



# REPORT



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## AHI HOSTS 42ND ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER



Dr. Van Coufoudakis, Paul Glastris, Dr. George Korkos, Dennis Mehiel.

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) hosted its 42nd Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner, March 11, 2017, Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C.

AHI honored a distinguished set of awardees based upon their  
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## AHI CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRIP TO GREECE, CYPRUS

A delegation from the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) successfully completed the organization’s annual leadership trip to Greece and Cyprus where it held substantive meetings with high-ranking government officials with the purpose of strengthening relations and addressing issues of mutual concern. The 10-day trip occurred May 6 to 18, 2017.



Dimitri Contominas and Katerina P. Panagopoulos.

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## AHI PRESIDENT CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL FIRST-EVER VISIT TO AUSTRALIA



The Honorable Lord Mayor of Perth, Lisa-M. Scaffidi, presenting Larigakis with a commemorative gift.

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) hosted its 42nd Anniversary AHI President Nick Larigakis concluded AHI’s first-ever official  
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## AHIF RECEIVES MAJOR GIFT FROM E. JOHN & CLEO RUMPAKIS

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) is pleased to announce it is the recipient of a \$175,000 gift from E. John and Cleo Rumpakis of Portland, Ore.

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# AHI GENERAL NEWS

## AHI HOSTS 42ND ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER

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important career achievements and contributions to the Greek American community or community at-large. They were: Van Coufoudakis, Ph.D., Professor and Academic Leader; Paul Glastris, Co-founder, Journalist, Editor, and former Senior Speechwriter for President Bill Clinton; Dennis Mehiel, Principal Shareholder and Chairman of U.S. Corrugated, Inc.; and George Korkos, M.D., FACS, Surgeon and Entrepreneur.



*Master of Ceremonies Larry Michael.*

Larry Michael, “Voice of the Redskins,” and chief content officer and executive producer of Media, Washington Redskins; was the evening’s emcee. AHI Foundation Board of Directors Treasurer James H. Lagos, Esq. introduced Michael. The Marines of Headquarters Battalion presented the colors and the American and Greek national anthems were performed by Sophia Pelekasis. Rev. Konstantinos A. Pavlakos, Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, Va., offered the invocation and benediction. Apollonia provided the musical entertainment. Opening the evening’s program were AHI Foundation President Constantine Galanis and AHI President Nick R. Larigakis, both of who offered greetings. They also reviewed the initiatives and programs AHI and AHIF provide the community.

### **Honorees Humbled, Moved by Accolades**



*Nick Larigakis, Dr. Van Coufoudakis, Costas Galanis.*

Van Coufoudakis, Ph.D., received the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award for his academic achievements,

domestically and internationally, and for his fervent advocacy of the rule of law regard U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. He holds the academic rank of Professor Emeritus of Political Science in the Indiana University system. As a leading voice for Hellenism, Dr. Coufoudakis was an early member of the Modern Greek Studies Association, the premier interdisciplinary academic organization in the U.S. and Canada promoting Modern Greek Studies, serving two terms as the organization’s president. For his advocacy, the Republic of Cyprus named him Honorary Consul for the State of Indiana. A staunch defender of Hellenism and the rule of law, Professor Coufoudakis was an early member of AHI and remains on its Board of Directors.



*Nick Larigakis, Paul Glastris, Costas Galanis.*

In acceptance, Dr. Coufoudakis said, “...My work has been guided by a commitment to the rule of law and human rights, values I inherited from a diaspora family with roots in Asia Minor...The quest for freedom, the rule of law and human rights is unending. This is why we, as Americans, regardless of national origin, must always uphold the principles enshrined in our Bill of Rights and in our democratic constitutional traditions. This is what has made and will keep our country great...”

Paul Glastris, editor-in-chief, *The Washington Monthly*, and former special assistant and senior speechwriter for President Bill Clinton, received the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award in recognition of his enduring commitment to a free press.

In acceptance, Glastris spoke about pride in one’s heritage and the importance of keeping those traditions and ideals alive.

“As Greek Americans, each of us has the opportunity to use some of the success we’ve achieved, the networks we’ve built, the wealth we’ve acquired, the talents we’ve honed, the leverage we possess, to advance the causes of Hellenism and of peace and security in the eastern Mediterranean. By joining and supporting AHI, we are seizing that opportunity.”

Dennis Mehiel received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award in recognition of his business, philanthropic and civic achievements. Mehiel is the Principal Shareholder and Chairman of U. S. Corrugated, Inc., which was, until a recent divestiture, the nation’s largest independent manufacturer of corrugated packaging.

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Nick Larigakis, Dennis Mehiel, Costas Galanis.

In acceptance, Mehiel stated, “I laud the American Hellenic Institute as an important and effective platform through which we continue to remind our community of the core values our Hellenic heritage embraces: vision, entrepreneurship, hard work, perseverance, and a culture of support whereby those who have been fortunate enough to enjoy success in this wonderful country, provide the same opportunity to those who follow.”

In acceptance of the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award for his lifelong commitment and leadership in medicine and activism in the Greek American community, **George Korkos, M.D., FACS**, harkened upon a passage from *The Illiad* and asked rhetorically, “What is it that makes us as Hellenes different?”

He offered, “Conclusion that I came up with is that for the Hellene, the Ellina, whether in ancient times or today, the norm for the goal in life is not just to take care of ourselves—yes, we want to provide for our families—but what drives us is to tackle those things that improve the lives and overcome the darkness for all people: war, injustice, ignorance, bigotry, and disease. These Hellenic values are what our civilization is all about and what spread throughout the world and is evident today.”



Nick Larigakis, Dr. George Korkos, Costas Galanis.

Dr. Korkos also offered some words of advice for younger generations with a twist of humor. “For you young people—I’m like the late George Burns—when you get to my age that’s anyone under 70—take the advice from an experience doctor and never ever take for granted the genes that carry that spirit within you—sustain the power, spontaneity and vibrancy of the legacy passed on to you and share it with all. Be inspired and inspire. “Ever to Excel” is not just a philosophy,



Dennis Mehiel, Gene Rossides, Amb. Leonidas Pantelides.

but a way of life for a philosophy without action and deeds is useless.”

The honorees’ many accomplishments were celebrated throughout the evening, and highlighted in congratulatory letters submitted to AHI from His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Ambassador of Greece to the United States Haris Lalacos, and Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Leonidas Pantelides.

Finally, as part of the weekend’s festivities AHI hosted a breakfast briefing with Ambassador Lalacos and Ambassador Pantelides, on March 11; and major benefactors and supporters attended an AHI Greek Night hosted at Kellari Restaurant, March 10.

### **AHI BRINGS POLICY AGENDA TO NEW CONGRESS**

In January, AHI met with members of Congress to review AHI’s policy agenda for the 115th Congress and to provide updates on the latest developments in the eastern Mediterranean.

The legislators AHI met with were: U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-chairs, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chair, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; Ted Deutch (D-FL), co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance, and ranking member, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa; Brad Sherman (D-CA), a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; Grace Meng (D-NY), member, House Appropriations Committee; Dina Titus (D-NV), member, House Foreign Affairs Committee; and Niki Tsongas (D-MA). In addition, AHI met with the senior foreign affairs staff of U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), who is the ranking member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs; and staff of U.S. Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA).

“As part of our ongoing outreach to Congress and to the administration, we provided the officials with an overview of AHI’s policy objectives and brought them up-to-speed on developments in the region,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “As a new Congress begins, it is important to raise awareness and continue dialogue with policymakers as well as advising them that AHI serves as a resource of information for them. We thank them for their time and interest in issues affecting the Greek American community.”

## AHI PRESIDENT JOINS AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS ON CYPRUS VISIT



From left: Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations Malcolm Hoenlein, Greek Cypriot Negotiator Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, Nick Larigakis, Executive VP of B'Nai B'Rith International Dan Mariaschin.

AHI President Nick Larigakis attended events held on occasion of the 2017 Mission of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations visit to Nicosia, Cyprus, February 22, 2017.

At the invitation of the Conference of Presidents, and together with the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), AHI President Larigakis attended a series of meetings during the one-day visit with: President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulidis, Defense Minister Christoforos Fokaides, and Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, who is the Greek Cypriot negotiator for the Cyprus issue, and Fotis Fotiou, presidential commissioner for Humanitarian Issues and Overseas Cypriots, who coordinated the visit and hosted a luncheon. U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Kathleen Doherty also attended events.

“On behalf of AHI, I thank the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations for the invitation to join its Mission, comprised of 85 representatives, for a truly important series of meetings,” Larigakis said. “It was an honor to participate. The mission helped to underscore the continuing importance of the Israel, Greece, Cyprus trilateral relationship and the critical role these countries play to advance peace, stability and U.S. interests in the region. It also reaffirmed the cooperation among diaspora organizations in the U.S. for the trilateral relationship.”

### Athens Visit

President Larigakis also bookended his visit to Cyprus with a visit to Athens, Greece, February 20 and February 23 and 24. In Athens, he met with: U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt, Evangelos Kalpadakis, diplomatic advisor to Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras; Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, chief, Hellenic National Defense General Staff; Lt. Gen. Christos Christodoulou, chief, Hellenic Air Force; Lt. Gen. Alkiviadis Stefanis, chief, Hellenic Army (over lunch); Honorable George Patoulis, mayor of Maroussi; Ambassador Dimitris Alexandrakis, director, A7 Department for North America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Konstantine Michalos, president, Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Nick Larigakis providing a greeting at a dinner hosted by the Rotary Club of Maroussi.

In addition, President Larigakis attended a lunch and commemoration of the friendship between the United States and the Hellenic Republic organized by the Port of Piraeus at the Propeller Club, February 23. The event took place on board the Liberty Ship Museum SS Hellas Liberty. Also in attendance were U.S. Ambassador Pyatt, Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas Raptakis, Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos, and Admiral Apostolakis.

On February 20, President Larigakis was invited to provide a greeting at a dinner hosted by the Rotary Club of Maroussi.

Larigakis' itinerary concluded with a meeting at the Olympiacos FC training facility with Domenicos Masoulas, director, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Pavlou George, CEO Thrylos S.A., Olympiacos Football Academy.

## AHI HOSTS BRIEFING WITH TOP GREEK, CYPRIOT DIPLOMATS IN U.S.



From left: Deputy Assistant Secretary Jonathan Cohen, Amb. Pantelides, Nick Larigakis, Amb. Lalacos.

AHI hosted a breakfast briefing with Ambassador Haris Lalacos, ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the U.S., and Ambassador Leonides Pantelides, ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S., March 11, 2017, at the Capital Hilton. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Jonathan Cohen also provided remarks. AHI President Nick Larigakis moderated.

In his opening remarks, President Larigakis addressed the impor-

tance of two major crises challenging Greece and Cyprus and added that Turkey presents an additional challenge to an already delicate situation.

In his remarks, Ambassador Lalacos expressed his gratitude for the continued cooperation between the Embassy of Greece and AHI. He explained despite the deep economic issues that Greece faces, it remains one of the few NATO members that contributes the required minimum 2% of GDP on defense. In terms of regional interests, Ambassador Lalacos identified the Balkans and the Black Sea as the two most important regional areas where Greece's insight can be helpful to all interlocutors. On the matter of Turkish relations, he said it was not possible to discuss the topic "without acknowledging that Cyprus is not resolved."

Ambassador Pantelides spoke briefly about three priorities of Cyprus in Washington. They are: the continuity of support on the resolution to the Cyprus problem, the improvement of bilateral relations, and the resolution of regional issues with the specific position and profile that Cyprus has in the region. The ambassador provided four categories in the negotiations that can be solved between Greek and Turkish Cypriots including: power sharing, territorial arrangements, the economy, and issues of property and missing persons. There were three other categories that he acknowledged could not be solved without the contribution of Turkey, which at the time, was a nation preoccupied with a constitutional referendum.

### **AHI SUBMITS TESTIMONY ON FY2018 FOREIGN AID TO HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

AHI submitted testimony to the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs on the Trump Administration's foreign aid proposal for FY2018 on March 21, 2017. In the best interests of the United States, AHI's testimony opposed: 1) any military assistance the administration will request for Turkey until Turkey withdraws all of its troops and illegal Turkish settlers in Cyprus; (2) the proposed elimination of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC); (3) aid the administration will request for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM); and (4) any reduction that might be introduced in the aid levels for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. Also in keeping with the best interests of the United States, AHI supported an increased investment for NATO ally Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) program funding level to a recommended appropriation of \$420,000. In addition, AHI's testimony recommended that should a settlement to reunify Cyprus be reached via referendum, United States foreign assistance can help solidify a reunified Cyprus and its government during the post-referendum transition period.

### **AHI CELEBRATES GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE, NYC**

AHI celebrated Greek Independence Day at the White House on March 24, 2017. AHI President Nick Larigakis, AHI Foundation



*AHI President Nick Larigakis with White House Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Advance George Gigicos.*

President Constantine Galanis, and AHI Board Members Leon Andris, Athina Balta, Esq., Ph.D.; Peter Bota, and Demitrios Halakos attended the ceremony officiated by President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and White House Director of the Office of Public Liaison George Sifakis also offered remarks.

"We thank President Trump for hosting this event to honor Greek Independence," Larigakis said. "The event served to reaffirm the strong bonds of friendship between Greece and the United States, including Greece as a valued NATO ally; and to bring attention to the fact that this relationship is etched intrinsically by virtue of the noble democratic ideals and principles that guided our Founding Fathers in establishing our own country."



*AHI President Nick Larigakis speaks at a pre-Greek Independence Day Parade reception at the Plaza Hotel, New York City.*

In addition, President Larigakis attended celebrations in New York City for Greek Independence Day. Larigakis attended a dinner, March 25, and the traditional parade, March 26.

"As we celebrate let us be reminded that the freedom we enjoy today as a Greek nation came at a high cost of many generations," he said. "Yet that freedom continues to be threatened to this day as recent developments in the Aegean continue to remind us. Therefore, let us all be more vigilant in the understanding of the issues

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that continue to threaten the peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean and let's redouble our efforts to advocate for these issues to U.S. policymakers."

### AHIF PRESIDENT SERVES AS GRAND MARSHAL GREEK INDEPENDENCE PARADE



AHI President Larigakis with his fellow Grand Marshalls at Tarpon Springs parade.

AHI President Nick Larigakis served as one of five Grand Marshalls at the Tarpon Springs, Fla., Greek Independence Day parade held March 19, 2017.

"It was an honor to be recognized in this esteemed manner by the organizers of the Tarpon Springs Greek Independence Day Parade," said Larigakis. "I enjoyed celebrating the 196th anniversary of Greek Independence with the historic community of Tarpon Springs and surrounding areas. I commend the organizers, especially long-time AHI Member George Mermelas, and I thank everyone who attended and participated."

### AHI HOSTS ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL SALUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE



Rep. David Cicilline, Rep. Dina Titus, Rep. Carolyn Maloney and AHI President Nick Larigakis with the students of the Hellenic Education Center of the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Katherine, Falls Church, VA.

AHI celebrated the 196th anniversary of Greek Independence Day by hosting its annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day," March 22, 2017. The common democratic ideals held by

Greece and the United States were reaffirmed by several members of Congress at the event which was held in cooperation with the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

AHI President Nick Larigakis served as Master of Ceremonies. He welcomed the guests and thanked Representatives Bilirakis and Maloney for their support to organize the reception and for their ongoing efforts to promote Greek American issues in the U.S. Congress.



Minister of Defense of Greece Panos Kammenos.

Members of Congress who addressed the audience included (in order of appearance): U.S. Reps. Bilirakis, Maloney, David Cicilline (D-RI), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats; Dina Titus (D-NV), Brad Sherman (D-CA), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats; John Sarbanes (D-MD), Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Grace Meng (D-NY), member, House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies; Eliot Engel (D-NY), ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), former chairman and current member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; Ted Deutch (D-FL), co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance, and member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), and Frank Pallone (D-NJ). In addition, U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) attended. Special guest speakers were: Greek Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos, and on behalf of the Embassy of Cyprus, Congressional Liaison Eleftheria Aristotelous. Greek Ambassador to the United States Haris Lalacos also attended.

The speakers emphasized their admiration for Hellenic culture and for the valiant and inspirational struggle for Greek Independence achieved in 1821. They also expressed their support for a proper settlement of the Cyprus issue, a proper resolution to the FYROM name-recognition issue, and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

During the evening, there was a presentation of traditional Greek dances performed by the Return to Origins Greek Folk Dance Troupe under the direction of Rena Papapostolou. The Greek

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School Students of Saint Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, Va., sang the American and Greek National Anthems.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### ***The Washington Times Publishes AHI's Letter on Turkish FM's Op-ed***

*The Washington Times* published AHI's letter to editor, "Turkey preventing peace in Cyprus," March 27, 2017. AHI President Nick Larigakis wrote the letter in response to a March 19, 2017 op-ed by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu titled, "Turkey's vision for Cyprus." President Larigakis called the foreign minister's op-ed "fraught with misinformation that Turkey has disseminated since the start of the current settlement talks." Larigakis also corrected Foreign Minister Cavusoglu's account of Turkey's 1974 invasion of the Republic of Cyprus stating it was not an "intervention" as the foreign minister wrote, but instead an illegal invasion that occurred in two phases. Larigakis also included how Turkey contributes to instability in the region via its cozy relationships with terrorist groups and almost daily violations of Greece's sovereignty.

### STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ***AHI Foundation Announces New President; Two Named to AHI's Board***



Constantine Galanis.

In January, the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) and the American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF), the first think tank devoted to Greek American issues, were pleased to announce additions to their respective governing bodies.

The AHI Foundation announced the selection of Constantine (Kostas) Apostolos Galanis as its president. The selection became effective January 1, 2017. Galanis succeeded AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiros Spireas, who served in that capacity since 2011. Dr. Spireas remains on the Foundation's Board of Directors.

"We are thrilled Constantine Galanis has agreed to serve as president of the AHI Foundation," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "He brings enthusiasm and talent to the Foundation. Constantine will be a significant asset to the Foundation and will help it to advance its mission to the benefit of the Greek American community. I look forward to working with him."

"AHI, its members and stakeholders are deeply grateful to outgoing AHIF President Dr. Spireas for his leadership of the Foundation during the past six years," Larigakis added. "Under his leadership, the Foundation continued to flourish and provided outstanding programs that served to promote and preserve Hellenism."

"It is an honor and a privilege for me to serve the American Hellenic Institute Foundation," Galanis said. "I will do my best to enhance its goals, objectives, and programs and work to advance its reach in the community. Furthermore, we will work diligently to ensure more people get involved in the issues that are of utmost importance in the United States, Greece and Cyprus. I call upon all Greek and Cypriot Americans to join in helping Greece and Cyprus to overcome their challenges."

He added, "For our part, we will work tirelessly to inform the public, and especially those of Greek and Cypriot descent, of the issues at hand."

#### ***Dr. Balta, Halakos Named to AHI Board of Directors***



Dr. Athina Balta and Demitrios Halakos.

The American Hellenic Institute announced the addition of Dr. Athina Balta and Mr. Demitrios Halakos to its Board of Directors. The appointments became effective January 1, 2017.

"We are pleased to welcome Dr. Athina Balta and Mr. Demitrios Halakos to AHI's Board of Directors," President Larigakis said. "They will be assets to the Institute. I look forward to working with them to achieve our mission of advocating for the rule of law."

"Upon joining AHI's Board, I hope I can help with AHI's mission to aid in educating the Greek diaspora to ensure that future generations are prepared to face the challenges facing Hellenism, generally, and specifically Greece," Halakos said. "By being a part of AHI's leadership, I believe I can do my part in helping to inform the American people and their representatives on issues of importance to the Greek American community."

Learn more about AHIF's and AHI's newest additions their respective governing bodies by visiting the press release section of [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org).

#### ***AHIF Releases Spring 2017 Issue of AHIF Online Policy Journal***

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) announced its eighth volume release of its *Policy Journal*. The journal is a forum

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for commentary and scholarship on issues of vital importance to Greek Americans. In his introduction to the current issue, Editor Dan Georgakas, professor and director, Greek American Studies Project, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College (CUNY), writes of the pressing foreign policy issues facing the United States, Greece, and Cyprus. The issue's first section is titled, "The Crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean." Six essays discuss the crisis from a variety of perspectives. The five essays that follow take on broader issues that concern Greek America. In the "Emerging Voices of Greek America" section, young scholars and activists discuss the refugee crisis in Greece, gay rights in Greece, and the Pontian and Armenian genocides. Our two book reviews address the economic crisis in Greece and the some of the roots of the Cyprus conflict.

### ***AHI Releases 2016 Annual Report***

AHI announced the release of its 2016 Annual Report on March 16, 2017. "All of AHI's policy-based programs and initiatives for 2016 that advance the best interests of the United States on issues of importance to the Greek American community are encapsulated in this report," President Nick Larigakis said. "We are proud to highlight our successful programming, which includes our 'Future of Hellenism in America' conference, foreign policy trip abroad for college students, and several policy forums, among other initiatives and events." Visit [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org) to download a copy.

### ***AHIF Fellow Presents Paper on Cyprus Invasion at Conference on the Cold War***

Gregory Graves, an American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) research fellow, joined approximately 20 young scholars in Santa Barbara, Calif., for the annual Graduate Student Conference on the Cold War, April 28, 2017, held jointly by The George Washington University, University of California at Santa Barbara, and the London School of Economics. Graves participated as a panelist on the conference's second panel, focusing on the global 1970s. He presented a paper titled, "Five Days in July: Tilting Toward Taksim."

Graves' presentation and paper drew upon a wealth of primary source documents that included a number of domestic and foreign archives as well as through the Freedom of Information Act. They were organized into a collection of 35 binders will be available for research at the American Hellenic Institute Foundation.

"This unique collection is intended to supplement and augment the pre-existing Foreign Relations of the United States volumes, compiled by the State Department's Office of the Historian, on the Cyprus Crisis," Graves said.

According to Graves, the assemblage of binders is comprised mostly of individual binders devoted to a single day or group of days from July 15 to August 31, 1974. Each "Daily Binder" contains: the schedules of the principal U.S. diplomats involved in managing the upheaval; the intelligence items these officials had access too; transcripts of their phone calls and meetings; and the relevant telegrams. In addition to these binders, the collection also features binders devoted solely to topics such as: Greek withdrawal and re-integration into NATO; the Turkish arms embargo; and intelligence studies

from the 1960s and 1970s on U.S. and Soviet policy in the Eastern Mediterranean.

While the wide range of documents contained in the collection is designed to allow researchers to form their own opinions, Graves' research and analysis led him to argue that the crucial, and yet avoidable, diplomatic failures of the United States during the five days following the coup against Archbishop Makarios not only facilitated Turkey's subsequent invasions but also evidence the fact that key figures were accepting partition as the solution that would best suit American interests.

"We are really proud of Gregory's research and presentation at the Conference on the Cold War," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "His research and paper are important additions to AHIF's volumes of work on the causes of the Cyprus invasion. We are pleased to be able to share the collection of source documents to interested visitors to Hellenic House."

Larigakis added, "They will be available in early fall after the dedication of the new AHIF John E. & Cleo Rumpakis Library."

### ***AHI Commends Rep. Bilirakis for Demanding Justice for Protesters Attacked by Turkish Security Detail***



*U.S. Representative Gus M. Bilirakis.*

U.S. Representative Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL), co-chair, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, and co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance, spearheaded a letter to the Trump administration demanding justice for the Americans attacked by Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's security detail. The letter, co-authored by House Foreign Affairs Chairman

Emeritus Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), calls for Turkish personnel based in the U.S. or Turkey who were involved in the attacks be expelled immediately and barred from entering the U.S. in the future. Forty U.S. representatives signed the letter.

"AHI thanks Congressman Bilirakis for taking the lead to demand justice in this brutal attack by President Erdogan's security detail upon Americans who were protesting peacefully," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "AHI appreciates all the members who signed the letter in a strong show of bipartisan support for the protection of First Amendment rights and rejection of intolerable behavior condoned by the Turkish government."

### ***American Jewish, Greek American Groups Welcome Third Trilateral Summit***

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), American Hellenic Institute (AHI), B'nai B'rith International, and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued the following joint statement:

"We welcome the third trilateral summit between Israel, Greece and Cyprus, held in Thessaloniki, Greece, June 15, 2017. The summit again demonstrates the ongoing commitment between the three



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countries, which share common democratic values, principles and interests, to strengthen their strategic partnership to provide stability to the eastern Mediterranean region. The announcement of a fourth summit to be held in Cyprus in late 2017 is a further indication of the partnership's development and significance.

"We are encouraged that the trilateral relationship is addressing critical sectors such as: energy cooperation, specifically in the field of natural gas; infrastructure and water; research and innovation, which is so vital to Greece; and foreign affairs, including enhanced relations between the EU and Israel. The importance of such a forum where discussions are held at the highest levels of government about the Middle East peace process, the Cyprus settlement talks, terrorism, and migratory flows—all critical to the region's security—cannot be overstated. Moreover, we continue to see growth in other critical sectors, such as tourism, that are a direct result of this strategic partnership.

"Furthermore, we applaud the unveiling of a plaque to mark the construction of a new Holocaust museum and the summit's condemnation of the denial of the Holocaust and all forms of anti-Semitism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia.

"Finally, we welcome the summit's recognition of the importance of cooperation between the diasporas of the three countries, especially in areas of culture, education, and youth. For our part, we take pride in providing broad support and encouragement for advancing the trilateral relationship's advancement, and we look forward to continuing to do so in the future."

In January 2016, our four organizations joined together for the second Leadership Mission to Israel, Cyprus and Greece; and are planning a third combined mission in 2018. The groundbreaking inaugural mission was held in January 2014 and led to greater understanding between our communities and the greater recognition of our common values, intents, and aspirations.

### ***In Wake of Attack, AHI Requests Hearing to Reassess Relations with Turkey***

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) sent a letter to the heads of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, requesting an extensive hearing on Turkey's history of violating U.S. laws and for the need to reassess relations between the United States and Turkey following the attack upon protesters by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's security detail.

In the June 5, 2017 letter, AHI President Nick Larigakis welcomes the Committee and Subcommittee's recent actions, which include passage of H.Res.354 by the former and a hearing on the attack by the latter. However, President Larigakis points out that Turkey has been a habitual violator of the rule of law, including United States law, for decades. In the letter, Larigakis cites as examples of Turkey violating U.S. law, its provocative behavior toward Greece and Cyprus, and its suppression of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

"As a result, Turkey is a significant force of instability and its acts have dire implications to U.S. security interests," Larigakis wrote. "It is this behavior by a so-called ally that the Institute requests the House Committee on Foreign Affairs takes under further examina-

tion in a comprehensive hearing on Turkey that reassesses United States relations with Turkey."

## LETTERS TO OFFICIALS

### ***Letters to President Trump, Secretary Tillerson Emphasize Turkey as Force of Instability***

To date, AHI sent three letters—two to President Donald J. Trump—and one to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, that convey the Institute's concerns about rising tensions fostered by Turkey. In one letter, AHI calls for a reassessment of the United States' relationship with Turkey.

AHI President Nick Larigakis sent a letter dated February 6, 2017, to President Trump to raise concern about rising tensions in the Aegean Sea stoked by Turkey's provocations and to urge the administration to call on Turkey to cease and desist with its provocations because of the implications to the United States' national security interests. Larigakis provided an overview of Turkey's frequent and egregious violations of NATO ally Greece's sovereignty in the Aegean Sea. Among the many examples, Larigakis cited the 138 violations of Greek airspace in one day recorded by Greece's Ministry of Defense last week. As a result, Turkey creates instability in the eastern Mediterranean which is not in the best interest of the United States, he states.

In a March 28, 2017 letter to Secretary Tillerson, a few days ahead of the secretary's visit to Turkey, AHI President Larigakis requested that Turkey's provocations, which have created instability in the eastern Mediterranean, and which are not in the best interests of the United States, be raised during Secretary Tillerson's meetings with senior Turkish government officials. Larigakis cited rising tensions in the Aegean and Turkey's recent threat to Cyprus' right to explore for natural gas within its exclusive economic zone as how Turkey has been a force of instability.

AHI President Larigakis wrote to President Trump ahead of President Trump's meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the White House, May 16, 2017. In the May 1 letter, Larigakis cited rising tensions in the Aegean, Turkey's recent incursion into Cyprus' exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and President Erdogan's alarming rhetoric toward the European Union, as how Turkey has been a force of instability.

"Given the conduct and policies of the Erdogan regime, it is essential that the U.S. fundamentally re-assess our alliance and overall relationship with Turkey," Larigakis wrote. "We hope that you will make this point to President Erdogan."

Moreover, understanding that defeating ISIS would be a priority on the agenda, President Larigakis asserted the United States cannot trust Turkey in the fight. Larigakis cited the views of policy analysts such as Doug Bandow, senior fellow, Cato Institute, who wrote, "*Erdogan long played footsie with the Islamic State; his government apparently helped arm, sell oil from, and open Turkish territory for use by ISIS. More recently he has targeted the Syrian Kurds, U.S. allies against ISIS.*" AHI cautioned that whatever future assistance Turkey should provide the United States on ISIS should not come at the expense of true and tried allies in the eastern Mediterranean who advance U.S. national interests in the region.

# LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

## Congressman Bilirakis Submits AHI Letter into Congressional Record



Rep. Bilirakis' Congressional Record Entry of AHI's letter to President Trump.

U.S. Representative Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL), co-chair, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, and co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance, submitted into the Congressional Record, American Hellenic Institute's (AHI) May 1, 2017 letter to President Donald J. Trump ahead of President Trump's scheduled meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the White House, May 16, 2017. In the letter, Larigakis cited rising tensions in the Aegean, Turkey's recent incursion into Cyprus' exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and President Erdogan's alarming rhetoric toward the European Union, as how Turkey has been a force of instability.

In his May 4, 2017 Extension of Remarks, Congressman Bilirakis stated: "Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit into the record a letter from the American Hellenic Institute regarding President Trump's upcoming meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. As one of the co-chairs of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, I have advocated for the rights of Greece and Cyprus against the intimidating actions of Turkey. Since Turkey's Presidential referendum vote, Erdogan's government continues to ignore and violate long-standing international law and treaties—a threat to regional security and an impediment to regional interests, stability, and prosperity."

In addition, Congressman Bilirakis stated the United States, and its regional allies, should be better prepared to respond with targeted sanctions and foreign aid restrictions for any nation that transgresses international law, including NATO ally Turkey.

AHI President Nick Larigakis stated, "We applaud Congressman Bilirakis for his staunch advocacy of Greece and Cyprus and for calling out Turkey as a threat to regional security and condemning Turkish aggression. We sincerely thank the congressman for entering our letter into the Congressional Record and his support."

## AHI Takes Issue with United CEO's Criticism of New Emirates Route to Athens; United Responds

AHI wrote to United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz to express "profound disappointment" with his comments that attacked the launch of Emirates Airline's year-round, non-stop daily service from Newark Liberty International Airport to Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport, Athens, Greece.

AHI President Nick Larigakis's March 20, 2017 letter presents the merits of the new Emirates route to the strengthening of U.S.—Greece relations, citing the potential for growth in tourism and commerce. "The new route fills a major void that has been missing for years, and provides the estimated 1.3 million Greek Americans, and their families, and all Americans, a more convenient option to visit Greece," Larigakis wrote.

Furthermore, Larigakis proposed to Munoz that instead of critiquing Emirates, United Airlines, as the second largest airline carrier, should reconsider AHI's request for United to establish its own year-round, non-stop daily service from a U.S. major hub with a significant Greek American market to Athens, Greece. Larigakis suggested Chicago.

## AHI Receives United's Views on Greek Air Service Market

United Airlines responded to AHI, expressing how the company views the Greek tourism and air service market.

In an April 4 email to President Larigakis, and copied to United CEO Oscar Munoz, United's Vice President of International Network Patrick Quayle called United's 2016 seasonal New York/Newark-Athens service "a success" and stated United is committed to operate the service again in 2017, from May to October. Quayle added that United is aware of the growth of American tourism to Greece and cited it as a reason why United launched its New York/Newark-Athens service. However, he added United did not view other U.S. gateways, such as Chicago or Washington, DC., or a potential service to Tel Aviv via Athens, as potentially successful for nonstop service based upon the "market fundamentals." United does continually monitor the markets for opportunities, Quayle wrote.

"The U.S.—Greece market is highly seasonal with 60% of annual demand traveling during a four-month summer period," Quayle wrote. "Demand for Greece significantly drops in the winter and we do not believe we can serve the market economically on a year-round basis. During the non-summer season, we provide connections to Greece via other European cities with various airline partners."

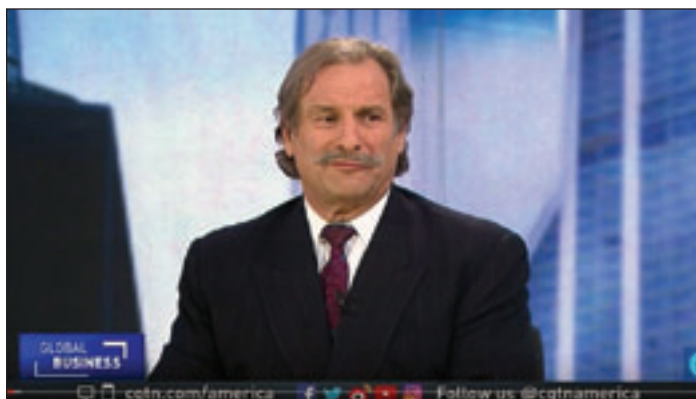
## AHI IN THE NEWS

Moreover, Quayle stated United's position on the open skies policy and "for healthy and fair competition globally" in reference to Emirates Airline's new year-round, non-stop daily service to Athens from Newark, N.J.

President Larigakis thanked United for its reply and added AHI will continue to revisit the idea with the airline.

### AHI IN THE NEWS

#### AHI Legal Counsel Interviewed on Greece's Debt Crisis



Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq.

Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., legal counsel to the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), and partner in Sfikas & Karambelas LLP, appeared on CGTN America's "Global Business America" program, June 15, 2017, to discuss the latest developments with Greece's debt crisis with CGTN's Rachele Akuffo.

In the interview, Karambelas explained the strict measures that Greece has taken to secure the release of 8.5 billion euros from their creditors. He stressed the importance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staying in deal. Karambelas added that last week's agreement provided very little clarity on debt relief. The issue will be punted until December 2017 or January 2018 after the German elections, he told Akuffo. He observed that the measures should be balanced against how they increase commerce and that budget surpluses, econometric models and GDPs are not the same as commerce. AHI is reviewing U.S. government programs which may assist Greece to increase commerce, Karambelas also noted.

### HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS

#### AHI Welcomes Cypriot Member of Parliament Neofytou to Hellenic House

Member of the Cypriot House of Representatives, Averof Neofytou, who chairs the House's Economics and Budget Committee, visited Hellenic House to meet with American Hellenic Institute (AHI) representatives, June 5, 2017.

"We thank Chairman Neofytou for taking time from his itinerary in Washington to meet with us," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "We appreciated the opportunity to discuss policy issues affecting U.S.-Cyprus relations, especially against the backdrop of the visit of Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades to Washington for an impor-

tant series of events."

In addition to serving as the chairman of the Economics and Budget Committee, Mr. Neofytou serves as: President of the governing Democratic Rally (DISY) party, leader of the Cypriot delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA).



Averof Neofytou.

The discussion focused on a wide array of topics, including: AHI's work to keep Cyprus on the agenda of policymakers in Washington, AHI initiatives that serve to strengthen U.S. relations with Cyprus, and regarding the Cyprus settlement talks, the upcoming Conference in Geneva. Also, AHI shared its recently-released letter to the House Foreign Affairs Committee calling for a hearing to reassess relations with Turkey.

In addition to President Larigakis, Konstantinos Polykarpou, Consul at the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, attended the meeting. ■



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### AHI CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRIP TO GREECE, CYPRUS

*Continued from page 1*

“We had a very productive series of high-visibility meetings in Greece and Cyprus,” President Nick Larigakis said. “We accomplished the objectives we set out to achieve, and the briefings we received on issues of importance to the Greek American community were insightful and informative. We thank all of the leaders who took the time to meet with us to discuss these very important issues.”

### AHI Works to Address Many Issues Facing Cyprus



AHI Delegation with Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, Greek Cypriot Negotiator for the Cyprus Problem.

The AHI delegation received multiple briefings from Cypriot and American officials on the status of settlement talks for Cyprus under UN auspices; Cyprus’ efforts to explore for hydrocarbon reserves in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and on Cypriot commerce and tourism sectors. In addition, there were discussions about raising awareness in the United States of the Missing Cypriots issue. All throughout the delegation’s meetings in Cyprus, AHI was commended for its past advocacy and current steadfast efforts to keep the Cyprus issue highly visible with key policymakers in the Obama administration and in the U.S. Congress.



AHI Delegation with Mr. Demetris Syllouris, Speaker of the Cypriot House of Representatives.

During its stay in Cyprus, May 8 and 9, the delegation met with: U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus Kathleen Doherty, President

of the House of Representatives Demetris Syllouris, Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, the chief negotiator for the current settlement talks; Fotis Fotiou, commissioner to the Presidency for Humanitarian Affairs and Overseas Cypriots; His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II, Dr. Stelios Nicolaidis, director, Hydrocarbons Service, Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry, and Tourism; and Lt. General Ilias Leontaris, chief of the National Guard General Staff, who also hosted a dinner for the delegation at the Officers Club.

“Our meetings provided us with a candid assessment of the current state of the settlement talks and other developments in the eastern Mediterranean,” Larigakis said. “AHI believes Turkey must abandon its demand to retain its guarantor power, remove its 40,000 illegally-staged troops, and cease its provocations, if a just and viable solution for all Cypriots is to be reached.”

### Greece: Presentations on Business in U.S., Lobbying Highlight Visit



AHI Delegation briefing with President Pavlopoulos and staff.

Extensive briefings with foreign and defense ministry officials, and two AHI presentations in Athens, were highlights of the delegation’s itinerary in Greece from May 11 to 18, 2017. The itinerary also included the 13th Annual AHI Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner at the Grand Bretagne Hotel, May 17, which drew a record number of attendees at more than 400 persons.



AHI Delegation with Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff.

“Our meetings covered a broad range of issue topics, including: security issues in the Aegean due to Turkish provocations, Greece’s economic crisis, the Cyprus issue, and Greece’s relations with its

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neighbors,” Larigakis said. “We also explored ways in which the Greek American community can strengthen cooperation and enhance relations between Greece and the United States.”

The delegation met with President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos, May 12, and U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt, and Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece Terens Quick, May 16. Briefings with Greek foreign ministry officials occurred May 17 that included: Ambassador Dimitri Alexandrakis, director, A7 Department for North America; and Desk Officers Lambros Kakissis (Cyprus Directorate), Antonios Papakostas, first counselor, Turkey Directorate; and ministry officials from the Balkans Directorate. The delegation also met with Michael Kokkinos, head of General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad, ministry of Foreign Affairs, on May 11.

Extensive meetings with Greek military officials occurred May 15 that included: Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, chief, Hellenic National Defense General Staff (HNDGS); Lt. Gen. Alkiviadis Stefanis, chief, Hellenic Army General Staff; and Lt. Gen. Christos Christodoulou, chief, Hellenic Air Force General Staff; and Lt. Gen. Nikolaos Christopoulos, chief of staff, HNDGS; Brigadier General Angelos Choudeloudis, director, Public Relations Directorate, HNDGS.

Furthermore, the agenda in Greece included a discussion on tourism with Minister of Tourism Elena Kountoura, May 15.

### **AHI Holds Business Forum; AHI President Addresses Two Groups**



*Nick Larigakis receiving a commemorative plaque from the Rotary Clubs in Athens.*



*Nick Karamabelas, Nick Larigakis, Dr. George Tsetsekos delivering a Policy Presentation at the Athens Chamber of Commerce.*

AHI held a presentation in cooperation with the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the topic, “Navigating the U.S. Business World,” at the Chamber’s Hermes Hall, May 15. AHI President Nick Larigakis presented on the role AHI play in Greece’s successful

inclusion in the Overseas Private Investment Corporation’s (OPIC) list of qualifying countries. President Larigakis then moderated a panel discussion featuring Nicholas Karambelas, Esq. Sfikas & Karambelas LLP and AHI volunteer legal counsel; and Dr. George Tsetsekos, dean emeritus, LeBow Business School, Drexel University and AHI board member. Karambelas provided in-depth discussion on the topic of “U.S. Court System, Company Law and Import Law,” that included the legal, tax, and banking aspects of doing business in the United States. Dr. Tsetsekos provided a general overview of the current state of the U.S. economy. Constantine Michalos, president, Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, provided welcoming remarks. The event concluded with a Q&A discussion.

“AHI thanks the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, its president, Constantine Michalos, and Chamber board member, Babis Moraitis, for hosting this informative event, and AHI looks forward to future cooperation.”

Finally, AHI President Nick Larigakis provided two lectures on May 18. The first, to an audience of more than 50 students at the American Community Schools (ACS) in Athens, on the topic of the “Process of Lobbying.” Larigakis serves as a member of the ACS Board of Trustees. In addition, four Rotary chapters hosted Larigakis as a guest speaker at the Athens Club. Larigakis spoke about AHI’s role in U.S.-Greece relations.

### **AHI Hosts 13th Athens Awards Dinner**

The Thirteenth Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner was held May 17, The Grande Bretagne. Honorees were: Katerina Panagopoulos, national ambassador of Greece for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play to the Council of Europe and president, Hellenic Athletic Women’s Association “Kallipateira,” who received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award; and Dimitri Contominas, entrepreneur and chairman of the DEMKO Group, which operates television and radio stations including Alpha TV, who received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award. A record number of attendees, 450 persons, attended.

Ilias Malevitis, president, AHI-Greece, welcomed the audience. AHI Foundation President Constantine Galanis and George C. Economou, president, AHI-Athens Chapter, provided greetings.

AHI President Nick Larigakis also provided remarks. He highlighted the objectives of AHI’s annual trip to Greece and Cyprus and updated the audience regarding how AHI programs are successful in keeping the Greek American community’s policy issues at the forefront of policymakers in Washington as well as how AHI programs help to promote Hellenic heritage and support the Greek American community. Specifically, he touched on AHI’s role with Greece’s inclusion on OPIC’s list of countries, AHI’s work with Lexington Institute on the latter’s white paper on the importance of NSA Souda Bay, Crete; and AHI’s collaboration with American Jewish organizations.

President Larigakis also commended the evening’s honorees. In acceptance, the honorees conveyed their appreciation to AHI and to those who helped them to reach certain milestones in life. Each shared their career experiences and personal stories with the audience.

“Both honorees this evening are extraordinary persons—Katerina Panagopoulos and Dimitri Contominas are two very highly accom-

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plished individuals, who not only have enjoyed outstanding professional and business achievements, but who also find the time to give back the greater community through their dedicated charitable and public service endeavors, and for their promotion of the Hellenic culture and Orthodoxy.”

Olga Bournozi of Capital Link served exceptionally as Master of Ceremonies. In addition to AHI-Greece President Malevitis, and AHI-Athens Chapter President Economou, president, AHI Members Katerina Papathanassiou, Sylvia Gavalla and Angelos Karmaniolas; and Panagiotis Madamopoulos-Moraris contributed to the dinner’s success. Also, a special thank you to AHI Member George Mermelas, who provided public relations support and guidance throughout the event.



*Constantine Galanis greeting the guests at the 13th Annual Awards Dinner in Athens.*

### **AHI Delegation Participants**

On the trip, AHI President Nick Larigakis was accompanied by: AHI Foundation President Constantine Galanis, AHI Board Member Leon Andris and AHI Legislative Director Peter Milios. AHI board

### **AHI PRESIDENT CONCLUDES FIRST VISIT TO AUSTRALIA**

*Continued from page 1*



*At the Embassy of Greece with Amb. Ekaterini Xagorari (center).*

visit to Australia, March 27 to April 11, 2017, where he met with Greek Australian communities and public officials in four cities: Canberra, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney. In each city, he delivered a major speech.

members Kostas Alexakis, Nick Karamabelas, and Dr. George Tsetsekos joined the delegation in Greece only. ■



*George Economou, Constantine Galanis, Nick Larigakis, Ilias Malevitis present Katerina P. Panagopoulos with the Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award.*



*Constantine Galanis, Nick Larigakis, Ilias Malevitis present Dimitri Contominas with the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award.*

President Larigakis began his visit in Canberra where he held discussions with Greek and Cypriot diplomatic representatives and with various Australian members of Parliament as part of the Australian Hellenic Council (AHC) NSW’s lobby day, which is a two-day event. He raised awareness of the pressing issues confronting the eastern Mediterranean with the parliamentarians, including Turkey’s provocations in the Aegean and its intransigence on the Cyprus settlement talks. Larigakis also gave a lecture at the Hellenic Club Woden sponsored by AHC NSW where he reiterated the developments in the eastern Mediterranean and discussed AHI’s work to strengthen relations between the United States and Greece and Cyprus.

“The Australian Hellenic Council applauds the dedication and initiative shown by Nick Larigakis and the American Hellenic Institute in its constant lobbying and advocacy for Greece and wishes them every success in the future,” the organization’s press release stated.

President Larigakis arrived in Melbourne April 2. There, he delivered a lecture to the Greek Australian community on the topic

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“United States Relations with Greece & Cyprus: The Role of the American Hellenic Institute,” on April 3, at The Greek Centre, a 13-story building. The Greek Community of Melbourne and the Pan-Macedonian Association of Melbourne and Victoria sponsored the lecture. Approximately 150 persons attended. In addition, Larigakis met with various ministers of Victoria, Consul General of Greece in Melbourne Christina Simantirakis, and representatives of the Greek and Cypriot Australian community of Melbourne. While in Melbourne, Larigakis was interviewed by two radio stations, SBS Radio and 3 XY, and a newspaper, Neo Kosmos. Finally, he toured the Hellenic Museum Melbourne and attended a dinner afterwards hosted by the Cypriot community of Melbourne in his honor.



Larigakis speaks during the reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Perth.

In Perth, The Right Honorable the Lord Mayor of Perth, Lisa Scaffidi, hosted a welcome reception in President Larigakis' honor and presented him with a commemorative gift, April 6. The reception was held at the city's Council House, which was lit in blue and white, and attended by 90 persons. In addition, Larigakis spoke to the high school students and teachers of Saint Andrew's Grammar K-12 School (akin to a Greek charter school) and toured its campus and E & M Petrelis Amphitheater. President Larigakis and 10 leading businessmen were hosted for lunch by the newly elected Member of the Legislative Assembly Mr. Peter Katsambanis at the State



Visit to Sydney Jewish Museum (L-R) Norman Seligman, CEO of Museum; Peter Wertheim, Executive Director, Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Inc.; Nick Larigakis; John Kallimanis, Grand President, AHEPA NSW & NZ Grand Lodge.

Parliament House, April 7. On April 8, President Larigakis delivered a lecture to 80 persons at Alexander the Great Club in Inglewood, which was also sponsored by Australian Hellenic Council of Western

Australia. In sum, Larigakis addressed 330 people on topics ranging from the eastern Mediterranean policy and the diaspora's involvement, to the Cyprus issue, to religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, during his visit to Perth.

President Larigakis's visit to Australia included two stops in Sydney. The first, March 31 to April 2, included a meeting with Consul General of Greece in Sydney Dr. Stavros Kyrimis; a luncheon with 16 leading Greek Australian businesspersons sponsored by John Azarias, a former Greek diplomat, at the Australia Club; and a tour of the Sydney Jewish Museum. In addition, Commodore of the Royal Motor Yacht Club of New South Wales John Barbouttis, provided Larigakis with a tour of Sydney Harbour.

President Larigakis returned to Sydney, April 9 to 11, where he delivered his fourth major speech of the trip to the Greek Australian community of Sydney at the AHEPA Australia House on April 10.



Visiting with His Eminence Archbishop of Australia Stylianos, (L-R) George Vellis, Coordinator, AHC; Greek Consul General in Sydney, Dr Stavros Kyrimis.

AHEPA Australia and Australian Hellenic Council (AHC) sponsored Larigakis's presentation. Also on April 10, President Larigakis met with His Eminence Archbishop of Australia Stylianos; and AHC Coordinator George Vellis provided Larigakis with a tour of Sydney. Grand President of AHEPA Grand Lodge of NSW and New Zealand John Kallimanis hosted President Larigakis for a dinner with community leaders on April 9.

### Special Acknowledgements & In Gratitude

"I sincerely thank the dynamic members of the Greek Australian community for their generous hospitality and for organizing an impactful itinerary of meetings and events in each of the four cities I visited," Larigakis said. "I appreciated the opportunity to hold discussions with key officials and to share AHI's message about the important work the Institute performs regarding policy toward Greece and Cyprus with all audiences."

President Larigakis added: "My sincere gratitude to George Vellis, George Vardas, Elly Symons of the AHC for helping to organize the Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne portions of my trip. My appreciation also goes to Consul General of Greece in Sydney, Dr. Stavros Kyrimis, for all his invaluable assistance in Sydney. Furthermore, thank you to AHEPA Grand President John Kallimanis and AHEPA Grand Secretary Dr. Panayiotis Diamadis for their hospitality.

"Additionally, thank you to Commodore John Barbouttis for an incredible, breathtaking two-hour tour of Sydney Harbour and to

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the president of Greek community of Melbourne, Bill Papastergiadis, who hosted a welcome dinner upon my arrival in Melbourne and who helped to organize my Melbourne speech.



With Members of the Australian Hellenic Council at Australian Parliament. (L-R) George Vellis; George Vardas; Elly Symons; Senator Arthur Sinodinos, Minister for Industry-Innovation & Science; Larigakis; Michael Christodoulides.

“Finally, my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Con Barbatis, longtime AHI supporter and representative of the Australian Hellenic Council in Perth, Western Australia, who organized my great visit to Perth, but more importantly, who invited me to Australia and helped to coordinate the entire trip, including for his underwriting for a major portion of my overall trip.”

For more, including press releases issued in Australia that summarized event, please visit [www.ahiworld.org](http://www.ahiworld.org). ■

### AHIF RECEIVES GIFT FROM E. JOHN & CLEO RUMPAKIS

*Continued from page 1*



*E. John and Cleo Rumpakis of Portland, Ore.*

The donation, which was made in December 2016, is one of the largest gifts received by AHIF, and will go toward AHI’s Foundation Library in Hellenic House, according to AHI President Nick Larigakis. AHI’s Foundation Library will be rededicated and named in honor of E. John and Cleo Rumpakis, he added.

“We are deeply grateful to E. John and Cleo Rumpakis for their very generous gift to the American Hellenic Institute Foundation,” President Larigakis said. “Their gift will enhance the Foundation’s ability to be a resource for the community. Thanks to the immense generosity of the Rumpakises, we will now be able to properly catalog, restore and present the more than 1,000 volumes, archival materials and historical documents in our possession, thereby creating a remarkable library that will serve the community as one of the most unique collections on Greece, Cyprus and the southeast Mediterranean.”

“Over the years, AHI has proven it holds true to the rule of law, especially to the principle that no one, or nation, is above it,” E. John Rumpakis said. “AHI actively engages with Congress, the White House and State Department, keeping them informed and updated on policy developments. AHI has earned their respect and is a proven resource through the Institute’s programs.”

The Rumpakises added the AHI Foundation helps to educate the youth about the civic and political processes through internships and raises awareness of Hellenism through seminars and conferences throughout the world. They also cited their longstanding relationship with AHI as a viable and stable organization through its strong leadership as a reason for the gift to the AHI Foundation. ■

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