and protection of freedom is often left out of the history books and classroom lectures. He argued that such an important piece of history must be remembered and honored.

Taking Larigakis message to task, Georgetown student Matthieu Forgeas wrote a thoughtful article on the importance of OXI Day and its parallels with Ukraine's fight against Russia that the *Georgetown University Review* published.



## CONFERENCES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### AHI President Presents at Symposium in Remembrance of Asia Minor Catastrophe Centennial



AHI President Presents at Symposium in Remembrance of Asia Minor Catastrophe Centennial. Seated (L-R) Christopher Lamb, Rouben Adalian, Nick Larigakis, Standing (L-R) Ismeni Lamb, Lou Katsos

AHI proudly co-sponsored, “A Centennial Symposium to Memorialize and Illuminate the 1922 Asia Minor Catastrophe” held at Georgetown University’s Intercultural Center Auditorium, September 17, 2022. President Nick Larigakis participated as one of the symposium’s six speakers, presenting on the topic, “Atrocities from History: Do We Learn?” as part of the symposium’s first panel discussion on the topic, “What Really Happened in Asia Minor?”

The symposium’s second part featured a screening of the award-winning film, “Smyrna, My Beloved,” which depicts the 1922 destruction of Smyrna by the Turkish army as recounted through the lives of the Baltatzis family. The film won five 2022 Hellenic Film Academy Awards and received four other nominations, including Best Film. Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Alexandra Papadopoulou delivered an introduction prior to the film’s viewing.

Georgetown’s Modern Greek Studies Program, Georgetown’s Hellenic Association, the Armenian Institute, and the Embassy of Greece joined AHI as co-sponsors of the event.

### AHI Participates at Conference Marking Somber Cyprus Anniversary



President Nick Larigakis participated in a virtual conference between members of Congress, Cyprus government officials, and Greek and Cypriot American community leaders to mark the somber 39th anniversary of the “Unilateral Declaration of Independence of the Turkish-occupied North of Cyprus” hosted by International Coordinating Committee - Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA), November 15, 2022.

Larigakis participated along with following individuals:

#### *Members of Congress*

- U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
- U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
- U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL),
- U.S. Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY)
- U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH)
- U.S. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)
- U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)

#### *Republic of Cyprus Government Officials*

- Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides
- Cyprus Presidential Commissioner for Overseas Cypriots Photis Photiou
- Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. Marios Lysiotis

Representatives from PSEKA, the Order of AHEPA, the Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Cypriot American Organizations (FCAO), Manatos & Manatos, Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), POMAK, and NEOPOMAK, also participated.

### AHI President Shares Insights at Delphi Economic Forum



President Nick Larigakis participated as a panelist at the Delphi Economic Forum held in Athens, Greece, April 6, 2022. He served as a panelist for a discussion held on “The Contribution of the Diaspora to Structural Change in Greece.” Larigakis discussed the role of AHI in advocating for U.S. foreign policy rooted in the rule of law in the Eastern Mediterranean and why it is important to Greece. He also provided his perspective on how diaspora communities can contribute effectively to advocacy efforts with their respective governments and to raising awareness of the importance of the Eastern Mediterranean globally. He added his thoughts about how Greeks abroad, can make a positive difference regarding Greece’s economic development.

AHEPA Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas and Bill Papastergiadis, president of the Greek community of Melbourne, Australia, also participated on the panel. Andreas Zamboukas, journalist, *Athens Voice*, moderated the discussion.



# HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS

AHI's longtime tradition of hosting dignitaries at AHI's Hellenic House resumed in earnest in 2022. Visitors included high ranking American, Greek, and Cypriot government and military officials.



*Evangelos Kalpadakis with Nick Larigakis*

**March 16:** AHI welcomed Evangelos Kalpadakis, diplomatic adviser to Main Opposition Leader of SYRIZA, Alexis Tsipras.



*L-R Nick Larigakis, Cyprus Defense Minister Charalambos Petrides, Cyprus Ambassador to the United States Ambassador Marios Lysiotis.*

**June 2:** AHI hosted Defense Minister of the Republic of Cyprus Charalambos Petrides. Several dignitaries accompanied Defense Minister Petrides to Hellenic House, including Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Marios Lysiotis, and Defense, Military, Naval, Air Attaché of Cyprus Embassy, Lieutenant Colonel George Ioannou.



*L-R Elias Gerasoulis, Leon Andris, Erika Olson, Nick Larigakis*

**June 7:** AHI welcomed U.S. Department of State officials for meetings. AHI representatives met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Erika Olson and Alice Shukla, desk officer, Office of Southern European Affairs, to discuss the latest developments in the Eastern Mediterranean.



*General Konstantinos Floros and Nick Larigakis pictured outside Hellenic House.*



*General Floros speaking with Elias Gerasoulis and AHI Board Members John Alahouzos and Maria Wills*

**July 11:** AHI hosted Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff General Konstantinos Floros.



*Defense Minister Nikos Panagiotopoulos, with Ambassador Alexandra Papadopoulou, Ambassador Eleftherios Angelopoulos, and Mr. Antonios Oiconomou, and Nick Larigakis*

**July 18:** AHI welcomed Greece's Defense Minister Nikos Panagiotopoulos. Several dignitaries accompanied Defense Minister Panagiotopoulos, including: Ambassador of Greece to the United States Alexandra Papadopoulou, Ambassador Eleftherios Angelopoulos, director of the Diplomatic Office of the Defense Minister; and Mr. Antonios Oiconomou, general secretary of the Ministry of Defense.



Defense Minister Panagiotopoulos with Nick Larigakis, John Alahouzos, Kostas Alexakis, Maria Wills, Demo Theofanopoulos, and Elias Gerasoulis.



(L- R) Major General Panagiotis Georgakopoulos, Nick Larigakis, Lieutenant General Themistoklis Bourolias, Colonel Ioannis Markakis

**September 15:** AHI welcomed Chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff (HAFGS) Lieutenant General Themistoklis Bourolias. Major General Panagiotis Georgakopoulos Policy and Planning Directory HAFGS, Colonel Ioannis Markakis Air Attache in Washington DC, Major Nikolaos Papagiannis Aide D' Camp of Chief HAFGS, and Major Spyridon Lytaris Aide D' Camp of Chief HAFGS accompanied Lieutenant General Bourolias.



(L-R) Josh Huck, Nick Larigakis, and Leon Andris

**October 5:** AHI welcomed U.S. Department of State officials, including Josh Huck, director, Office of Southern European Affairs, to discuss the latest developments in the Eastern Mediterranean. David Mendez, Greek Desk officer, and Sophia Berhie, Cyprus Desk officer, accompanied him.

## REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

AHI
AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE

### GREECE: VALUED ALLY STRATEGIC PARTNER

Advancing U.S. Interests in the Eastern Mediterranean

Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean combine to form an important geopolitical region to the United States due to the significant energy, commercial and communications resources that transit the region. The discovery of hydrocarbon reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean reinforces this position. Further, Greece is a frontline state against terrorism as security threats exist in North Africa, the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean. Therefore, it is in the United States' best interest for the region to be politically, economically, and socially stable, and that democratic principles flourish, including adherence to the rule of law. **Greece is a pivotal ally to advance these interests.**

**Greece Embraces a Commitment to Defense and Security Cooperation with U.S.**

- **Defense Agreement:** The United States and Greece signed an extension of an upgraded Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement (MDCA) in October 2021, addressing the two allies' commitment to address, over a longer term, the security challenges in the region as well as offering more flexibility to deepen cooperation in the defense sector. As a result, the United States will further gain an additional three military bases in Greece (Volos, Litochoro, and the Alexandroupolis).
- **Legislation:** U.S.-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act of 2021 and Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 further institutionalized the U.S.-Greece defense relationship, as well as the 3+1 alliance between Greece, Cyprus, Israel, and the United States.

**Greece Contributes Significantly to NATO, U.S. Missions**

- A NATO ally since 1952, Greece has been only one of few NATO countries to maintain the 2% minimum standard for military expenditures, before Russia's invasion of Ukraine: **3.59% in 2021.<sup>1</sup> This is first—even ahead of the U.S.**
- **US NSA Souda Bay, Crete,** successfully implemented joint USN/USAF reconnaissance missions and air refueling support for **Operations Desert Shield/Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.<sup>2</sup>**
- **US NSA Souda Bay, Crete,** allows United States Navy vessels—especially aircraft carriers—the ability to dock, make needed repairs and maintenance, and resupply, all within a couple of weeks and without having to return to Naval Station Norfolk. In 2021, the number of U.S. Military Diplomatic Clearances in all of Greece for ship visits totaled 250—a vast majority of them occurring at Souda Bay.
- **US NSA Souda Bay, Crete,** hosts the expeditionary sea base USS Hershel "Woody" Williams since 2020, the first U.S. Navy Warship based in Greece in 40 years.

3.59%\*

Greece is the leading NATO country regarding the ratio of military expenditures to GDP.

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GREECE IS:  
1 of 3 Countries

Allied with the U.S. in Every Major International Conflict of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

\*Greece has been a NATO ally for decades. We work closely together... Souda Bay is one of our most important ports of call in the Mediterranean; in any part of NATO... So they're an excellent ally, all the way through from what they've been working on with the refugees, to the way they support the U.S. Navy operations and the collaboration between our military." --Then-Secretary of Defense James Mattis, Oct. 9, 2018

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US NSA  
SOUDA BAY

The most prominent and important naval base in the Eastern Mediterranean for NATO and the United States.

AHI released a 2022 update to its fact sheet that details Greece's contributions to United States interests in the eastern Mediterranean and to NATO. The fact sheet is titled, "Greece: Valued Ally. Strategic Partner."

Originally published in 2015, the fact sheet presents data, provides testimonials from prominent U.S. and NATO officials, and highlights examples of how Greece has contributed to United States security interests and international peacekeeping operations over many decades. AHI urged the community to utilize and share the fact sheet.

"The American Hellenic Institute has been a steadfast support to our Greek-American community over the years, helping advance the relations between these blessed United States of America and our sacred homeland of Greece and Cyprus."

— His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, March 14, 2020



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the year, AHI President Nick Larigakis made several presentations to community groups. The presentations served to update the audiences as U.S. relations with NATO ally, Greece, and strategic partner, Cyprus, continued to advance and strengthen. Larigakis also encouraged community activism and outreach to their members of Congress as well as state and local officials.



*Nick Larigakis addressing AHEPA Chapter 383 members.*

Larigakis addressed AHEPA Chapter 383, of Silver Spring, Md., as the main speaker of the chapter's Vasilopita Dinner held at Normandie Farm Restaurant, January 29, 2022. There, he presented on the topic, "Current Developments on U.S. Relations with Greece and Cyprus" to an audience of approximately 80 people. Larigakis especially thanked Chapter 383 President Ilias Borsas, and Chapter officers Zach Hylton and Vassilios Bikakis, for inviting him to speak.



*AHI President Nick Larigakis*

Larigakis also presented on the same topic to members of AHEPA Col. Peter N. Derzis Chapter 438, Falls Church, Va., as the main speaker of the chapter's monthly meeting held May 10, 2022, at Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church. Larigakis especially thanked Chapter 438 President George Vassilopoulos for inviting him to speak. The presentation was followed by a spirited question and answer session.

Additionally, Larigakis addressed the International Hellenic Association in an online presentation, "The American Hellenic Institute: 48 Years of Advocacy for U.S. Relations with Greece and Cyprus," May 19, 2022. He thanked retired Captain Evangelos Rigos for inviting him to speak to the association.

## Greek American WWII OSS Groups Presentation



*Mr. Larigakis pictured with the event hosts and special guests.*

President Nick Larigakis addressed a community event that provided a historical presentation by SGM Andreas Zapounidis (retired, Hellenic Army) on the American Hellenic Operational OSS Groups during World War II hosted by the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA). The event was held at the Hellenic Center in Bethesda, Md., February 5, 2022.

In 2007, the American Hellenic Institute Foundation produced a short DVD documenting the history of Greek American Operational groups in World War II Greece.

Embassy of Greece Defense and Military Attaché Col. Panayiotis Vlachopoulos, Hellenic Naval Attaché Prokopios Charitos, and Hellenic Air Force Attaché Mr. Dimitris Bitsis, attended.

## Interfaith Prayer Service for Ukraine



*AHI President Larigakis at the Prayer Service*

President Nick Larigakis attended an Intercessory Prayer Service for Ukraine at the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, held at the Ukrainian Cathedral of St. Volodymyr in Manhattan, N.Y., March 9, 2022. The service reflected ecumenical and interfaith support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States.



## NYC Greek Independence Day Parade Returns



AHI President Larigakis with AHI Board Member Demetri Halakos.

AHI representatives participated at festivities held to commemorate the 201st anniversary of Greek Independence in New York City, June 4 and 5, 2022. President Nick Larigakis marched down Fifth Avenue as an Honorary Guest of the parade committee at the Greek Independence Day Parade on June 5. In addition, Larigakis attended a dinner hosted by the Federation on June 4, prior to the parade. AHI Board Member Demetrios Halakos, and his wife, Georgia, also participated by marching in the parade.

## AHI President Leads Policy Discussion at AHEPA Supreme Convention

President Nick Larigakis attended AHEPA's 100th Supreme Convention held at Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort, from July 19 to 21, 2022. There, he led an impromptu policy discussion with over 50 AHEPA delegates on July 20. Dr. Zenon Christodoulou, who chairs AHEPA's Cyprus and Hellenic Affairs Committee, moderated the discussion. Larigakis shared his perspective on U.S. foreign policy as it relates to Greece, Cyprus, and the Eastern Mediterranean based upon his frequent trips to the region and recent meetings with U.S. government officials in Washington. He also congratulated the delegation on AHEPA's centennial anniversary.

## AHI Brings Community Together as Phillies Host 7th Annual Greek Heritage Night



Ambassador Papadopoulou and AHEPA President Jimmy Kokotas with the Phillie Phanatic



(L-R) Jimmy Kokotas, Nick Larigakis, Ambassador Papadopoulou, AHIF President Leon Andris



Demetri and Georgia Halakos with the Phillie Phanatic



The St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church dancers of Upper Darby, PA performing traditional Greek dances before the game



The St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church dancers of Upper Darby, PA pictured during the pre-game festivities



The dance troupe of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Media, PA dancing with the Phillie Phanatic in Evzone costume



Greek-American fans shown on the stadium's jumbo-tron

AHI annual Greek Heritage Night, held in cooperation with Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies, made its triumphant return—with the popular Phillies mascot, The Phillie Phanatic, sporting an Evzone costume, and all—at Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, Pa., September 7, 2022. Approximately 600 tickets were sold for the 7th annual event which featured the Philadelphia Phillies versus the Miami Marlins.

Highlights from Greek Heritage Night included Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Alexandra Papadopoulou, who threw out the ceremonial First Pitch, and St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church youth group of Broomall, PA which performed the National Anthem. During the 5th inning stretch, The Phillie Phanatic, in Evzone costume, joined the St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Media, PA, dance troupe, who were sporting Phillies attire, to perform the Zorba Dance to the crowd's delight. The St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church dancers of Upper Darby, PA performed pre-game Greek folk dances at the main concourse near the first base side. Special guests AHI Foundation President Leon Andris and AHEPA Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas participated at pre-game ceremonies. Supreme President Kokotas, in recognition of AHEPA's 100 Year Anniversary, accompanied Ambassador Papadopoulou on the field where she threw the First Ball. A promotional video about Greece, made possible by the Greek National Tourism Organization (GNT0), was played on the ballpark's Jumbo-tron.

## Radio Interview, Luncheon Feature Greek Ambassador



Amb. Papadopoulou and Nick Larigakis on the air with Rich Zeoli

Earlier in the day, Phillies Director of Publicity John Brazer secured an interview for Ambassador Papadopoulou with Philadelphia Talk Radio 1210 WPHI-AM Host Rich Zeoli. Brazer and President Nick Larigakis joined the ambassador for the interview, which centered on the ambassador.



Federation of Hellenic-American Societies of Philadelphia President Georgia Chletcos welcomes Ambassador Papadopoulou to Philadelphia





*City of Philadelphia Councilman, and Mayoral Candidate, Allan Domb with AHI Board Member and luncheon Host, John Vasiliou*

In addition, AHI Board Member John Vasiliou organized a private luncheon for approximately 40 prominent Greek Americans from the Tri-State area at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. Guests enjoyed a special presentation of the "George Washington War Tent Show." Ambassador Papadopoulou presented on the current state of the U.S.-Greece relationship. A vibrant Q&A session with the audience followed.

"The AHI Phillies Greek Night has become a tradition within the Greek community of Philadelphia, and surrounding area, for seven years now," Vasiliou said. "I am happy to have worked once again with my fellow AHI board members on the event and especially proud to have hosted Ambassador Papadopoulou for a luncheon at the museum prior to the game."



*AHI Foundation President Leon Andris with PA State Rep Jared Solomon, Vice-President Investment Division of Goldman Sachs Michael Angelos, and President of Typhon Capital Gerry Koumatos*



*Greek-American PA State Rep Ryan MacKenzie and Greek-American PA State Rep Steve Malagari with Ambassador Papadopoulou*



*AHI Board member Demetri Halakos speaks with Philadelphia Phillies Director of Publicity John Brazer*



*AHI Board Member George Tsetsekos and CEO of Capital Management Enterprises Manny Stamatakis, with Ambassador Papadopoulou*



*Ambassador Papadopoulou sits with AHI President Nick Larigakis, Philadelphia Councilman Allan Domb, PA State Representative Jared Solomon, Philadelphia Judge Anthony Kyriakakis, Federation of Hellenic-American Societies of Philadelphia President Georgia Chletcos, President of Orchard Solutions Dimitri Pappas, Managing Director of AXIA Ventures Group Dimitrios Athanopoulos, and Philadelphia Phillies Director of Publicity John Brazer*



# VIRTUAL SPEAKERS FORUMS



Clockwise from the top: Nick Larigakis, Doug Bandow, Dr. Constantine Arvanitopoulos and Dr. Michael Rubin.

AHI's well-received Virtual Speakers Forum series continued in 2022, captivating large audiences worldwide.

AHI hosted "Eastern Mediterranean Policy Under the Biden Administration: An Analysis After the First Year," on March 1, 2022. The panelists were: Doug Bandow, senior fellow, Cato Institute; Dr. Michael Rubin, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute; and Dr. Constantine Arvanitopoulos, professor and chair of the Karamanlis Hellenic and European Studies Program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.



Clockwise from top left: Nick Larigakis, Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou, Ismini Lamb, and Stavros Terry Stavridis

AHI marked the centennial anniversary of the Smyrna Catastrophe with hosting, "The Enduring Lessons from the Burning of Smyrna and the Turkish Genocide of Anatolian Hellenism: One-hundred Years of Turkish Denial and Distortion," on September 30, 2022. The panelists were: Author and AHI Foundation Fellow Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou, former adjunct associate professor at the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies Center at Queens College/CUNY; Ismini Lamb, director of the Modern Greek Studies Program at Georgetown University; and Author and Academician Stavros Terry Stavridis. Scheduled panelist AHI Board Member Dr. Van Coufoudakis could not participate due to Hurricane Ian.

AHI commemorated the 82nd anniversary of Oxi Day by hosting guest speakers Dr. Alexandros Kyrou, and retired Lt. Gen. Ilias Leonataris. Dr. Kyrou is Director of the Program in East European and Russian Studies and Professor of History at Salem State University, in Salem, Massachusetts, where

he teaches on the Balkans, Byzantium, and the Ottoman Empire. Leontaris is Emeritus Commander of the 1st Hellenic Army and the former chief of the Cyprus National Guard.

All virtual events are posted on AHI's YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/user/AHIworld](http://www.youtube.com/user/AHIworld)



Nick Larigakis, Ilias Leontaris, Alexandros Kyrou



A slide from Lt. Gen. Leontaris' presentation.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**20TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC**

**OCTOBER 16, 2023**

**COUNTRY CLUB OF FAIRFAX**

5110 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030

# AHI FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS & INITIATIVES



*Students pictured with Ambassador Papadopoulou*



*Students with Ambassador Marios Lysiotis*



*Students pictured with Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)*



*The students with Minister of Development and Investment Adonis Georgiadis.*

## Annual AHIF Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece, Cyprus a Success

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) College Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus completed its 14th year as nine students from across the United States participated in the program held June 14 to July 1, 2022. The student trip visited Cyprus, June 18 to 23, and Greece, July 1 to 8, following three days of briefings and events in Washington, D.C.

“Through our AHI Foundation, we are pleased and proud to lead an exceptional group of the community’s next generation of leaders on our fourteenth annual college student and foreign policy trip to Cyprus and Greece,” President Nick Larigakis said. “It was rewarding to see them gain firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues that concern U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus.”

During the two-week program in Greece and Cyprus, the students received firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, their relations with the U.S., and the interests of the U.S. in the region. In Greece, they gained invaluable insight on Greece’s foreign policy direction and military capabilities by experiencing the value of Greece’s contributions to security that included a daytrip to Souda Bay, Crete, on June 27. The Cyprus portion of the trip brought Cyprus’ history to life and included the students learning about the humanitarian issue of the Missing Persons and gaining an understanding of Cyprus’ military capabilities. Prior to leaving for overseas, the students received briefings on Capitol Hill, at the U.S. Department of State, and at the embassies of Greece and Cyprus in Washington, D.C.

Overall, meetings and briefings in each country were held at various ministries, including Foreign Affairs. At military headquarters installations, including NATO facilities at Souda Bay, they met with high-ranking military officers and toured and experienced military equipment. The students also met with parliament members, political and religious leaders, think-tank organizations, and members of academia and the private sector.



# ANNUAL AHIF STUDENT FOREIGN POLICY TRIP



The AHIF students receiving certificates of participation at the farewell dinner.



The students in front of the Ledra Palace Hotel



Visiting and receiving a briefing by commanders at the NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI) in Crete.



Students visited an abandoned Cyprus Airways plane which lies on the tarmac at the UN controlled Nicosia Airport



Meeting with Presidential Commissioner Mr. Photis Photiou at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Meeting with Special Permanent Committee of Diaspora Greeks Chairman Savvas Anastasiadis and members of the Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs



Meeting with the President of the House of Representatives Annita Demetriou



Students aboard the frigate "SPETSES" at Salmis Naval Base.



The students paying their respects to the fallen by laying a wreath at the military cemetery and war memorial at the Makedonitissa Tomb.



Students enjoying the opportunity to ride in a Greek naval speedboat in Souda Bay.



## In their Own Words...



"I am determined to work with other Greek Americans to ensure that the dream of a unified Cyprus will never be forgotten. This foreign policy trip is allowing the younger generation to get involved and continue the ongoing fight for justice in Cyprus."

– **Melina Christodoulou** is a junior at Drew University pursuing a BA in political science and a minor in communications.

"I gained exclusive access to some of the most important places and people in the Greek and Cypriot governments, learning from everything and everyone I came across, such as from the UN peacekeepers we met when we visited the UN-controlled buffer zone in Cyprus. That was a shocking once-in-a-lifetime experience I would never have dreamed of being able to have, and yet, thanks to the AHI, I was able to enter that area, and never forget what I learned there."

– **Maria Fusca** is a senior at the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, where she is pursuing a BA in International Affairs.



"We were truly blessed with this amazing opportunity to meet with officials at the highest level throughout this trip. It was shocking to realize how little attention is paid to these important issues and the lack of awareness from the international community and the United States on these issues."

– **Morgan Lilly** is a Junior and Dean's list student at the University of Georgia where he is pursuing a double major in Political Science and International Affairs.



"The AHIF Policy Trip was an experience like no other. From traveling to various military bases to getting to speak in the Parliament, AHI has provided an environment that has allowed me to determine the direction in which I would like my career to go."

– **Zoe Logas** is a junior at the University of Michigan, majoring in Public Policy.



"I was truly impressed with the number of amazing visits and meetings with top government, military, and religious leaders throughout both Greece and Cyprus. From climbing aboard a navy submarine to standing in an active military outpost on the Green Line, this trip brings you as close to the most pressing issues in the region as possible."

– **Brendan C. O'Connor** a junior and Dean's List student at American University majoring in International Studies.



"What an incredible 17 days. Meeting with Ambassadors, members of Congress, military leaders, government officials, professors, and more provided great insights and a unique perspective on issues affecting the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond...After the 17 days I left with an abundance of memories, experiences, and moments I will always reflect back upon."

– **Eleni Piliotis** is pursuing her master's degree in Security Policy Studies at The George Washington University.



"This foreign policy trip with the American Hellenic Institute is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. We were able to meet with multiple intellectuals, high ranking military and political officials, and were able to see many fascinating places."

– **Andreas Poulis** is a junior at the American University studying International Relations.



"The AHIF Foreign Policy Trip is an experience I will never forget. It is an opportunity few other students will be able to experience in their lifetime. I did not understand the true gravity of what we were doing until I was shaking hands with General Konstantinos Floros at our final dinner of the trip."

– **Natasia Raphitis** is a junior at the University of Michigan majoring in Political Science and International Studies.



"Through a carefully curated itinerary, we gained real world experiences from meeting with high-level military officials, politicians, and ambassadors, knowledge that cannot just be learned in a classroom."

– **Anastasia Staurulakis** is a senior at Tulane University of Louisiana pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and a Master's Degree in Accounting.



"The meetings, briefings, and tours were all unique and captivating in different ways. For example...the trip to Salamis Island and Souda Bay where we got to see firsthand the tremendous strength and importance of the Hellenic military."

– **Christopher Zrazik**, Dean's List student and Presidential Academic Scholarship recipient, is a sophomore at The George Washington University majoring in International Affairs.

# AHI FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS & INITIATIVES

## The Future of Hellenism in America: Selected Conference Papers Published



The AHI Foundation announced its newest publication, *The Future of Hellenism in America: Selected Conference Papers*, edited by Van Coufoudakis and a Foreword by Constantine G. Berbatis, Ph.D., with an Introduction by AHI President Nick Larigakis, on February 23, 2022. The 500-page volume is a compilation of 68 selected papers presented at conferences organized by the AHIF and held annually in fourteen different U.S. cities between 2002

and 2018. The conferences on “The Future of Hellenism in America” aimed to provide an opportunity for critical evaluation of and reflection on Hellenism and its application and meaning to the Greek American and American community today.

“For seventeen years, the AHI Foundation led and kept the discussion of the promotion and preservation of Hellenism at the forefront of the community nationwide through The Future of Hellenism in America conferences,” Larigakis said. “The conferences achieved their goal to provide a forum for the critical discussion and reflection on Hellenism, which the reader will take away after reading the volume. We are thankful to the Foundation and to all the conference participants who contributed to the conference’s success, annually.”

## AHIF Publishes Volume 13 of its Online Policy Journal



AHIF was pleased to announce the release of the 13th volume of its policy journal, *American Journal of Contemporary Hellenic Issues*, in May 2022. The issue is dedicated to Dan Georgakas, the Journal’s long-serving editor who passed away in 2021. A brief description of Dan’s importance, contributions to Hellenism, and to many other scholarly fields is related by his collaborator, colleague and friend, Dr. Van Coufoudakis.

In the introduction, the Journal’s new editor, Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou, commented on the crisis caused by Russia’s unprovoked war in Ukraine and how the international community’s lack of action and application of the rule of law when Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974, and continued military occupation of the island, is connected to the Ukraine crisis and impacts Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean.

This issue of the journal presents three general themes: 1) the commemoration of the one-hundred-year anniversary of the horrific destruction of Smyrna by the Turks; 2) Greek-America and the larger diaspora; 3) Democratic values, the rule of law, and their relationship to Hellenism.

The online journal is available gratis at AHIF Policy Journal website, <http://www.ahifworld.org/journal-issues>. The journal is a forum for commentary and scholarship on issues of vital importance to Greek Americans.



## 19th AHI Athens Award Dinner

May 5, 2023

Grand Bretagne Hotel  
Athens, Greece

# GENERAL NEWS



Group picture of the golfers before teeing off.

## Annual AHI Golf Classic Draws Record Number of Golfers



George Veras speaking during the breakfast presentation.



Mike Emanuel being presented with the closest-to-the pin award.

AHI hosted its 19th Annual Golf Classic at a new venue, Country Club of Fairfax, in Fairfax, Va., October 24, 2022. A record 65 golfers participated. Special guest George Veras, executive vice president of Productions & Media Ventures for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, led the Sports Presentation and Q&A. The Tournament Sponsor was Calamos Investments, represented by Paris Karasso, Senior Vice President, Senior Wealth Advisor. Leon Andris and Peter Bota served as Tournament Co-Chairmen.

The team of: Peter Marketos, Leif Ackerman, Marcus Malone, and Gustavo Leal captured first-place honors. Mike Gleeson, Rod Stanley, John Vaughn, and Justin Braden teamed-up to place second. The third-place team included: Eric Shuster, Tim Cropp, Chris Kane, and Steve Birnbaum. In the men's competition, Mike Emanuel from Fox News earned Closest-to-the-Pin honors on Hole 13, and Nick Korompilas from Calamos Investments had the Longest Drive prize on Hole 14.

VIP participants this year included three alumni members of the Philadelphia Phillies from the 1993 National League Championship team, Mike Emanuel of Fox News, a team from Monumental Sports, and Steve Birnbaum, former DC United team captain.



The team of Peter Marketos, Leif Ackerman, Marcus Malone, and Gustavo Leal being awarded first place honors.

## SAVE THE DATE



**AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE**  
is proud to present the 8th Annual  
**GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT**  
**AT THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**

**Tuesday, June 6, 2023**  
**vs the Tigers**  
**Citizens Bank Park**



## AHI, AHIF Boards Hold Second Annual Retreat



AHI Board members with Senator Chris Van Hollen



AHI Board members with US State Department official Josh Huck, director of southern European affairs.

AHI and AHIF boards of directors held their annual retreat, in Washington, D.C., October 18 to 20, 2022.

During the retreat, AHI board members and staff had briefings with the following diplomats and policy influencers: Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Alexandra Papadopoulou, Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. Marios Lysiotis, Doug Badow, senior fellow at the Cato Institute; Piero Tozzi, senior policy adviser and legal counsel for U.S. Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), a senior member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Josh Huck, director of the Office of Southern European Affairs, U.S. Department of State; and Daniel S. Mariaschin, CEO of B'nai B'rith International. In addition, the board received a defense policy briefing on the Hellenic Armed Forces from the Embassy of Greece Defense Attachés office.



Nick Larigakis giving remarks at the Eugene Rossides memorial reception hosted by Ambassador Alexandra Papadopoulou of Greece.



Image courtesy of the Greek Embassy in Washington, DC.

Ambassador Papadopoulou hosted the board for a private reception at her residence in honor of the memory of AHI Founder Eugene T. Rossides, and the AHI board had a private dinner with U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and Committee on Appropriations.

At the end of the retreat, AHI and AHIF held a board of directors meeting to discuss matters pertinent to the two organizations.

## AHI and the AHIF Foundation (AHIF) each welcomed new faces in 2022

In January, AHI announced three additions to its Board of Directors.

Violetta Kapsalis Buhler, Esq., an attorney specializing in crisis management; Georgea Polizos, a consultant at the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of the Chief Information Officer; and Maria Wills, co-owner of Donmar Heating, Cooling and Plumbing company, joined the board on January 1, 2022.

"We are pleased to welcome a dynamic group of professionals, each of whom brings a unique set of expertise and resources to AHI's Board of Directors," President Nick Larigakis said. "They will be assets to the Institute and will complement our current set of dedicated board members as we strive to achieve our mission of advocating for the rule of law. I look forward to working with the new board to execute our legislative agenda and programs that strengthen United States relations with Greece and Cyprus."

## Retired Vice Admiral Kyriazis Appointed AHI-Athens Chapter President



Vice Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis, ret.

AHI announced the appointment of retired Vice Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis as AHI-Athens Chapter president, beginning March 1, 2022. Kyriazis succeeded George Economou, who has held the position since 2009.

"We are truly fortunate to have Vice Admiral Kyriazis serve and lead the AHI-Athens chapter," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "His knowledge and expertise of Greece's defense capabilities are an asset to our organization, especially as Greece's security role in the region becomes increased."

To date, Economou has served 18 years with the AHI-Athens Chapter, first as vice president from 2003 to 2009, prior to becoming its president.

"We sincerely thank George Economou for his tremendous contributions, commitment, and unique background that helped to elevate the American Hellenic Institute's presence and mission in Athens and throughout Greece," President Larigakis said. "From supporting and participating on panel discussions, to publishing articles and through his visibility in the community, we will be forever indebted and grateful to George."

Vice Admiral Kyriazis, a 1979 graduate of the Hellenic Naval Academy, served in the Hellenic Navy in combat positions for 32 years and retired in 2011 after obtaining the rank of Vice Admiral.

## AHI, AHIF Announce New Online Policy Journal Editor, Editorial Assistant



Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou

AHI and AHIF were pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou as editor of the *American Journal of Contemporary Hellenic Issues* on February 2, 2022. Dr. Hatzidimitriou succeeded Professor Dan Georgakas, who passed away in 2021.

"We are pleased to welcome Dr. Hatzidimitriou as editor of the AHI Foundation's online policy journal," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "In addition to being a former Educational Counselor at the U.S. Consulate in Thessaloniki and a longtime AHI Fellow, Dr. Hatzidimitriou brings impeccable academic credentials and a deep and thorough understanding of the issues. We look forward to working with him and to his leadership of the policy journal."

"We are excited Dr. Hatzidimitriou has agreed to become the editor of the *American Journal of Contemporary Hellenic Issues*," AHI Foundation President Leon Andris said. "He is a distinguished academician, and he will be a tremendous asset our team and to the policy journal."

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the AHI Foundation in this capacity," Dr. Hatzidimitriou said. "My sincere thanks to AHI President Nick Larigakis and AHI Foundation President Leon Andris for this exciting opportunity to contribute to the community discourse on Hellenic issues, which is my passion. My goal is to build on the outstanding legacy of Professor Georgakas and to publish a journal that is timely, informative, and thought-provoking."

Dr. Hatzidimitriou, who received his doctorate from Columbia University in Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek history, will also edit the *Journal of Modern Hellenism*, a peer reviewed journal. Last year, AHIF joined with the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (Queens College) as co-publisher of the *Journal of Modern Hellenism*.

## Agelarakis Welcomed as Editorial Assistant



Panayotis Agelarakis

AHI and AHIF were pleased to welcome Panayotis (Baki) Agelarakis as editorial assistant to Dr. Hatzidimitriou for the *American Journal for Contemporary Hellenic Issues*, on September 9, 2022.

"Mr. Agelarakis will be a tremendous asset to the journal and is already working on identifying important new books that will be reviewed in future issues," Dr. Hatzidimitriou said.

Agelarakis is a recent graduate of Columbia University, earning a master's degree in political science and specializing in international relations with a concentration in international law, international organizations, refugees, and cultural heritage. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Adelphi University with a B.A. in political science. Previously, he worked with the European Union Delegation to the United Nations as a trainee working with the team that on the Security Council of the United Nations, specifically tasked on matters relating to Middle Eastern and North African affairs. His article, "International Law and Cultural Heritage Looting and Destruction in Cyprus" was published in the Spring 2021 issue of the American Journal for Contemporary Hellenic Issues.

"I am excited to work with Dr. Hatzidimitriou while continuing to prepare for further graduate studies in international relations and international law," Panayiotis said.

## AHI Internship Program Continues to Flourish



(L-R) Costas Beauclair Kolomtsas and Nicholas Chronis



Brendan O'Connor

AHI welcomed Nicholas Chronis and Constantinos (Costas) Beauclair Kolomtsas as summer 2022 interns, and Brendan O'Connor as its fall 2022 intern.

Nicholas studied history and psychology with a minor in business at St. John's University in Queens, N.Y. Since his graduation, he has served the Greek American community in a number of ways, including as an educator at Saint Demetrios Preparatory School in Astoria, N.Y. He joined AHI as an intern with the hope of expanding his knowledge of United States relations with Greece and Cyprus.

"This experience has furthered my knowledge of the Eastern Mediterranean region and U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus and will have a positive impact on my future, both professionally and academically," Nicholas said.

Costas is a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University and a research assistant at the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). He previously worked as a program analyst for the U.S. General Services Administration for four years and holds a B.A. in international studies from the University of Richmond. In addition to his studies in the U.S., he had the opportunity to study abroad for a semester in Greece, where he attended the American College of Greece (ACG).

"AHI provided guidance and the necessary creative freedom to pursue my research on Turkish private military companies and Turkish foreign policy strategies in the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond. My time with AHI further exposed me to the complex international relations problems that the Eastern Mediterranean is home to and confirmed my passion for understanding foreign policy matters in the region. I leave AHI more determined than ever in my pursuit for a career focused on foreign policy issues in the Eastern Mediterranean, following the completion of my master's degree at Johns Hopkins University," Costas said.

During Brendan's internship, he attended meetings with State Department officials, conducted research on world genocides from the 19th to 21st centuries, and monitored Turkey's foreign policy and the changes that may come in the upcoming elections. He also assisted with AHI's virtual speakers forums.

In addition to his time at Hellenic House, Brendan participated on the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus. He is a junior and Dean's List student at American University where he is majoring in international studies with a regional focus on Europe and a thematic focus on peace, global security and conflict resolution.

"I am extremely grateful to the American Hellenic Institute for bringing me in and allowing me to promote the values that AHI so deeply cherishes," Brendan said. "I am excited to deepen my understanding of U.S. foreign policy in the Eastern Mediterranean, while fighting for the democratic principles of sovereignty, freedom, and prosperity in both Greece and Cyprus."

AHI's internship program is designed for college students who are interested in learning more about U.S.-Greece-Cyprus relations and how foreign policy is formulated in Washington, D.C., and who wish to gain experience in government affairs and foreign policy. For more information, please visit <https://www.aheworld.org/internships>.



## We Mourn the Loss of . . .



James L. Marketos, Esq

### Former AHI Chairman James L. Marketos, Esq.

In a statement issued May 16, 2022, AHI mourned the passing of its former chairman and advocate for the Greeks of Asia Minor, James L. Marketos, Esq. He passed away May 13, 2022, after living courageously with cancer for many years.

James Marketos served as Chairman of the of the American Hellenic Institute from 1997 to 2008 and served on its Board of Directors for over three decades. He helped produce AHIF's documentary film, "*The Greek American Operational Groups: Secret U.S. Forces in World War II Greece*," about the Greek American Operational Groups, secret teams of U.S. Army infantrymen who performed extra-hazardous duty behind Nazi lines in World War II Greece. At a special ceremony at the Greek Embassy on November 19, 2007, the Hellenic National Defense General Staff honored James with a commemorative medal presented by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England, who attended the ceremony.

James also served as editor of the two-volume service, *Doing Business in Greece: A Legal and Practical Reference Service*, published by the Institute's affiliated Foundation. He was a passionate advocate and researcher of the Catastrophe of Smyrna and wrote countless articles and presented his papers at several AHI commemorations of the first holocaust of the 20th century. He will always be remembered fondly by the American Hellenic Institute and its members as an exceptional individual who worked diligently to promote Hellenic ideals and commit to "remember Smyrna so that the world doesn't forget Smyrna," as he often said.

James was partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe, L.L.P., specializing in corporate litigation in the trial and appellate courts. He was in private practice for more than four decades, was a member of the New York and District of Columbia bars and was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States and numerous lower federal courts. He began his legal career by clerking for the Honorable Vincent L. Broderick, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. This followed receipt of his juris doctorate from New York University, where he was co-editor-in-chief of *The Annual Survey of American Law* and winner of the law school's Vanderbilt Medal. He received his bachelor's degree from Princeton University.

In remembrance, AHI President Nick Larigakis said: "Jim Marketos was a tremendous asset to AHI for decades, but more than that, Jim was a great human being and very close personal friend of mine. Jim will be remembered as a kind and gentle soul who always looked for the positive in every situation. For more than two decades, Jim's exceptional even keeled professional expertise always provided AHI and me with very valuable and objective guidance in navigating a myriad of issues that would come up. I depended heavily on Jim for sound advice, and AHI is in a much better place today because of Jim's decades service as an invaluable board member. He will be sorely missed. On behalf of the AHI and AHIF board of directors, I extend to Denise, and his son, Alex, my sincerest and deepest sympathies. May His Memory Be Eternal."



Archbishop Chrysostomos II with Nick Larigakis and participants of the AHIF Student Foreign Policy Trip

### Archbishop Chrysostomos II of Cyprus

In a November 8, 2022, statement, AHI mourned the passing of Archbishop Chrysostomos II, remembering him as a man of devotion and service to Orthodoxy, Hellenism and the people of Cyprus.

"We mourn the loss of Archbishop Chrysostomos II," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "In particular, we appreciated the Archbishop's willingness over the years to meet with AHI's leadership. In addition, the Archbishop regularly met with the students of the AHIF Foreign Policy Program, having a genuine interest in the next generation of diaspora youth leaders.

"He will be remembered for his lifetime of selfless devotion to the Church, his passion and commitment for a just and peaceful Cyprus solution, and as a proponent of religious unity.

"We extend our deepest condolences to his family, the Holy Synod, the clergy and the people of Cyprus. May his memory be eternal."

# INDEX

## LETTERS, STATEMENTS & ACTION ALERTS

AHI sent letters to government officials and issued public statements presenting positions on current events and policy decisions important to the organization's mission and membership. Moreover, action alerts notified members to respond to these issues.

### *Statements & Announcements*

- **January 6:** AHI announced the addition of Violetta Kapsalis Buhler, Esq., Georgea Polizos, and Maria Wills to its Board of Directors.
- **January 6:** AHI commented on a State Department readout that summarized a phone conversation between Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on matters pertaining to Russian escalation in Ukraine, Turkey's presence in the Horn of Africa, and Turkey's process of normalization with Armenia.
- **January 31:** AHI joined with the Order of AHEPA, B'nai B'rith International and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to applaud the EU's investment in a power cable linking Israel, Cyprus, and Greece.
- **February 3:** AHI, AHI Foundation announced Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou as the new editor of the *Online Policy Journal*.
- **February 16:** AHI welcomed a series of statements made by State Department officials that affirmed Greece's sovereignty following Turkey's challenges to Greece's islands.
- **February 28:** AHI issued a statement that drew parallels between Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, and considering Russia's aggression against Ukraine, called for the Biden administration to respond similarly to Turkey as it did with Russia.
- **March 2:** AHI announced the appointment of retired Vice Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis as AHI-Athens Chapter president.
- **March 15:** AHI announced the release of its 2021 Annual Report.
- **March 25:** AHI commemorated the 201<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Greek War of Independence and rejoiced as traditional in-person celebrations, such as parades, returned after the pandemic.
- **April 11:** AHI conveyed deep concern with statements made by Under Secretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, a senior U.S. Department of State official, during her travel to France, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, and Germany to discuss "regional security, economic issues, and bilateral priorities." Nuland's contradictory messaging on Administration policy in the Eastern Mediterranean alarmed AHI.
- **April 28:** AHI welcomed the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) critique of Turkey's treatment of its religious minorities in the Commission's 2021 Annual Report on Turkey. The report also highlighted AHI-backed legislation, the Turkey and Ecumenical Patriarchate Religious Freedom Act of 2021.
- **May 11:** AHI applauded Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, who stated that Turkish overflights are "provocative" and not supported by the United States. AHI urged Nuland to take the lead to urge the State Department to issue an updated and non-evasive report to Congress on Turkish violations of Greek airspace as required by law.
- **May 16:** AHI issued a statement mourning the passing of former AHI Chairman James L. Marketos, Esq.



- **May 26:** AHI reflected on the significance of the Battle of Crete that took place during World War II in May 1941.
- **June 3:** AHI condemned a series of outrageous and inflammatory remarks made by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan directed at Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Byzantine history.
- **June 16:** AHI condemned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's threat to "bury Greece" and called upon the Administration to also condemn it. AHI also called out NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg for continuing to be Turkey's biggest appeaser in NATO. Stoltenberg stated Turkey's security concerns leading to its opposition to Finland and Sweden joining NATO were legitimate.
- **July 6:** AHI applauded Congressional outrage at President Joe Biden and his Administration's desire to sell F-16 fighter jets to Turkey.
- **July 6:** AHI condemned Turkey's attempt to extort NATO and the Alliance in addition to President Joe Biden's public backing to sell F-16 fighter jets to Turkey.
- **July 13:** AHI announced the release of its updated Fact Sheet that details Greece's contributions to U.S. security interests and NATO.
- **July 15:** AHI applauded the House of Representatives for its passage of a bipartisan-supported amendment introduced by U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH) to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which AHI backed as the amendment uses the Arms Export Control Act as the primary tool to limit arms restrictions to Turkey – a longstanding AHI policy position based on the rule of law.
- **July 19:** AHI issued a statement in remembrance of the somber 48th anniversary of NATO member Turkey's brutal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus, a member of the European Union.
- **July 20:** AHI announced the release of its Summer 2022 newsletter.
- **July 22:** AHI commended U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), a senior member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, for his strong opposition to the Biden administration's plans to sell arms to Turkey.
- **September 2:** AHI commented on reports that Turkey ordered additional Russian S-400 missile defense systems, expressing deep concern about Turkey's continued duplicity and calling Turkey an unfaithful pseudo-ally of the United States that acts like a "trojan horse" for Russia within NATO. AHI's statement also thanked the responses of Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ), U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH), and U.S. Treasury officials.
- **September 2:** AHI congratulated U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), who received an honorary doctorate from the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, at the University of Athens' School of Economics and Political Sciences. In his remarks to present the honorary doctorate to Senator Menendez, Prof. Michael J. Tsinisizelis quoted AHI President Nick Larigakis as a testament to the senator's championing of Hellenic issues and the rule of law.
- **September 2:** AHI called out Turkey's hypocrisy for its support for the return of Crimea to Ukraine that contradicts nearly fifty years of Turkish foreign policy in Cyprus.
- **September 8:** AHI condemned series of incendiary threats against Greece made by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan where he intimated an invasion of the Greek islands. AHI conveyed strong support for the European Union's clear condemnation of Erdogan's threats and called for a more direct United States response toward Turkey.
- **September 22:** AHI condemned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's incendiary speech he delivered at the United Nations General Assembly where he made a series of baseless attacks upon directed at Greece. During he the speech, Erdogan displayed photos of dead children whom he insinuated were killed by Greece due to "inhumane pushbacks."
- **September 19:** AHI applauded the U.S.' lifting of the arms prohibition on Cyprus.

- **October 14:** AHI condemned a controversial memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on October 3, 2022, between the government of Turkey and Libya's Tripoli-based "Government of National Unity" (GNU), regarding the exploration of hydrocarbons. AHI called it an illegal and flawed agreement.
- **October 22:** AHI shared, as a public service, a religious freedom statement released to the Greek American community by then-Pennsylvania Senatorial Candidate, Lt. Governor John Fetterman.
- **November 8:** AHI issued a statement mourning the passing of His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II of Cyprus.
- **November 18:** AHI applauded continued opposition by members of Congress to Turkey's F-16 request spearheaded by U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas' (D-NH) bipartisan-backed letter sent to the leadership of the House and Senate's Armed Services Committees, urging them to retain his bipartisan amendment in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- **November 18:** AHI condemned a variety of incendiary attacks against the United States and Greece made by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and members of the Turkish government.
- **December 15:** AHI strongly condemned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's threats to launch a missile attack against Greece and called the State Department's response "perplexing" for calling on "all sides" to de-escalate, when there is only one party that is being provocative—Turkey.
- **December 16:** AHI condemned statements made by Ünal Üstel, the "prime minister" of the so-called "TRNC," who said the occupied area will move to reopen the entirety of Varosha, which would be a violation of international law, after local "elections" in December 2022.
- **December 22:** AHI applauded an increase in funding for Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) program, as well as funding for the 3+1 interparliamentary working group, which will work to promote relations between Greece, Israel, and Cyprus, that Congress passed in the Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations package.

### Policy Letters

- **May 13:** AHI wrote to President Joe Biden ahead of his meeting with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis at the White House on May 16, 2022. The letter touted Greece's leadership in all sectors of importance to advancing U.S. interests in the region and urged further support for Greece.
- **September 29:** AHI wrote to President Joe Biden citing the need for a strong response from the United States for threats made by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Turkish government officials toward the United States and Greece.

### Action Alerts

- **July 13:** AHI urged its advocates, stakeholders, and community members to contact their U.S. Representatives, urging them to support U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas' bipartisan-supported amendment to the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. The amendment prohibits the President from selling or exporting new F-16s or F-16 upgrade technology or modernization kits to Turkey unless the President provides a certification to Congress that such a transfer is in the national interest of the United States. The certification also must include a detailed description of concrete steps taken to ensure that such F-16s are not used by Turkey for repeated unauthorized territorial overflights of Greece.
- **November 7:** AHI urged its advocates, stakeholders, and community members to contact their U.S. Representatives, asking them to sign on to U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas' letter to the chairs and ranking members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees that asked them to retain Section 1271 of the House-passed FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act in the final NDAA.

To view statements in their entirety, please visit <https://www.aheworld.org/press-releases>





**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
AHIF COLLEGE STUDENT  
FOREIGN POLICY TRIP:  
WASHINGTON, DC  
GREECE & CYPRUS  
JUNE 13 - 30, 2023**

*"The AHIF Foreign Policy trip was an extremely eye-opening experience for a young Greek American interested in politics and foreign policy. The trip gave me the opportunity to meet amazing students, speak with influential leaders and military members and see both incredibly beautiful and heart-wrenching sights. This trip has completely shifted my point of interest in foreign policy and quite possibly given me a new goal for a career path."*

— Nicholas Iliadis

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[www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org)**



During the nineteen-day program, the students will have the opportunity to experience first-hand foreign policy issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, and the interests of the U.S. in the region.

**Washington, DC:** meetings/briefings with officials at Greek and Cypriot embassies, the State Department, Congress and think-tanks.

**Greece & Cyprus:** meetings/briefings with officials at the U.S. embassies; various ministries, including Foreign Affairs; military; members of Parliament; religious leaders; think-tanks, and members of academia and the private sector. Day trip to Souda Bay.



The American Hellenic Institute  
 is proud to present the 8th Annual  
**GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT**  
**AT THE**  
**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**  
**TUESDAY, June 6, 2023**



at Citizens Bank Park vs the Tigers (6:40 PM)

**GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT** (tickets \$47 – in sections 138 and 139)

**The evening includes the following:**

**Pregame:**

- Greek folk dances at center concourse.
- Ceremonial First Pitch.
- 2-minute pregame video highlighting Greece played on the ballpark's Jumbotron.
- National anthem will be sung by a Greek American entity.

**During the game:**

- The Phillie Phanatic sporting an "Evzone" costume will lead a Greek Folk Dance group on the field during the 5th inning.
- A concession stand serving Greek food.

**TICKETS CANNOT BE RESOLD ON STUBHUB**

**PURCHASE ONLINE:** <https://www.mlb.com/phillies/tickets/specials/greek-heritage>

**VIP TICKETS \$350 PER PERSON** (only 20 spaces available) includes:

Ticket to watch the game from MVP Suite; food/drinks during entire game; visit by a Phillies Alumni; a very special visit by the "Phillie Phanatic" in the "Evzone" costume. *(Pending availability)*

**To purchase this ticket call 202-785-8430.**

**Proceeds will benefit the American Hellenic Institute.**

**OR COMPLETE THIS FORM:**

# of ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_ at \$47 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ # of VIP ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_ at \$350 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check payable to AHI in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Visa     MasterCard     American Express

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**American Hellenic Institute** • 1220 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036  
[www.ahiworl.org](http://www.ahiworl.org) • Tel: 202-785-8430 • [info@ahiworl.org](mailto:info@ahiworl.org)



*AHI is pleased to announce ...*

## HERITAGE OF HOPE: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE GENE ROSSIDES ENDOWMENT FOR THE RULE OF LAW

The goal of the HERITAGE OF HOPE campaign is to establish an endowment to perpetuate the important work begun by Gene Rossides. Through the Endowment, AHI will promote Hellenism in America, promote a strong United States relationship with Greece and Cyprus, fight vigilantly for justice and peace in the Eastern Mediterranean, and advocate for adherence to the rule of law in our nation's foreign affairs.

For the Endowment, AHI seeks to raise \$10,000,000 to ensure that our message, our work, and the vision of Gene Rossides will remain relevant to the next generation of Greek Americans as they face the ever-evolving Eastern Mediterranean issues and determine how best to project the United States's geostrategic interests.

While this is an ambitious task, we have already received a \$2,000,000 commitment to kick-start this historic effort.

**For more information about this special campaign, contact Nick Larigakis, President, at (202) 785-8430 or [nlarigakis@aheworld.org](mailto:nlarigakis@aheworld.org)**



**Eugene T. Rossides**  
*AHI Founder*

**AHI** AMERICAN  
HELLENIC  
INSTITUTE





AHI invites everyone - Hellenes and philhellenes alike - who shares our passion for the preservation and study of Hellenism - and wishes to strengthen ties between the United States, Greece and Cyprus - to join AHI as a member.

By joining, you help us in two important ways: your membership gives our message greater weight in Washington. And your dues help us to carry out our mission on a day-to-day basis.

AHI understands the issues affecting the Greek American community and we share our knowledge of these issues through newsletters, conferences, publications and electronic media.

Join us.



# Membership Enrollment Form

AHI members enjoy many benefits at a variety of levels. Please consider becoming a part of our grassroots network at one of the levels below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

## Preferred Address:

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Level:

- Classic (\$100 US, \$150 Outside US, \$35 Students)  
 Pericles (\$250)     Marathon (\$500)     Solon (\$1,000)  
 Olympic (\$5,000)     President's Circle (\$10,000)

**Method of Payment:** Check (payable to AHI)

**Amount of Payment:** \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date (month/year): \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Required for credit card payments)

## Please tear at perforation and return with payment to:

American Hellenic Institute  
1220 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

## Classic Membership

\$100 for members within the U.S.; \$150 for members outside the U.S.; \$35 for Students

- Receive AHI's newsletter
- Be alerted to key action items via e-mail
- Be a part of policy discussions with invitations to AHI noon forums and business network events nationwide
- A copy of the AHI DVD *The Greek American Operational Groups*

\$100

## Pericles Membership

Classic membership benefits, plus:

- Receive a 25% discount on all new AHI publications
- Receive a complimentary copy of *Greece's Pivotal Role in World War II and its Importance to the U.S. Today*

\$250

## Marathon Membership

Pericles membership benefits, plus:

- Receive complimentary copies of *Blood and Tears: Greece 1940-1949—A Story of War and Love* and *The Truman Doctrine of Aid to Greece: A Fifty Year Retrospective*

\$500

## Solon Membership

Marathon membership benefits, plus:

- Free attendance at any two AHI Business Network Events nationwide
- A complimentary copy of *Modern Greeks DVD The Greek American Operational Groups*

\$1,000

## Olympic Membership

Solon membership benefits, plus:

- Join a special briefing in Washington, DC exclusively for Olympic and Nike members with the diplomatic corps as well as policy-makers
- Two free tickets to AHI's Athens Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards Dinner at the Hotel Grande Bretagne in Athens along with a complimentary full page advertisement in the dinner journal
- Free participation for you and a guest at AHI's Annual Golf Outing

\$5,000

## President's Circle

- Special invitation to join on the annual AHI leadership trip to Greece and Cyprus
- Invitation to a special dinner briefing in Washington, DC with members of the Greek and Diplomatic corps
- Invitation to a special dinner briefing in Washington, DC with the co-chairs of the Hellenic Congressional Caucus
- Invitation to a special briefing in Washington, DC by the State Department Office of Southeastern Europe
- Attempt will be made to arrange a meeting with your Member of Congress
- Two free nights a year at the Grande Bretagne Hotel in Athens (based on availability)
- Two free nights at the Capital Hilton Hotel
- One free ticket to the annual AHI Awards Gala in Washington, DC
- Your name will be listed on the Honor Roll Wall in the lobby of Hellenic House.

\$10,000



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**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**Hellenic Heritage Achievement**  
**& National Public Service**  
**Awards Dinner**

**April 13, 2024**

**THE CAPITAL HILTON    WASHINGTON, DC**