



*Embassy of Greece
Washington, D. C.*

The Ambassador

**Message from H.E. the Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic
Haris Lalacos
on the occasion of the American Hellenic Institute
44th Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards Dinner
(Saturday, March 9, 2019 Capital Hilton Hotel, Washington DC)**

The American Hellenic Institute is a long-standing and credible partner for the Greek Embassy in Washington DC. It is always a pleasure to participate in the annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner, an event that brings together a great number of successful and creative Greek Americans and Philhellenes.

Through a number of events and initiatives, the American Hellenic Institute offers the opportunity to multiple U.S. stakeholders for an in-depth understanding on issues related to Greece, Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean region in general. The effort to effectively connect decision-makers in the United States with interlocutors in Greece works to the benefit of Greece-USA strategic partnership and broader regional cooperation, primarily with the Republic of Cyprus.

Greece's dynamic foreign policy promotes a positive agenda to the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean by establishing new partnerships and releasing opportunities for economic growth and collective security. We are committed towards achieving these goals. A dynamism reflected as well in last December's successful inauguration of the Greece-USA Strategic Dialogue framework that paves the way for an enhanced and multi-faceted partnership in the future.

I warmly congratulate this year's outstanding Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Honorees that represent excellence in a wide range of professional, social and communal activities. Gratitude goes to Ambassador Patrick Theros, Eleni Bousis, Nicholas E. Chimicles and Dr. Spiros Spireas for their invaluable contribution to the cause of Hellenism in America and the world.

Haris Lalacos
Ambassador of Greece to the United States