



# AHi

## ANNUAL REPORT

# 2018

American Hellenic Institute  
American Hellenic Institute Foundation





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
BOARD OF DIRECTORS .....	3
PUBLIC POLICY: AN OVERVIEW .....	11
LEGISLATIVE & POLICY INITIATIVES .....	14
MEDIA RELATIONS .....	17
AWARDS DINNER .....	19
LEADERSHIP VISITS ABROAD .....	21
BRIEFINGS, CONFERENCES & FORUMS .....	23
GENERAL NEWS .....	29
HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS.....	33
AHI FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS & INITIATIVES .....	34
AHIF COLLEGE STUDENT FOREIGN POLICY TRIP TO GREECE & CYPRUS .....	35
FUTURE OF HELLENISM IN AMERICA CONFERENCE .....	37
ATHENS AWARDS DINNER.....	39
LEADERSHIP, AWARDS & STAFF NEWS.....	40

### **AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE**

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## Introduction

Dear Members and Friends:

As the American Hellenic Institute marks its 44<sup>th</sup> year as the only Greek American think-tank and public policy center, I am proud to present the Institute's 2018 Annual Report. 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 on policies of importance to Greek Americans are encapsulated in this report.

In 2018, AHI issued 76 press releases detailing our numerous policy activities and events. These activities included: the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner; the 17<sup>th</sup> annual "Future of Hellenism in America" conference; the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner in Athens; our annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" on Capitol Hill; our 5<sup>th</sup> annual "Greek Heritage Night" with the Philadelphia Phillies that provides tremendous public exposure for Greece and our Greek heritage; our annual trips to Greece and Cyprus, including our landmark 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Study Abroad Program; and our numerous public policy conferences and forums.

At AHI, the majority of our efforts focus on advancing U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus as in the best interests of the U.S., and to support the Greek American community. In this regard, we engaged policymakers in the Trump administration and Congress through policy letters, testimony, and face-to-face meetings with high-ranking administration officials and a significant number of members of Congress and their staffs. To keep our key audiences informed, we circulate op-ed pieces and articles in addition to publishing our Capital Reports and hosting policy forums. AHI also remains an important resource for media outlets seeking the Greek American perspective on U.S. policy in the Eastern Mediterranean. Moreover, AHI places letters to the editor and AHI staff and board members appear in media interviews. Furthermore, the AHI Foundation published the ninth volume of its Online Policy Journal that provides expert policy analysis and commentary.

AHI hosted policy forums, conferences and roundtable discussions in the U.S. and abroad. For example, AHI hosted intimate Washington, DC-based events for high-level Greek military officials with U.S. government officials, defense sector executives, and community leaders intended to raise awareness of Greece's strategic importance to the United States and to advance U.S.-Greece defense cooperation. As a result, AHI's policy objectives came to fruition in 2018. For example, for NSA Souda Bay's geostrategic importance to the national security interests of the United States were accomplished with the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (NDAA). The Act authorized \$47.85 million in military construction funding for NSA Souda Bay, a further indication of increased defense cooperation between the United States and Greece. In addition, Congress appropriated a significant boost to Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) program for FY2018 thanks to AHI's

advocacy. For FY18, Congress provided \$1 million for the program. On the Cyprus issue, AHI organized two presentations abroad in March titled, "The Cyprus Crisis: A Declassified Dossier" that featured AHI Foundation Graduate Fellow Gregory Graves' 31 volumes of research he has conducted on the Cyprus crisis. Graves presented to the Cypriot House of Representatives and to an audience at the University of Piraeus.

Further, the Institute especially is proud several dignitaries visited Hellenic House in 2018. Among the visitors were: Greece's Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides and Ambassador of Cyprus to the United States Marios Lyssiotis; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Matthew Palmer, Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, and His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine. Moreover, AHI's work has been commended by members of Congress, U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt, and Admiral Apostolakis, among others.

Also, I am pleased AHI's close-working collaboration with leading American Jewish organizations and AHEPA in support for the burgeoning Greece-Cyprus-Israel partnership continued with two events that bookended 2018. In January, a third Leadership Mission to Greece, Cyprus and Israel proved fruitful, and in December, I had the honor to present on a panel at a major International Conference held in Jerusalem organized by B'nai B'rith International and The Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies. In an increasingly dangerous 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. Separately, in a first, I had the privilege to meet and speak with the dynamic Hellenic community of Vienna, Austria, and meet with OSCE officials—a truly momentous moment in AHI's history.

We accomplished all these initiatives thanks to the dedication of AHI's Board of Directors and Policy Fellows, with the assistance from our staff, and support from our members. In December 2018, our legislative director, Peter Milios, moved on, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors; and Elias Gerasoulis joined our staff and will be our legislative director. I am proud both young professionals are products of AHI Foundation's Foreign Policy Trip. Working together, AHI is not only returning to the influence it had in the 1970s, but in some ways even going beyond the most seminal moments of its early years.

## 2019: New Congress, Many New Faces

AHI aspires to continue the momentum generated from the beneficial programs we have offered to the community. We aim to build upon our elevated status and prestige and the partnerships forged to achieve even more policy successes in the future. We are always looking for innovative ways to improve service to our membership base, to better address our core agenda, and to cultivate opportunities

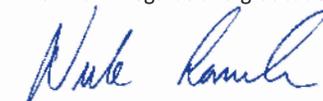
to positively influence the Greek American community and U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus.

The Eastern Mediterranean remains immensely important to U.S. interests, and we must advance and promote policies that embrace the rule of law. Greece is a reliable, steady, and trusted NATO ally—a frontline state in the fight against terrorism. On the other hand, Turkey's troublesome foreign policy direction, which includes unprecedented heightened Turkish aggression in the Aegean and in Cyprus' exclusive economic zone (EEZ), is ongoing and unnecessarily places lives in harm's way, and furthermore, must be called out. As Cyprus settlement talks have halted, Turkey still maintains more than 40,000 illegal troops on the island and insists on keeping its guarantor status in a post-settlement unified Cyprus, which is unacceptable. There has been no progress with respect to religious freedom in Turkey, including the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, despite calls from entities such as the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to address it. We must be extremely vigilant to make certain the United States ensures FYROM adheres to all elements of the Prespes Agreement, and does not deviate from the agreement, if it is ratified. All these issues require our collective attention and action.

Therefore, as advocates for the rule of law, we must work to educate a new 116<sup>th</sup> Congress; one which will welcome at least 100 non-incumbent winners. The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress also will be the most diverse. It remains a significant challenge to educate new legislators and keep incumbents informed and engaged on our policy issues. Also, amid a cramped foreign policy agenda in Washington, we will continue to work with the Trump Administration to sustain the welcomed high-level of engagement with the inaugural U.S.-Greece Strategic Dialogue and with the Statement of Intent the U.S. signed with Cyprus. Further, we must never forget that April 24, 2019 marks the 104<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armenian Genocide. Finally, AHI is excited to build upon the success of world-class, uplifting programs such as our study abroad program for college students while exploring additional ways to encourage growth in commerce, trade, and investment between the United States and Greece fresh off of 2018's productive Thessaloniki International Fair where the U.S. was the "Honored Country."

As I reflect on 2018, I am deeply grateful and appreciative of the members, board officers and staff for their dedication. Everyone worked together to make it another productive year. Alongside our own activities in Washington, and abroad, AHI's strength relies on the many significant contributions and generous support of our members. 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,



Nick Larigakis  
President



**AHi**  
**AMERICAN  
HELLENIC  
INSTITUTE**

**AHiF**  
**AMERICAN  
HELLENIC  
INSTITUTE  
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**

*President & Chief Operating Officer*

**NICK LARIGAKIS** has held different positions with the AHI since joining the organization in 1987. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the College of New Jersey, and did post graduate work in International Affairs at the American University in Washington, DC. For his work in support of Hellenism, Mr. Larigakis has been honored with the 1995 Hermes Expo International Award, the 2007 Hellenic News of America Award, the 2008 Society of the Argonauts Award, and by the Greek Independence Day Committee of Tarpon Springs, FL, where he served as Honorary Grand Marshall of the 2001 and 2009 parades.

Other recognitions include an honorary award from the Hellenic National Defense General Staff. He is a member of AHEPA, and received the Inaugural AHEPA Outstanding Public Advocacy Award (April 2012). During the 2004 Olympic Games he served as a volunteer. In 2003, Mr. Larigakis was invested as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. As of the fall of 2013, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the American Community Schools of Athens and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation USA. In 2015, he received the St. Katherine Community Service Award in Falls Church, Virginia.



### **JAMES H. LAGOS, ESQ.**

*Vice President*

**JAMES H. LAGOS, ESQ.** is a partner in the law firm of Lagos & Lagos PLL in Springfield, Ohio. He and his wife Nike are restoring the Bushnell Building in Downtown Springfield. This is the oldest and largest building in America that is both Platinum LEED Certified by the US Green Building Council and on the National Historic Register. It is in a newly designated Opportunity Zone. It is a smart office/retail building for lease or sale. They have extensively renovated 5 secure industrial/warehouse buildings in South Carolina which

are available for lease or sale. Jim has held every office in his local Chamber of Commerce at least twice. He Chaired the Ohio Small Business Council and National Small Business Association. He has testified on small business issues in both Houses of Congress and General Assembly of Ohio. He received the first ever national Small Business Advocate of the Year award by the US Small Business Administration. He has been on the Boards of AHI and AHIF since the early 1980s. He is a Chanter and Treasurer of the Assumption Church. He served 2 separate 6 year terms as President of the Parish Council. He received the Saint Paul the Apostle Medal from Archbishop Iakovos. He is a 49 year AHEPA member and a member of the National Hellenic Society.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### **NICK KARAMBELAS, ESQ.**

*Treasurer*

**NICK KARAMBELAS, ESQ.** is a founding partner of Sfikas & Karambelas, LLP and practices in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Maryland, New York City, NY with correspondent offices in Athens, Greece and Nicosia, Cyprus. He practices in the areas of business entity organization, international law and business transactions, e-commerce, securities, and franchising. He has written a treatise and numerous articles on business organization, transactional law and international law. Mr. Karambelas holds a B.A. from Union College, a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and a Master of International Affairs (M.I.A.)

from Columbia University School of Public and International Affairs. Mr. Karambelas is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Hellenic Institute and the American Hellenic Institute Foundation. He chairs the American Hellenic Lawyers' Society of Greater Washington, D.C. He is Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the American Community Schools of Athens, Inc. (Greece). Mr. Karambelas was named Attorney of the Year for 2015 by the Hellenic Lawyers Association of New York City. He was elected as Secretary of the D.C. Bar and served for 2004-2005. He is a CLE lecturer and teaches numerous areas of law including company law, international business transactions and commercial law to other attorneys.



### **KOSTAS ALEXAKIS, ESQ.**

*Secretary*

**KOSTAS ALEXAKIS, ESQ.** is a Businessman, Engineer, Lawyer and political activist. Mr. Alexakis 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. Public Sector's clients are in 21 states in the U.S. and the company also supports clients in Canada and the Caribbean. Mr. Alexakis started his career as an engineer with a degree in electrical engineering and computer science from George Washington University in Washington, DC. He is licensed to practice law in all state and federal court in Maryland and Virginia and is admitted to the Bar of the US Supreme Court. Mr. Alexakis also controls companies involved in real estate development, real estate management, and restaurants. In addition, he is actively involved in the Greek American community and entered politics in 2004 when he was the Democratic Party's nominee for Congress in Maryland's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. He continues to be active with the Democratic Party nationally and in Maryland.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**LEON ANDRIS**, a native Washingtonian, has been a member of AHI since its inception and a Board member since 2014. A graduate electrical engineer, Leon spent his career in real estate, specializing in multi-family affordable housing. He is a 47-year member and five-time president of Saint George in Bethesda and currently serves as Chair of the Technology Committee of the Archdiocesan Council. He and his wife,

Robyn live in Georgetown, D.C. but spend time on the Eastern Shore of MD and his ancestral village of Tsintzina in the Parnon Mountains near Sparta.



**DR. ATHINA BALTA** is a practicing attorney licensed in DC and New York and an Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University Law School teaching trial advocacy. Dr. Balta has a PhD in Public Administration and Policy with a focus on Space, Science and Technology and an LLM in Litigation from George Washington University, a JD from the University of Oxford in the UK, a BA in International Affairs and an MA in

International Law from the American University in Washington DC. Prior to establishing her own practice Dr. Balta worked at NASA, the World Bank, ING and the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Athina Balta Law Group PLLC provides transactional and litigation services to a wide variety of businesses, including, legal and policy advice in the aerospace and defense arena, US immigration law and assistance to individuals with property and inheritance matters in Greece and naturalization applications for Americans with Greek descent.



**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. Mr. Bota received his under graduate degree from Hofstra University in 1987. He believes in the importance of giving back to

the community, supporting many charities, schools and worthy causes. Mr. Bota resides in Arlington, VA with his wife Marta an entrepreneur and former Ms. Virginia 2016. Together they have a grown son Christopher.



**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. Mr. Chimicles is a

graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Virginia School of Law, and has served as a member of the board of directors of numerous non-profit organizations that serve the underrepresented and underprivileged. Mr. Chimicles is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an Archon and member of Leadership 100. He and his wife Kathleen have five children and two grandchildren and live in Devon PA.



**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. Between 2012-2014 he served as President of the Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency of the Government of Greece. He has authored and edited several books and over 100 articles published in academic journals and books in the US and Europe. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and honorary doctorates from Indiana University and from the University of Nicosia. In 1998, the President of Greece awarded him the decoration of the order of the Phoenix for his contributions to Hellenic letters.



**DEMITRIOS HALAKOS** has resided in Delaware since emigrating to the United States from Greece in 1985, after having received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from T.E.I. in Patras. He is a founder and principal of Halakos Management and various subsidiaries consisting of real estate holdings in several states and restaurant/entertainment enterprises. Halakos is a former member of the Parish Council of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Wilmington, Del., and he currently serves on its investment committee. Also, Halakos is a proud member and benefactor to AHEPA Chapter 95, Wilmington. Halakos is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a member of Leadership 100, and the National Hellenic Society. In addition, he currently serves on the Metropolitan Council of the Metropolis of New Jersey. Halakos, and his wife, Georgia, reside in Greenville, Del., with their two children, Billy and Dia.



**ALEXANDROS (ALECO) HARALAMBIDES** is a native of Miami, Florida who is a staunch believer in the preservation and promotion of Hellenism. Aleco is one of the founding members 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 nonperforming mortgage loans. Aleco has also been an attorney for twenty years. He served as President of the American Hellenic Institute from 2009 to 2010.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**JAMES L. MARKETOS, ESQ.** is a partner with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe, LLP. A member of the New York and District of Columbia bars, he specializes in corporate litigation, representing private clients in state and federal courts throughout the United States. He received his Bachelor's degree from Princeton University and his Juris Doctor degree from New York

University where he was Co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Annual Survey of American Law* and was awarded the law school's Vanderbilt Medal. From 1997 to 2008, he served as chairman of the American Hellenic Institute, Inc.



**JAMES PEDAS** has a long history in the entertainment industry. While attending George Washington University Law School, he and his brother Ted established a recording company, Colt 45 Records, that launched the musical career of Don Covay. Later they partnered to acquire several drive-in movie theatres and with another partner they bought a film distribution franchise. They have been

involved in numerous film ventures over the years including owning the Circuit/Showcase theatre circuit; owning a small part of Cinema 5 Ltd.; forming their own distribution company, Circle Releasing Corp., and forming their own production company, Circle Films, which was one of the foremost backers of 1990s American independent cinema. Among their most noted productions are the Coen brothers' debut and sophomore films, "Blood Simple" (1984) and "Raising Arizona" (1987). Jim earned a Bachelor of Science in economics from Thiel College and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for Professional Accomplishment in 1980. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from Thiel and was named trustee emeritus to the Board of Trustees. He has been the recipient of numerous awards for his work in promoting motion pictures as an art form, including being named Washingtonian of the Year (1973) and receiving the American University's Award for Contribution to Film Culture (1985). He is on the boards of Thiel College and The Washington Hospital Center. He established the James Pedas Communications Chair at Thiel in 1989 and the James Pedas Communication Center, a state-of-the-art technology, collaborative teaching and learning space, which was dedicated at Thiel College in 2014. He is a supporter of many philanthropic endeavors, including establishing an Intellectual Property Chair at George Washington Law School. He has served as a director of the National Capital Bank of Washington since 1973.



**GENE ROSSIDES**, retired senior partner of the law firm of Rogers and Wells now Clifford Chance, served as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department from 1969 to 1973, where he supervised the U.S. Customs Service, Secret Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and a U.S. Representative to INTERPOL. In 1982-1984, he served as

a member of the Executive Committee of the Grace Commission, the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control in the Federal Government. From 1958 to 1961, he was Assistant to the Treasury Under Secretary in the Eisenhower Administration and is a founding director of the Eisenhower Institute. Following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974, Gene founded the American Hellenic Institute and the AHI Foundation. He has authored and edited several books and articles including *Kissinger & Cyprus - A Study in Lawlessness*. He holds a B.A. from Columbia College and a J.D. degree from Columbia Law School and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the American College of Greece. He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a member of Leadership 100 and the AHEPA. In 1972, he was awarded the Columbia University Medal for Excellence and the Young Lawyer's Award from the Columbia Law School Alumni Association. In 1974, he was chosen by the National Collegiate Athletic Association as one of five recipients of its Silver Anniversary Award. In 1994, he received the Columbia College John Jay Award. Gene is the recipient of the Commander of the Order of the Phoenix by the President of Greece, the Republic of Cyprus Presidential Exceptional Service Medal, the AHEPA Archbishop Iakovos Award, and the AHEPA-Stamos Family Lifetime Achievement Award. He and his wife, Aphrodite, reside in Washington, DC. He has 4 children and 6 grandchildren.



**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. Prior to his appointment as Dean, he served as VP of Academic Administration at Drexel

University. Dr. Tsetsekos' extensive research covers the broad areas of corporate finance, investments and banking and teaches MBA finance courses. Dr. Tsetsekos has served on the advisory boards of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, the Penjerdel Council, the Pennsylvania Economy League, the World Trade, and other organizations and has chaired the Board of the Global Interdependence Center (GIC). In addition, Dr. Tsetsekos has been engaged in consulting and advisory roles in public companies and organizations including The World Bank, SEC, Bear Stearns, and FannieMae. Dr. Tsetsekos has served on the Board of AHI since 2009.

*"...one of the most effective lobbies in Washington is that of Greek Americans...most effective has been the American Hellenic Institute."*

— Time Magazine (1974)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**CONSTANTINE A. GALANIS**

*President*

**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. He received both his Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering and his Master's in Business Administration from Rutgers University. Mr. Galanis is president of the AHI Foundation and serves as honorary Counsel of the Republic of Cyprus in Mexico. In recognition of his outstanding service to the Orthodox

Faith, he was conferred the title of Archon by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.



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*"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 decision-makers 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, Ambassador of Greece to the U.S.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**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. He is chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation USA and serves on the Board of Trustees of DRWF's sister organizations in the UK, France, Sweden, Norway, and Finland.

John is also a member of the University of Maryland College Park Foundation Board of Trustees and a member of the Board of Trustees of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. In 2009, John was honored with the title of Archon Depoutatos of the Great Church of Christ by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar.



**GUS ANDY** is a city planner, a real estate developer, a businessman and an entrepreneur with over 40 years of experience. In 1969 Mr. Andy purchased a small motel along the Atlantic Ocean and successfully built it into one of the most contemporary 141 room hotel in Cape May, NJ. He has also been successful in developing several other properties in Cape May and is currently working on developing a large tract of real estate in North Carolina. Mr. Andy is a strong zealot of education. He holds a

Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture and a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Oklahoma. When a job landed him in Tallahassee, Florida he enrolled at the Florida State University where he took business courses while working full time. Mr. Andy is very active in local civic politics, serving on several committees and boards, most recent, the Tourism Commission and the City Planning Board. He is also very active in the local Greek American Community and the American Hellenic Institute in Washington DC. He is a passionate and vocal advocate for freeing Cyprus from Turkish oppression and returning the Elgin marbles to Greece. Mr. Andy is a strong believer in the rule of law in all the fundamental principles of the United States as applied to our foreign affairs. He is an active member of both St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Miami, Florida and St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Wildwood, NJ. He has a great love for his family and has engaged his four children to cherish their Greek heritage and culture.



**NICK LARIGAKIS** has held different positions with the AHI since joining the organization in 1987. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the College of New Jersey, and did post graduate work in International Affairs at the American University in Washington, DC. For his work in support of Hellenism, Mr. Larigakis has been honored with the 1995 Hermes Expo International Award, the 2007 Hellenic News of America Award, the 2008 Society

of the Argonauts Award, and by the Greek Independence Day Committee of Tarpon Springs, FL, where he served as Honorary Grand Marshall of the 2001 and 2009 parades. Other recognitions include an honorary award from the Hellenic National Defense General Staff. He is a member of AHEPA, and received the Inaugural AHEPA Outstanding Public Advocacy Award (April 2012). During the 2004 Olympic Games he served as a volunteer. In 2003, Mr. Larigakis was invested as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. As of the fall of 2013, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the American Community Schools of Athens and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation USA. In 2015, he received the St. Katherine Community Service Award in Falls Church, Virginia.



**ELENI A. ROSSIDES** is the Customer Experience & Growth Advisor for the Americas at Marriott International. She supports the development of consumer needs and synthesizing research insights, data and analytics into usable and actionable steps for the Americas, the largest Continent within Marriott International's portfolio of over 5,700 hotels and 30 brands. Prior to Marriott International, Eleni worked as a consultant at McKinsey & Company focused in their marketing and branding practices and in marketing strategy and consumer insights at Black & Decker. Most recently she led the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (WTEF) with a 50-member board and 70-member staff through a major organizational transformation and built a state-of-the-art tennis, academic and community center in a low-income neighborhood. Eleni is a former professional tennis player with a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, where she was selected All-American; captured the #1 women's ranking in the country and was the first woman to be on four straight National Championship tennis teams. She earned an MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. She is a native Washingtonian who currently lives in Maryland with her husband and three children.

*"I am a staunch believer in the work of the American Hellenic Institute, and I have always said that if it didn't exist, we should have invented it."*

— Alexandros Mallias, Former Ambassador of Greece to the U.S.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**GENE ROSSIDES**, retired senior partner of the law firm of Rogers and Wells now Clifford Chance, served as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department from 1969 to 1973, where he supervised the U.S. Customs Service, Secret Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tabaco and Firearms and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and a U.S. Representative to INTERPOL. In 1982-1984, he served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Grace Commission, the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control in the Federal Government. From 1958 to 1961, he was Assistant to the Treasury Under Secretary in the Eisenhower Administration and is a founding director of the Eisenhower Institute. Following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974, Gene founded the American Hellenic Institute and the AHIF Foundation. He has authored and edited several books and articles including *Kissinger & Cyprus – A Study in Lawlessness*. He holds a B.A. from Columbia College and a J.D. degree from Columbia Law School and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the American College of Greece. He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a member of Leadership 100 and the AHEPA. In 1972, he was awarded the Columbia University Medal for Excellence and the Young Lawyer's Award from the Columbia Law School Alumni Association. In 1974, he was chosen by the National Collegiate Athletic Association as one of five recipients of its Silver Anniversary Award. In 1994, he received the Columbia College John Jay Award. Gene is the recipient of the Commander of the Order of the Phoenix by the President of Greece, the Republic of Cyprus Presidential Exceptional Service Medal, the AHEPA Archbishop Iakovos Award, and the AHEPA-Stamos Family Lifetime Achievement Award. He and his wife, Aphrodite, reside in Washington, DC. He has 4 children and 6 grandchildren.



**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. He is the inventor and author of more than 130 international and domestic patents and patent applications, and more than 200 scientific papers, books, and other publications in the fields of industrial pharmacy, pharmaceutical technology, biopharmaceutics, pharmacokinetics and analytical chemistry. Dr. Spireas holds a Master's degree and a Doctorate (Ph.D.) degree in Pharmaceutics and Industrial Pharmacy from St. John's University, Jamaica, NY, and a B.S. degree in Pharmacy from the Hellenic National University of Athens, Greece. Dr. Spireas is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a member of the Metropolitan Council of the Greek

Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, and a Parish Council member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church at Trenton, NJ, where he has also served for 4 years (2009-2012) as the President of its Parish Council. In addition, Dr. Spireas served as president of AHIF Foundation (2011-2016) and is a member of AHEPA. He resides in New Hope, PA, with his wife Dr. Amalia Kassapidis-Spireas, a pediatrician, and their two children.



**KYRIAKOS TSAKOPOULOS** is Co-chairman of AKT Development Corporation and AKT Investments Inc., a diversified, family-owned land company. The company operates real estate, farming, ranching, water, minerals, building and land development projects throughout Northern and Central California. Prior to becoming the company's Co-chairman, Tsakopoulos reorganized all AKT holdings, projects and operations in Placer County, including the entitlement and donation of 1,100 acres to build a private four-year university. Tsakopoulos is active in regional, national and international civic affairs and educational policy. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Columbia University and previously served on the Columbia College Board of Visitors. He founded the "Aristotle and the Moderns Chair" in Hellenic Studies at Columbia. He is a trustee emeritus of the California State University System and chairman emeritus of the University of California, Davis M.I.N.D. Research Institute, among many other public service board and commission appointments. In 2008, he was selected to be a member of the Forum of Young Global Leaders by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University and a juris doctor from the McGeorge School of Law.

*"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, AHIF continues to set the standard of passionate, reasoned education and advocacy. For the twenty-plus years of our Caucus' existence, AHIF 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

### 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 an immensely valuable, proven, and reliable strategic ally for the U.S. despite its economic difficulties. 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, on the island of Crete. December’s inaugural U.S.-Greece Strategic Dialogue is a further recognition of the mutual commitment of both countries to deepen their cooperation and relationship.

AHI has championed vigorously Greece’s strategic importance to the United States and advocated for a strengthening of U.S.-Greece defense cooperation, especially during the past two to three years. AHI has worked extensively to organize high-profile events in Washington and Athens that featured high-ranking Greek and U.S. government officials. These events also aim to bring together Greece’s top military officials with key representatives of the defense sector. AHI has collaborated with think-tanks to publish white paper/reports about Greece’s importance to the United States’ security interests, and NSA Souda Bay’s critical role to project those interests. Moreover, AHI has worked with our allies on Capitol Hill to seek an increased investment in NSA Souda Bay, Crete and Greece’s International Military Education and Training (IMET) program, especially in written testimony to Congress. **As a result, many of AHI’s policy objectives to strengthen the U.S.-Greece Partnership came to fruition in 2018:**

- The final FY2018 appropriations bill provided \$1 million for Greece’s IMET program—a significant boost in the program’s funding and \$850,000 above the Administration’s FY18 requested level.
- Report language that accompanied the FY2018 spending bill requires the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress recommending how Foreign Military Financing can be used to support Greece’s purchase of F-16 upgrades.
- The National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (NDAA) authorized \$47.85 million in military construction funding for NSA Souda Bay, Crete.

Additionally, in a nod to the value of the policy opinions of the American Hellenic Institute, Greek government officials sought the Institute’s perspective in the lead-up to the inaugural U.S.-Greece Strategic Dialogue, which was held Dec. 13 in Washington, D.C. During his December visit to Athens, President Nick Larigakis met with Alternate Foreign Minister George Katrougalos, who led the Greek delegation to the Strategic Dialogue. Following their meeting, AHI presented a memo to Alternate Foreign Minister Katrougalos which set forth the opinions of AHI in connection with issues that are relevant to United States policies. Further, President Larigakis exchanged ideas about the Strategic Dialogue

during a one-hour, 15-minute meeting with Diplomatic Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister Evangelos Kalpadakis.

Finally, AHI’s policy objectives were reaffirmed during the visit of Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to Athens, Greece, in September 2018. Gen. Dunford placed importance on NSA Souda Bay and the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program’s contribution toward a deepening relationship between the United States and Greece.

### Greece-Turkey Relations

AHI closely monitors Greece-Turkey relations to keep key U.S. government officials apprised of developments that affect U.S. interests in the eastern Mediterranean. AHI supports a policy that encourages a normalization of relations between the two countries that is firmly based on international law and a reversal of aggression. AHI also believes it is in the best interest of the U.S. to support stable relations between these two countries by proactively promoting the rule of law.

In particular, AHI notes the following areas as the fundamental causes of problems between Greece and Turkey:

- Turkey’s unilateral claims against sovereign Greek territory in the Aegean in violation of international law, and its refusal to refer its unilateral claims to binding international arbitration;
- Turkey’s aggression against Cyprus which includes its continuing illegal occupation of 37.3 percent of Cyprus, and at extended period of times in recent years, has included incursions into Cyprus’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and demonstrated “gunboat diplomacy;”
- Turkey’s continuing violations of Greece’s territorial waters and airspace (more than **5,500** infringements and violations of Greece’s airspace and territorial waters occurred **as of October 31, 2018**); and
- Illegal immigration via Turkey that threatens Greek democracy.

In sum, the threat of *casus belli* still stands, and Greece continues to register a considerable number of formal complaints over continued violations of the Greek airspace and territorial waters by Turkey. The most egregious in recent years occurred in February 2018 when a Turkish coastguard vessel collided with a stationary Greek coastguard vessel near the Greek island of Imia.

As a result of Turkey’s “gunboat diplomacy,” which has elevated tensions in the eastern Mediterranean, and is a source of instability in the region, especially via its egregious violations of Greece’s sovereignty in the Aegean Sea on an almost daily basis, AHI wrote to President Donald Trump, urging the administration to act to uphold the rule of law and to call on Turkey to cease and desist with its aggressive actions that are a threat to peace and stability and are not in the best interests of the United States. U.S. Representative Gus Bilirakis submitted AHI’s letter to President Trump into the Congressional Record. Furthermore, AHI backed a congressional letter to President Donald Trump on the same topic which 16 U.S. representatives signed.

## The Cyprus Problem

In 2018, the community observed the somber 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Turkey's continued insistence on antiquated and obstructive stances, such as the Treaty of Guarantee, which would allow for future unilateral Turkish military interventions and is completely unacceptable and contradicts the governing principals of a European Union member state, led to the collapse of 2017's Conference on Cyprus in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. Moreover, Turkey refuses to withdraw its more than 40,000 illegally-stationed troops on Cyprus. The withdrawal of Turkish troops would be a significant confidence building measure in the peace process. In addition, Turkey's illegal occupation of Cyprus has had an impact upon The Committee on Missing Persons's ability to access certain Turkish military installations on Cyprus to excavate the remains of Cypriots missing since the tragic events that occurred on the island for proper identification.

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 is the best interests of the United States.

One of AHI's primary objectives is to keep the Cyprus issue and the basis for a solution—the consequences of more than 180,000 illegal Turkish colonists/settlers in Cyprus, which is in violation of the Geneva Convention; the humanitarian issue of The Missing, and the religious freedom and destruction of cultural heritage in Turkish-occupied Cyprus—at the forefront of the policy debate in Washington. Fundamental to this approach are AHI meetings with U.S. government officials and their staffs and government representatives from Greece and Cyprus. These meetings are important tactics to help forge closer cooperation, foster greater understanding, and stimulate new ideas as all parties work toward a Cyprus resolution. For example, in October, AHI hosted newly-appointed Ambassador of Cyprus to the United States Marios Lyssiotis.

- AHI held a high-profile briefing on Capitol Hill to mark the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasion where 11 members of Congress, Consul Konstantinos Polykarpou, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus; and Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos, all spoke about the issue.

Additionally, AHI continues to push for greater public and governmental awareness of the issue. AHI proudly hosted two presentations abroad in March titled, "The Cyprus Crisis: A Declassified Dossier" that featured AHI Foundation Graduate Fellow Gregory Graves' 31 volumes of research he has conducted on the Cyprus crisis. Graves presented to the Cypriot House of Representatives and to an audience at the University of Piraeus. Furthermore, AHI's commitment to Cyprus is demonstrated by annual visits to Cyprus, including one this year with leading American Jewish organizations. Finally, AHIF continues to introduce a younger generation of Greek Americans to Cyprus and Greece with its annual

Foreign Policy Study Abroad Program.

Finally, if the United States-Cyprus relationship is to build successfully on the Statement of Intent that was signed in November, then the United States must lift its arms prohibition on Cyprus. AHI asserts it is in the best interest of the United States that the Republic of Cyprus maintains its Western orientation, and it is preferred that the Republic of Cyprus turn to the United States to procure its defense materials and not from any other nation. This is why AHI pressed the Department of State to lift the prohibition in 2018:

- In June, AHI discussed the issue with State Department officials and submitted a memorandum with the key points which are in the Issue Brief. AHI also submitted the memorandum to the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues.
- In August, AHI announced the publication of an Issue Brief on the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) under which the United States has prohibited the sales of U.S. defense articles/services to the Republic of Cyprus since 1985.
- In December, AHI initiated a Hellenic Caucus letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, urging the secretary to eliminate the prohibition on the transfer of defense articles and services to the Republic of Cyprus under 22 CFR § 126.1. Fourteen U.S. representatives signed the letter.

## FYROM Name-Recognition

The FYROM name-recognition issue is included in the AHI Policy Statements and advocates a position that the United States should support a settlement to the FYROM name dispute that addresses Greece's concerns and its best interests. Greece has been a longtime, faithful ally and important geostrategic partner providing for peace and stability in the region. FYROM's insistence to abuse Greek history and pursue irredentist and provocative actions, have had the potential to destabilize the Balkans, and therefore, be a detriment to U.S. interests. AHI also advocates a position that FYROM will not join NATO and the European Union until the name dispute is resolved.

In 2018, AHI submitted written testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, that opposed any proposed U.S. aid to FYROM until mutually-agreeable solution to the name-recognition issue is achieved. In meetings with government officials, the FYROM name-recognition issue is also raised. Specifically, in discussions with Administration officials, namely State Department officials, AHI asserts strongly that if, and when, the Prespes Agreement is ratified, the United States must ensure FYROM adheres to all elements of the agreement and does not deviate from it. Finally, AHI continues to monitor and track that actions of certain U.S. representatives who advocate for FYROM's inclusion into NATO.

## The Ecumenical Patriarchate

AHI reiterated its unequivocal position on what actions the U.S. government should take to secure religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey. AHI urges the U.S. government to 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. AHI underscores that, "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.'" Furthermore, the Act obligates the President to take one or more of 15 enumerated actions with respect to any such country.

Moreover, AHI has taken a more active role to facilitate and bring parties together to continue the important dialogue regarding the challenges and burdens facing the churches of the Holy Land. For example, in November, AHI hosted His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine, at Hellenic House for a discussion.

## 2018 Public Policy in Action

### Letters & Statements

AHI sent letters to government officials or corporate officers and issued several public statements presenting positions on current events and policy decisions important to the organization's membership.

### Letters

- **February 27:** AHI sent a letter to President Donald Trump in the wake of acts of Turkish provocation and aggression in the Eastern Mediterranean and broader region that have dire implications to U.S. security interests.
- **May 8:** AHI sent a letter to NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to convey strong concern regarding the actions and behavior of NATO member Turkey toward fellow Alliance member countries. AHI also expressed profound disappointment with NATO's inability to address intra-Alliance conflicts because it lacks a provision or mechanism to deal with such an issue.
- **July 17:** AHI sent a letter to Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney to convey strong disagreement with the Trump administration's announced opposition to a section of the FY2019 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill that restricts the use of funding for the transfer of F-35 aircraft to Turkey.

### Statements & Announcements

- **January 19:** AHIF announced the publication of the eighth volume of its *Policy Journal*.
- **February 13:** AHI strongly condemned Turkish aggression in Cyprus' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
- **March 1:** AHI announced the release of its 2017 Annual Report.
- **March 23:** AHI applauded a boost for Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) Program

to \$1 million that was enacted in the FY2018 Omnibus appropriations bill.

- **March 26:** AHI welcomed Emirates Airline's announcement that marked the one-year anniversary of its Newark service via Athens, Greece, calling the first year a success.
- **May 8:** AHI announced its support of legislation aimed to limit the transfer of F-35 fighter jets to Turkey.
- **May 29:** AHI welcomed additional congressional action in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (NDAA) in a response to Turkey's behavior.
- **June 15:** AHI applauded a letter from 16 U.S. representatives urging President Donald Trump to condemn acts of aggression taken by Turkey in Cyprus' sovereign territory.
- **June 27:** AHI applauded further congressional pressure on Turkey to prohibit the transfer of F-35 fighter jets to Turkey—a letter signed by 44 U.S. representatives to Secretary of Defense James Mattis that urged the secretary to prevent the planned delivery of the jets.
- **July 11:** AHI decries NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's praise of Turkey as a highly-valued ally in an interview published July 9 in *Hürriyet Daily News*.
- **July 20:** AHI issued a statement in remembrance of the solemn 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974.
- **July 24:** AHI announced new hire, Elias Gerasoulis as the Institute's Legislative Assistant.
- **July 25:** AHI statement on the outbreak of wildfires in Attica, Greece, conveyed sadness and appreciation for those entities that provided support.
- **August 15:** AHI announced the publication of an Issue Brief on the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) under which the United States has prohibited the sales of U.S. defense articles/services to the Republic of Cyprus since 1985.
- **September 5:** AHI issues a statement that its policy positions on United States-Greece defense cooperation were reaffirmed during the visit of Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to Athens, Greece.
- **September 26:** AHI announces the appointment of retired Rear Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis to the position of Vice President of the AHI-Athens chapter.
- **November 26:** AHI announced President Nick Larigakis will present on the topic, "The Role of the Greek Diaspora," at an international conference titled, "New Realities in the Eastern Mediterranean" to be held in Jerusalem, December 11, 2018.
- **November 29:** AHI issued "An FYI from AHI," alerting its audience to a piece published by the Gatestone Institute, a non-partisan, not-for-profit international policy council and think tank, titled, "Turkey Wipes Out the Christian Culture of Occupied Cyprus" by Uzay Bulut. The piece appeared November 25, 2018.
- **December 13:** AHI applauded a letter signed by 14 U.S. representatives urging Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to lift the arms prohibition on Cyprus.

## LEGISLATIVE & POLICY INITIATIVES

### Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day



Captain Charalampos Pegklidis, Greek Naval Attache to the U.S.; Nick Larigakis, Colonel Panagiotis Kavidopoulos, Greek Defense Attache to the U.S.; Colonel Stefanos Ampouleris, Greek Air Attache to the U.S.



Rep. Carolyn Maloney and Nick Larigakis with the Byzantio Greek Dance and Cultural Arts Program.

AHI celebrated the 197th anniversary of Greek Independence Day by hosting its annual “Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day,” April 11. 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



Andreas Nikolaidis, Embassy of Cyprus, Charge d'affaires; Rep. Gus Bilirakis; and Amb. Haris Lalacos, Greek Ambassador to the US.



Rep. Gus Bilirakis.

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. Members of Congress who addressed the audience included: Reps. Gus Bilirakis, Charlie Crist (D-FL), Carolyn Maloney, John Sarbanes (D-MD).

Special guest speakers were: Greek Ambassador to the United States Haris Lalacos, and on behalf of the Embassy of Cyprus, Charge d'affaires Andres Nikolaides. Basil Mossaidis, Executive Director of AHEPA also provided remarks. During the evening, there was a presentation of traditional Greek dances performed by Byzantio Greek Dance and Cultural Arts Program under the direction of Aris and Anna Yortzidis. Maria Karageorge sang the American and Greek National Anthems.



Ambassador Haris Lalacos, Rep. Gus Bilirakis and Nick Larigakis with the Byzantio Greek Dance and Cultural Arts Program.



Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD).

## AHI Testimony to Congressional Appropriations Subcommittees on FY2019 Foreign Aid

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 FY2019 on April 20, 2018.

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 and Turkey ceases and desists its acts of provocation and aggression in the Aegean; (2) a reorganization of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) that would prevent its authorization from doing business in Greece—a policy shift achieved in 2016 due to Greece's economic crisis; (3) aid the administration will request for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) until a mutually-agreeable solution to the name-recognition issue is achieved; 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 applauded the FY2018 enacted level of funding of \$1 million for NATO ally Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) program and supported a recommended appropriation of \$1.2 million for FY2019. In addition, AHI's testimony recommended that appropriations language be included in the bill that addressed how United States foreign assistance can help solidify a reunified Cyprus and its government in the event of reunification.

## AHI Supports Legislation to Limit Transfer of F-35s to Turkey

AHI supported the introduction of legislation aimed to limit the transfer of F-35 fighter jets to Turkey and commends the bill's three original sponsors, U.S. Senators James Lankford (R-OK), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Tom Tillis (R-NC), in a statement issued May 8, 2018.

AHI President Nick Larigakis sent letters on April 30 to each of the three senators thanking them and conveying AHI's strong support for the legislation, S.2781. The letters outlined several reasons for AHI's backing of the legislation, including Turkey's blatant disregard for the rule of law as it pertains toward Greece, Cyprus, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In addition, Larigakis cited the Turkish government's threats toward the United States military and Turkish nationals working for the U.S. Embassy and the wrongful imprisonment of Pastor Andrew Brunson.

## AHI-backed Congressional Letter Urges President Trump to Condemn Turkish Aggression

AHI applauded bipartisan congressional action that urges President Donald J. Trump to condemn acts of aggression taken by Turkey in Cyprus's sovereign territory and to reassert the right of Cyprus to develop its hydrocarbon resources.

Sixteen U.S. representatives signed a June 12, 2018 letter to President Trump that also requested the Administration's plan to address the concern about Turkey's aggression. AHI backed the letter which U.S. Reps. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), and John Sarbanes (D-MD), spearheaded.

In addition to U.S. Reps. Pallone, Bilirakis, and Sarbanes, the U.S. representatives who supported the letter were: Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), James McGovern (D-MA), Ted Deutch (D-FL), Ted Poe (R-TX), Albio Sires (D-NJ), Chris Smith (R-NJ), Dina Titus (D-NV), David Cicilline (D-RI), Jackie Speier (D-CA), Steve King (R-IA), Niki Tsongas (D-MA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), and Charlie Crist (D-FL). Representatives Smith, Poe, Deutch, Sires, Cicilline, and Titus, all serve on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## AHI Marks 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Turkish Invasion of Cyprus with Congressional Briefing



(L-R) Mr. Konstantinos Polykarpou, Consul, Embassy of Cyprus; Nick Larigakis, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL); Amb. Haris Lalacos, Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI).

AHI marked the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus by hosting a congressional briefing to discuss the state of affairs on the island on Capitol Hill, July 17. The briefing allowed prominent members of Congress to convey their viewpoints and perspectives on the Cyprus issue and prospects for a solution after the collapse of the Conference on Cyprus in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. The legislators also discussed opportunities for the United States to work on this matter.



Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN).

The briefing, held in cooperation with the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, featured as speakers: U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-chair, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues; Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), co-chair, Congressional Caucus on



Rep. Ted Deutch, Co-Chair of Congressional Hellenic Israel Alliance (CHIA)



(L to R) Larigakis, Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

Hellenic Issues; U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chairman emeritus, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats; Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL), co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance, and member, House Committee on Foreign relations; Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA); Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs and Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats; Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), member, House Committee on Appropriations and member, Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance; Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ); and Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ).

In addition to members of Congress, those in



Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)



Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)



Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus

attendance included: Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos; Consul Konstantinos Polykarpou, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus; Colonel Panagiotis Kavidopolos, Defense attaché, Embassy of Greece; Captain Charalampos Pegklidis, H.N., Naval attaché, Embassy of Greece; and Colonel Stefanos Ampouleris, Air attaché, Embassy of Greece. Nick Larigakis moderated the briefing.

## AHI Advocates to Lift the Arms Prohibition on Cyprus with Issue Brief, Congressional Letter

AHI announced the publication of an Issue Brief on the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) under which the United States has prohibited the sales of U.S. defense articles/services to the Republic of Cyprus since 1985. The ITAR lists the Republic of Cyprus, along with countries such as Sudan and Somalia, as a country to which transfers of U.S. defense articles/services are prohibited. AHI released the Issue Brief on August 15.

In June, AHI discussed the issue with State Department officials and submitted a memorandum with the key points which are in the Issue Brief. The officials forwarded the memorandum to the appropriate office for review. Since June, AHI has raised the issue in follow-up meetings with State Department officials.

The Issue Brief describes the ITAR, analyzes why the prohibition on the Republic of Cyprus is unlawful, explains how the State Department itself can remove the Republic of Cyprus from the application of the ITAR prohibition and concludes that legislation is not necessary.

“We contend the State Department has the legal authority to remedy what has been, for years, an unlawful prohibition on arms transfers to the Republic of Cyprus,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “We urge the State Department to exercise the requisite political will to get this done. It is in the best interests of the United States for the Republic of Cyprus to look to the United States, and not any other nation, to procure its defense materials.”

### AHI-Initiated Congressional Letter Urges Secretary Pompeo to Lift Arms Prohibition on Cyprus

AHI applauded bipartisan congressional action it initiated that urges the U.S. Department of State, under the aegis of Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, to eliminate the prohibition on the transfer of defense articles and services to the Republic of Cyprus under 22 CFR § 126.1. Fourteen U.S. representatives signed the December 11 letter to

Secretary Pompeo that also highlights Turkey's unlawful occupation of the Republic of Cyprus. AHI initiated the letter which Congressional Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairs, U.S. Rep. Maloney (D-NY) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), spearheaded.

In addition to U.S. Reps. Bilirakis and Maloney, the U.S. representatives who supported the letter were: John Sarbanes (D-MD), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Ted Deutch (D-FL), Dina Titus (D-NV), David Cicilline (D-RI), Steve King (R-IA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Charlie Crist (D-FL), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Lee Zeldin (R-NY), Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL).

## AHI's Advocacy Objectives Achieved as U.S. Authorizes Investment in Greece's NSA Souda Bay

AHI's policy objectives to advocate for NSA Souda Bay's geostrategic importance to the national security interests of the United States were accomplished with the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (NDAA). The Act authorizes \$47.85 million in military construction funding for NSA Souda Bay, a further indication of increased defense cooperation between the United States and Greece.

AHI has advocated for Greece's strategic importance to the United States, and for a strengthening of U.S.-Greece defense cooperation, with high-profile events in Washington and Athens that featured high-ranking Greek and U.S. government officials. These events also have brought together Greece's top military officials with key representatives of the defense sector. In addition, Greece's importance to the United States' security interests, and NSA Souda Bay's critical role to project those interests, are presented annually to congressional appropriators in written testimony submitted by AHI.

Specific to NSA Souda Bay, AHI and Lexington Institute co-hosted a presentation on Capitol Hill that announced the release of a white paper, "Souda Bay: NATO's Military Gem in the Eastern Mediterranean" in 2016. The rollout featured remarks by Greece's Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos.

"We applaud the bill's enactment and commend the legislators who championed the authorization of significant capital investment in NSA Souda Bay," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "It speaks to the strengthening of defense cooperation between NATO allies, the United States and Greece; and further, it is a policy victory that we must work to ensure is carried-out during the appropriations process and continues in future defense authorization bills."

## On Investment in NSA Souda Bay, Crete

Greece is a frontline state in the fight against terrorism. Despite its economic difficulties, Greece continues to be of vital importance for the projection of U.S. strategic interests by its geographic location and its strong, unwavering support for NATO. Greece is home to the most important naval presence in the Mediterranean Sea, Naval Support

Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, Crete—a key military facility in the Eastern Mediterranean.

"The U.S. enjoys a strong defense relationship with Greece," Larigakis said. "Greece has been critical to the delivery of U.S. troops, cargo, and supplies, providing access and extending the U.S. and NATO's reach into the Middle East and North Africa. As Souda Bay gains increased importance and utilization, the defense bill's fiscal year 2019 investment for capital improvement to the facilities at Souda Bay is lauded."

## Congressman Bilirakis Submits AHI Letter into Congressional Record

U.S. Rep. 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) February 27 letter to President Donald J. Trump that urged the U.S. government to condemn strongly recent acts of Turkish provocation and aggression in the eastern Mediterranean and the broader region, which present dire consequences to U.S. security interests.

In his March 13 Extension of Remarks, Congressman Bilirakis stated:

*"Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record a letter from the American Hellenic Institute regarding Turkey's continued dangerous actions in the eastern Mediterranean and broader region that threaten regional security and U.S. interests. 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, as he has done previously, 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.

*"Mr. Larigakis is a close friend and we have had the pleasure to welcome him and AHI delegations in Athens on several occasions. AHI, and especially Mr. Larigakis, deserve credit for their successful efforts and initiatives in building a close friendship between the U.S. and Greece."*

*— Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff at Atlantic Council roundtable, October 15, 2018*

## MEDIA RELATIONS

In 2018 AHI issued 76 press releases that were widely distributed to mainstream, Greek American, and foreign press, the Administration, Congress, and AHI members and friends. AHI also regularly wrote letters to the editors of major national and community newspapers, and to producers of television news programming, to comment or correct the record on their news reporting or commentary.

### Letters to the Editor

*Kathimerini*, a daily newspaper published in Athens, Greece, published AHI's response to a December 20, 2017 commentary titled, "Hellenism in America at a crossroads" by Editor Alexis Papachelas, in its electronic edition, *Ekathimerini*, on January 1. A condensed version of AHI's response was published in *Kathimerini's* English print edition, which is inserted as a supplement to the international edition of the *New York Times* in Greece and Cyprus, on January 5. In his letter, President Larigakis states Mr. Papachelas' assessment of the Greek American lobby's role, especially regarding Greece's strategic importance, is flawed and it demonstrates a lack of understanding of what transpires in Washington.

### Media Placement

#### *Kathimerini Publishes Interview with AHI President*

*Ekathimerini* published an interview with Nick Larigakis, January 15, 2018, on the occasion of the Institute's joint three-country International Leadership Mission with Greek American and Jewish American community leaders to Greece, Cyprus and Israel. The article, "Greece among US's 'most dependable' East Med allies," also appeared in *Kathimerini's* English print edition, which is inserted as a supplement to the international edition of the *New York Times* in Greece and Cyprus. Larigakis gave a preview of the Mission and Washington's perspective of the trilateral partnership and discussed other Greek American policy issues with *Kathimerini* Senior International Correspondent Tom Ellis.

#### *Huffington Post Greece Interviews AHI President, AHIF Study Abroad Students*



Nick Larigakis and Journalist Emi Livaniou Zisiopoulou.

eastern Mediterranean, including recent acts of Turkish provocation and aggression that have raised tensions in the region. Journalist Emi Livaniou Zisiopoulou, head of *Huffington Post Greece's* "Special Edition" report, conducted the interview. Zisiopoulou is also the publisher of "I DINAMI THS



Alexander Velis and Alexis Tsapralis with Journalist Emi Livaniou Zisiopoulou.

RPOSFORAS," hosts a weekly radio show on Athens 9.84 radio station and is a former anchorwoman at Star Channel.

In addition, Zisiopoulou interviewed two students from the tenth annual American Hellenic

Institute Foundation's Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus on June 28. The two students, Alexis Tsapralis and Alexander Velis, were interviewed in Athens about the framework of the Annual Foreign Policy Trip and their Hellenic heritage.

#### *AHI Board Members Earn Media Placement in CGTN America, The Washington Post*

Two AHI Board Members earned media placement in August 2018 for their commentaries on current events affecting the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Board Member Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., who also serves as AHI volunteer legal counsel, and who is a partner at Sfikas & Karambelas LLP, appeared on *CGTN America* to discuss Greece's economy, August 20. *CGTN's* Elaine Reyes interviewed Karambelas about the end of Greece's bailout program and what it means for the country going forward.

Moreover, *The Washington Post* placed a Letter to the Editor authored by Board Member James L. Marketos, Esq., titled, "The U.S. should press Turkey to withdraw from Cyprus," August 20. Marketos's letter, in response to an August 16 editorial titled, "A better way to use U.S. leverage," suggests if the United States is considering ways to increase its leverage over Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, that it should consider demanding publicly the removal of all Turkish forces from Cyprus.

#### *AHI President Larigakis Talks with Greek Business Publication*

*Greek Business File*, a magazine that analyzes Greece's business and financial sectors, published an interview with Nick Larigakis. The interview, "Promising turns in Greek-American relations" is published in *Greek Business File's* October-November 2018 issue. It came on the eve of the USA-Thessaloniki International Fair, which was held September 8-16, 2018.

Larigakis provided his perspective on the current state of U.S.-Greece relations, which he viewed as being at its peak. He attributed his view to Greece's demonstrated consistency as a reliable partner to the U.S., especially when it comes to U.S. security interests. Larigakis contrasted Greece's reliability as a security partner with that of Turkey's unreliability over the years. In addition, the AHI president discussed the importance of NSA Souda Bay, and Greece's role in the emerging alliance with Cyprus and Israel as frontline, Western-oriented states against threats to democracy and security in the Eastern Mediterranean and broader region.

# Awards Dinner

## AHI Hosts 43<sup>RD</sup> Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner



Honorees (L-R): Phil Angelides, Isidoros Garifalakis, Nancy Papaioannou, Tim Tassopoulos.

AHI hosted its 43rd Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner, March 3, Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C.

AHI honored a distinguished set of awardees based upon their important career achievements and contributions to the Greek American community or community at-large. They were: Nancy Papaioannou, President, Atlantic Bank of New York; Isidoros Garifalakis, Businessman and Philanthropist; Tim Tassopoulos, President and Chief Operating Officer, Chick-fil-A; and Phil Angelides, former California State Treasurer, former Chairman of the U.S. Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, and Businessman.

Larry Michael, "Voice of the Redskins," and chief content officer and senior vice president, Washington Redskins; was the evening's emcee. AHI Board of Directors Member Leon Andris introduced Michael. The Marines of Headquarters Battalion presented the colors and the American and Greek national anthems were performed by Maria Pearce. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, assisted by Reverend Konstantinos Pavlakos, Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, VA, offered the invocation and benediction. Apollonia provided musical entertainment.



His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco (left) is assisted by Rev. Konstantinos Pavlakos in offering the invocation.



Isidoros Garifalakis receives the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award.



Nancy Papaioannou receives the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award.



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia Jonathan Cohen discusses the upcoming 2018 Thessaloniki International Fair.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia Jonathan Cohen opened the evening's program with a special presentation, "U.S.: Honored Country—2018 Thessaloniki International Fair." Following the presentation, AHI Foundation President Constantine Galanis and AHI President Nick R. Larigakis, offered greetings. They also reviewed the initiatives and programs AHI and AHIF provide the community.

In addition, the evening's program featured a reflective presentation piece that commemorated the ten-year mark of the AHI Foundation's Foreign Policy Student Trip to Greece and Cyprus program by program alumni Constance Douris, vice president, Lexington Institute, and Elias Gerasoulis, who is enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania.

As part of the weekend's festivities AHI hosted a breakfast briefing with Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos and Charge d'Affairs Andreas Nikolaides, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, on March 3. AHI also hosted a Greek Night at Kellari Restaurant, the evening before the Gala, March 2.



*Isidoros Garifalakis joined by his family.*



*Nick Larigakis, Senator Paul Sarbanes, Eugene Rossides, and Congressman John Sarbanes.*



*Tim Tassopoulos receives the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award.*



*Phil Angelides family and friends celebrate as he accepts his award.*



*Phil Angelides receives the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award.*



*Dinner guests.*

## LEADERSHIP VISITS ABROAD

### American Hellenic, American Jewish Groups Hail Third Three-Country Leadership Mission



An 18-member delegation of leaders of the American Hellenic and American Jewish organizations completed a third, 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 United



(L-R) Delegation Heads Stephen Greenberg, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Nick Larigakis, President of AHI; Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, Prime Minister of Greece; Carl R. Hollister, Supreme President of AHEPA; Gary P. Saltzman, International President of B'nai B'rith International.

States in the region. Meetings were held January 14 to 19, 2018 with more than 20 high-ranking government and military officials—in addition to policy analysts and community leaders—from the three countries and the United States. The participating organizations included: the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), B'nai B'rith International, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

In a post-mission statement, the groups noted: “Our meetings clearly revealed that the trilateral relationship between Israel, Cyprus and Greece is on a sustained course and is expanding on all levels. We believe the relationship has developed into a partnership, helping to foster peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean and the broader region where instability exists. Further, the partnership possesses the potential to allow the eastern



Athina Balta, President Pavlopoulos and Constantine Galanis.



Delegation with Cypriot Presidential Commissioner for Cypriots Abroad & Humanitarian Affairs, Photis Photiou.



Delegation with President of the House of Representatives Demetris Syllouris at the Cypriot House of Representatives.



Delegation visits Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem.



Delegation aboard the deck of the Greek Frigate Spetses.



Delegation with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin (seated on the right).

Mediterranean to become a community of nations based on shared common values and aspirations. To this end, we hope the trilateral partnership blossoms into a multilateral one. We applaud the leaders of these three countries for their ongoing and increasingly close cooperative relationship, and we look forward to a fourth Trilateral Summit in 2018. The American Hellenic and American Jewish communities are committed to advancing the trilateral partnership. We will continue to work to foster closer cooperation with the United States and support the common efforts to achieve tangible and measurable outcomes. For example, we are optimistic about initiatives involving youth exchanges. Finally, we are grateful to the many leaders who afforded us the opportunity to exchange views and ideas. The friendship and hospitality shown to us made the trip even more meaningful and productive.”

### Delegation Visits Patriarchate of Jerusalem



(L-R) Demetri Halakos, AHI Board Member; Nick Larigakis, AHI President; Patriarch Theophilos III, Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem; Kosta Alexakis, AHI Secretary; James Lagos, Vice President of AHI.

The AHI delegation visited the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and had a two-hour audience with His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine, on January 19. The discussion included the recent challenges and issues facing the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and Christians in the Holy Land. Following

the audience with Patriarch Theophilos, the AHI delegation visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

### AHI Conducts Annual Trip to Greece, Cyprus

An American Hellenic Institute delegation 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 interest. The six-day trip occurred May 13 to 18.

“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.”

### Cyprus

The AHI delegation received multiple briefings from Cypriot and American officials on the Cyprus problem; 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 Trump administration and in the U.S. Congress.

During its stay in Cyprus, May 13 to 15, the delegation met with: U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus Kathleen Doherty, Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Christodoulides, Minister of Defense Savvas Angelides, President of the House of Representatives Demetris Syllouris, Ambassador



(L-R) AHI NY President Louis Katsos, AHI Board Member Leon Andris, AHI President Nick Larigakis, Cypriot Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides, AHI Board Member Kostas Alexakis, AHI Legislative Director Peter Milios.



AHI Delegation with His Beatitude Chrysostomos II, Archbishop of Cyprus.



AHI Delegation with Greek Cypriot Negotiator, Amb. Andreas Mavroyiannis.

Andreas Mavroyiannis, the chief negotiator for 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.

## Greece

The delegation visited Athens May 16 to 18. In addition to briefings with ministry officials, the itinerary included the 14th Annual AHI Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner at the Grand Bretagne Hotel, May 18.



(L-R) AHI Board Member Leon Andris, AHI Member George Mermelas, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, AHI President Nick Larigakis, AHI Board Member Kostas Alexakis, AHI Board Member Nick Karameblas.



AHI Delegation with Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, President of New Democracy.



AHI Delegation with U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt at the Ambassador's residence.

The delegation met Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt, Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece Terens Quick, Secretary General for Tourism Policy and Development at the Ministry of Tourism George Tziallas, and Minister of State for Coordinating Government Operations Alekos Flambouraris. The delegation also met with President of New Democracy party Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

### AHI Delegation Participants

President Larigakis was accompanied by: AHI Board Secretary Kostas Alexakis, Esq., AHI Board Member Leon Andris, AHI-New York President Louis Katsos and AHI Legislative Director Peter Milios. AHI Board Treasurer Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., who also serves as volunteer counsel, joined the delegation in Athens.

## BRIEFINGS, CONFERENCES & FORUMS

### AHI Presentation Promotes Thessaloniki International Fair



(L-R) Greece's Minister of Digital Policy, Telecommunications, Nikos Pappas; AHI President, Nick Larigakis; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of European & Eurasian Affairs, Jonathan Cohen.

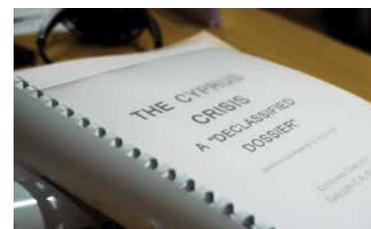
AHI hosted a panel presentation featuring Greece's Minister of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Information Nikos Pappas and then-Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of European & Eurasian Affairs Jonathan Cohen, February 9, 2018, at the Capital Hilton, Washington, DC. The panelists spoke about their five-day, five-city U.S. tour in support of the 2018 Thessaloniki International Fair. The United States was the honored country at the Fair, which was held September 8-16, 2018. The Fair's theme was "Harnessing the Power of Innovation and Creativity."

Minister Pappas reviewed their U.S. tour to five cities, which included visits to companies such as: Facebook, Lockheed Martin, Netflix, Airbnb, and Electronic Arts, among others, to recruit investors and exhibitors for the Thessaloniki International Fair. He touted Greece's incentive plan to attract companies in the audio/visual and film sector.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Cohen stated the Thessaloniki International Fair would be the most important event in U.S.-Greece relations in 2018, adding that Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross planned to attend. He reflected on his experience at Capital Link Forum in New York City in December 2017 as an indication the investment community and Wall Street is bullish about Greece's future.

### The Cyprus Crisis: A Declassified Dossier" Presented in Greece, Cyprus

Graduate Research Fellow Gregory Graves presented "The Cyprus Crisis: A Declassified Dossier," addressing the significance of the 4,000 documents he discovered relating to the invasion of Cyprus, to members of the Cypriot House of Representatives, in a closed session setting, March 13. Graves presented his research findings at the invitation





Presentation at the Cypriot House of Representatives.



Nick Larigakis (center) presenting a copy of "The Cyprus Crisis," to President of the Cypriot House of Representatives, Demetris Syllouris. AHI Graduate Fellow Gregory Graves on the right.

of House of Representatives President Demetris Syllouris, who also honored AHI for its work to raise awareness of the declassified dossier. President Larigakis and AHI Legal Counsel Nicholas Karambelas accompanied Graves to Cyprus. A complete set of the dossier was formally presented to President Syllouris.

"Greg has done exceptional work to uncover the previously classified day-to-day dialogue of the U.S. government during the Cyprus crisis," President Larigakis said. "This extensive thirty-one volume set will provide unique insight into the policy decisions of the U.S. government during the Cyprus crisis in July and August of 1974."

Mr. Marinos Sizopoulos, MP, former Chair of the House Committee on the Dossier of the Cyprus Problem, coordinated the discussion. Special thanks to Evi Hadjiyanni Director for International Relations Services, Cypriot House of Representatives and Vasilis Kiliaris, International Relations Office, Cypriot House of Representatives for their invaluable assistance in organizing the event.

### University of Piraeus Presentation



Gregory Graves, Professor Aristotle Tziampiris, and Nick Larigakis at the University of Piraeus presentation.

Graves also made his presentation to an audience at the University of Piraeus, March 14, 2018. Professor Aristotle



Evanghoras Evaghorou, Lecturer of International Relations at the University of Piraeus; Gregory Graves, and Nick Larigakis.

Tziampiris, chair of the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus chaired the event and provided an introduction. Nick Larigakis, provided opening remarks. Special thanks to Evaghoras L. Evaghorou, Lecturer of International Relations at the University of Piraeus for helping to organize and coordinate the event.

Additionally, Graves made a two-hour, closed session presentation to Greece's Ministry of Foreign Affairs A2 Department for Cyprus, chaired by Ambassador George Dimitriadis. A two-hour Q&A discussion followed.

Also, while visiting Athens, Larigakis met with U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt. The Hellenic Association of Entrepreneurs (EENE) hosted Larigakis for a luncheon at the Athens Club, attended by close to thirty members of EENE. Presiding over the discussion was their Chairman, Dr. Vassilis G. Apostolopoulos, and their President, Christian Hadjiminias.

### Background

Graves has assembled thirty-one volumes of research and the dossier includes compilations of day-to-day declassified documents from the U.S. government and other foreign archives. Graves' research will help historians to develop a comprehensive understanding of the Cyprus crisis by providing a chronological dossier of declassified documents. Refraining from introducing his own biases, Graves instead provided the facts regarding U.S. policy decisions during the crisis, which will allow others to draw their own, more informed conclusions.

## AHI Panel Examines U.S. Strategic Interests in Aegean Sea, Cyprus



(L-R) Nick Larigakis, President of AHI, serves as moderator; Nick Karambelas, Partner at Sfikas & Karambelas; Doug Bandow, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute; John Sitalides, Principal at Trilogy Advisors LLC.

AHI hosted a panel discussion on the topic, "U.S. Strategic Interests: The Aegean Sea & Cyprus' EEZ," April 17, 2018, at the Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C. The panelists included: Cato Institute Senior Fellow Doug Bandow, AHI Legal Counsel Nick Karambelas, and Trilogy Advisors LLC Principal John Sitalides. Nick Larigakis provided opening remarks and moderated the panel discussion, which was followed by a Q&A session.



Nicholas Karambelas and Doug Bandow.

Karambelas presented on the rule of law of how it applies to the Aegean Sea and to the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Cyprus. Further, Karambelas offered a concept in international law known as “persistent objector” as a legal explanation as to why Turkey constantly violates Greece’s sovereignty in the Aegean. Finally, Karambelas stated that only one treaty applies to

the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Cyprus, the UN Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS). Turkey is not a signatory. He explained how the maritime borders and the EEZ’s are delineated under UNCLOS.

John Sitalides, a diplomacy consultant to the State Department, addressed the geostrategic implications of the U.S.-Greece relationship, opening with the role Greece played in April’s coalition missile strikes in Syria. Sitalides described an “arc of crisis” ranging from Russia’s occupation of Ukraine, Turkey’s attacks on Syrian Kurds allied with the U.S. and its ongoing occupation of Syria, Iraq and Cyprus; Islamic State’s spread into the Sinai Peninsula, near the critical Suez Canal chokepoint; and the anarchic battlefields of Libya, through which massive numbers of African migrants are crossing into and overwhelming southern Europe. Sitalides spoke about the strategic importance of the Aegean Sea to the modern Greek nation-state and detailed the series of Turkey’s challenges to Greece’s Aegean sovereignty rights since 1973.



Doug Bandow and John Sitalides.

Bandow debunked the notion of Turkey serving as a vital U.S. ally. He noted Turkey’s refusal to grant the United States the ability to open a northern front against Saddam Hussein in 2003, Turkey’s role in giving rise to ISIS, President Erdogan’s threat to U.S. military personnel in Manbij, Syria, Turkey’s purchase of Russian S-400 missiles and their interoperability with NATO, and Turkey using refugees as a weapon to disrupt Europe. Bandow asserted Turkey is not a bridge to Europe and that the notion of Turkey becoming an EU member is “fantasy,” adding it would require a change of culture and political leadership.

## Noon Forum Examines “Turkey’s Claims to the Eastern Mediterranean: Myth & Reality”



Professor Theodore Kariotis.

AHI hosted a Noon Forum on the topic, “Turkey’s Claims to the Eastern Mediterranean: Myth & Reality” featuring Professor Theodore Kariotis, May 30, 2018. Professor Kariotis, an expert on maritime law and on issues of Exclusive Economic Zones, provided his insight and perspective on Turkey’s mythical claims to Cyprus’ EEZ and Greek islands. His presentation proved the real and substantial threat to territorial sovereignty that Greece and Cyprus face on a daily basis.



Noon Forum Examines “Turkey’s Claims to the Eastern Mediterranean: Myth & Reality”

## AHI Commemorates 96th Anniversary of Smyrna Catastrophe



Prof. Alexander Kitroeff.

AHI hosted a noon forum presentation to commemorate the 96th anniversary of the Smyrna Catastrophe in Asia Minor that featured Professor Alexander Kitroeff, assistant professor, Department of History, Haverford College, October 10, at Hellenic House.

Professor Kitroeff provided a multi-faceted perspective of the Smyrna Catastrophe during his presentation. He positioned the Smyrna Catastrophe as a crucial historical junction point and as an incident undergirded by multiple systemic factors. Furthermore, he effectively debunked conspiracies by a certain segment of the Turkish intelligentsia who believe that Greek troops set Smyrna on fire. To illustrate his point, the professor provided a specific timeline delineating when Greek troops left the city of Smyrna and when Turkish troops

entered to show the deliberate and genocidal nature of the massacre of innocent, non-combatant Greeks in the city. He further buttressed this point by explaining how the Jewish and Muslim quarters of the city were left nearly untouched. The professor also juxtaposed the historical importance of this tragedy with its understated presence in the modern-day public conscience. Professor Kitroeff, who is concerned about crucial events such as Smyrna being relegated to parenthetical status in the 21st century, discussed the need to promote Greek history not only to the general population, but to the Greek American community as well.

## AHI Hosts Military Chief of Greece

AHI organized a breakfast briefing with Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff, on October 17 for a small group of AHI members and supporters at the Capital Hilton.

President Larigakis led the discussion and commended Greece for being a valued and reliable NATO ally. Admiral Apostolakis presented the security challenges in the region that Greece and its allies and partners face and the role Greece plays to provide security and stability. He also discussed Greece's enhanced defense cooperation with the U.S.

Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos, Colonel Vasileios Lampropoulos, Defense attaché, Commodore Frangkiskos Leloudas, and Commander Nicholas Mamounas accompanied Admiral Apostolakis.



*Nick Larigakis presents a memento to Admiral Apostolakis.*



*Admiral Apostolakis briefs breakfast participants.*

Additionally, AHI facilitated a private roundtable discussion for Admiral Apostolakis attended by 24 policy analysts and researchers at the Atlantic Council, an international affairs think tank, October 15.

## Cyprus's Military Chief Visits Hellenic House

Lt. General Ilias Leontaris, chief of the Cypriot National Guard, visited Hellenic House on the afternoon of October 17 for a discussion about the country's security challenges.

President Larigakis, Board Treasurer Nicholas Karambelas, Esq., Board Member James L. Marketos, Esq., and Legislative Director Peter Milios represented AHI. They were joined by colleagues Daniel Mariaschin, CEO/executive vice president,



*(L-R) James Marketos, Nick Karambelas, Daniel Mariaschin, Major Spyros Koumides, Lt. General Ilias Leontaris, Nick Larigakis, Lt. Col. Theoklitos Pachoulides, Brian Kelleher, Alan Schneider.*



*Lt. General Leontaris briefs AHI board members during a visit to Hellenic House.*



*Dinner hosted in honor of Lt. General Leontaris.*

B'nai B'rith International and Alan Schneider, director, B'nai B'rith World Center in Jerusalem; and guest, Brian Kelleher, general manager, Capital Hilton.

In the evening, AHI hosted Lt. General Leontaris for dinner in his honor at Metro 29 Diner. Twenty AHI members and supporters attended.

"We were fortunate and proud to have the unique opportunity to host the two top military officials of Greece and Cyprus in Washington, D.C. for candid discussions with area community leaders and colleagues," President Larigakis said. "We appreciated the opportunity to discuss the latest developments in the Eastern Mediterranean and broader region. Greece and Cyprus are playing vital roles and are contributing to the security interests of the United States and allies, and they are to be commended."

## AHI Hosts Patriarch of Jerusalem, Continues Dialogue on Challenges in the Holy Land



*His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine.*

AHI hosted His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine to continue the important dialogue regarding the challenges and burdens facing the churches of the Holy Land. The intimate discussion, held at Hellenic House, November 14, featured representatives of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the International Community of the Holy Sepulchre (ICoHS) and included AHI Board of Directors members and representatives from AHEPA and B'nai B'rith International.

"We appreciated the opportunity to host His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos at Hellenic House," Larigakis said. "The patriarch and representatives of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem provided a thorough and candid update regarding the threats to the Christian presence in Jerusalem, from extremist groups. We commend Patriarch Theophilos for his outreach and engagement with key audiences in Washington and New York City."

In addition to Larigakis, AHI Board Member Demitrios Halakos, and his wife, Georgia; AHI Board Member James L. Marketos, Esq., AHI Foundation Board Member John Alahouzos, and AHI Legislative Directors Peter Milios and Elias Gerasoulis, attended.



*Patriarch Theophilos III meeting at Hellenic House.*



*Nick Larigakis presents a memento to Patriarch Theophilos III.*

His Beatitude's delegation included Amb. Patrick N. Theros, the Patriarch's US Representative; Mr. Nader Moghrabi, Counsel to the Patriarchate; Mr. Austin Tiffany from ICoHS; Ms. Anna Koulouris, Patriarchate External Communications Director; Mr. Russell Rook, an advisor to the Patriarchate, as well as Mr. Austin Tiffany, Executive Manager of ICoHS.

## AHI Presentation on the Future of Hellenism in America



*(L-R) Larigakis, Dr. Van Coufoudakis, & Dr. Aristotle Tziampiris.*

AHI in cooperation with the AHI-Athens Chapter, hosted a presentation "The Future of Hellenism in America" featuring Keynote Speaker Katerina Panagopoulos, who is the special advisor to the Greek Prime Minister on Hellenism of the Diaspora, Athens, Greece, Dec. 5, at the Hotel Grande Bretagne. More than 200 persons attended.



(L-R) Vice-Admiral Kyriazis, Ms. Emi-Livaniou, Ms. Fani Palli-Petralia, Mr. George Economou, Mr. Yannis Maniatis, & Katerina Panagopoulos.



Mrs. Katerina Panagopoulos.



Dr. Aristotle Tziampiris.

Dr. Van Coufoudakis, former dean, professor emeritus, Indiana University-Purdue University College of Arts and Science; and President Larigakis, joined the program as panelists. AHI-Athens Chapter Vice President, retired Vice Admiral Vasilis Kyriazis, provided greetings and introduced the panel's moderator, Aristotle Tziampiris, chair, Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus. AHI-Athens Chapter President George Economou also provided welcome remarks.

## Vienna: President Larigakis Meets with OSCE Officials

President Larigakis made the Institute's first-ever official visit to Vienna, Austria, Nov. 27 to 30, where he met with officials from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as well as representatives from the Hellenic community of Vienna.

To begin the visit to Vienna, Ambassador Ioannis Vrailas, head of the Permanent Representative of the EU to the OSCE, hosted President Larigakis, Nov. 27. The next day, Larigakis held meetings with Harry Kamian, charge d' affaires, U.S. Mission to the OSCE; and Ambassador Elena Rafti, ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Austria and the OSCE.

President Larigakis made a presentation to the Hellenic community of Vienna at an event hosted by the Macedonian

Cultural Association of Vienna, Nov. 28. The association's president, Dr. George Pantoglou, and former president, Charilaos Zikos, organized the event. More than 60 persons attended.

## Larigakis Participates at International Conference in Jerusalem

President Larigakis presented at an international conference titled, "New Realities in the Eastern Mediterranean" held at the Konrad Adenauer Conference Center, Mishkenot Shaananim, Jerusalem, Dec. 11. The Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies (JISS) and B'nai B'rith International (BBI) sponsored the conference which was held in cooperation with AHI and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA).

President Larigakis presented on the topic, "The Role of the Greek Diaspora," as a participant on the panel, "Extra-Regional Actors." The conference, which brought together thought-leaders to continue the dialogue about the geopolitical significance of the Eastern Mediterranean, also featured: academicians, policy analysts, and former government officials.



Larigakis speaking at the international conference "New Realities in the Eastern Mediterranean."



Members of AHEPA, AHI, & B'nai B'rith International; Jerusalem In The Background.

## AHI Provides Opinion on Strategic Dialogue

In a nod to the value of the policy opinions of the American Hellenic Institute, Greek government officials sought the Institute's perspective in the lead-up to the inaugural U.S.-Greece Strategic Dialogue, which was held Dec. 13 in Washington, D.C. On Dec. 3, President Nick Larigakis met with Alternate Foreign Minister George Katrougalos, who led the Greek delegation to the Strategic Dialogue. Following their meeting, AHI presented a memo to Alternate Foreign Minister Katrougalos which set forth the opinions of AHI in connection with issues that are relevant to United States policies. Further, President Larigakis exchanged ideas about the Strategic Dialogue during a one-hour, 15-minute meeting with Diplomatic Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister Evangelos Kalpadakis, Dec. 4.

Additional meetings in Athens with key government officials were held, including: U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt (Dec. 7), Minister of National Defense Panos Kammenos (Dec. 7), Minister of Tourism Elena Kountoura (Dec. 4), and Deputy Foreign Minister Terence Quick (Dec. 3). Further, Larigakis met with officials from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dec. 5, including: Elisabeth Fotiadou, director, A7 Directorate for North America at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Nikolaos Garilidis, director, A4 Directorate for Turkey; Ambassador Sophia Grammata, director, A3 Directorate for Balkans; and Ambassador Konstantinos Kollias, director, A2 Directorate for Cyprus. Moreover, Larigakis met with military officials on Dec. 7 during a lunch with Lt. Gen. Christos Christodoulou, chief, Hellenic Air Force General Staff; and a meeting with Lt. Gen. Alkiviadis Stefanis, chief, Hellenic Army General Staff.

Rounding-out Larigakis' meetings in Athens were: Vasileios Kikilias, New Democracy shadow defense minister (Dec. 3); Giorgios Koumoutsakos, New Democracy shadow minister for foreign affairs (Dec. 4); and Fofi Gennimata, president of the newly-formed Movement for Change (Dec. 6).

Finally, Larigakis attended several receptions and dinners during his visit to Athens, including: an American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce dinner keynoted by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, Dec. 4; an American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce dinner keynoted by Kyriakos Mitsotakis, president, New Democracy, Dec. 3; and a Dec. 6 morning ceremony and reception held at the Greek Naval Academy in Piraeus in honor of the Feast Day of St. Nicholas, patron saint of the Hellenic Navy, at the invitation of Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff Vice Admiral Nikolaos Tsounis. AHI Member and Supporter Dimitri Contominas hosted a dinner in honor of Larigakis' Name Day, Dec. 6 at Egli Restaurant.

*U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt thanked AHI "for its long history of advocating for Greece and Greek Americans."*

*— AHI Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner, May 18, 2018*

## GENERAL NEWS

### AHI President Speaks to Naples, Florida, Community



*AHI President Speaks to Naples Community.*

President Larigakis addressed the Greek American community of Naples, Florida, at two events held on March 28.

The Men's Club of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church of Naples invited President Larigakis to be the guest speaker at its annual luncheon, which was held at the Naples National Golf Club. He spoke on the topic, "U.S. Relations with Greece and Cyprus and the Future of Hellenism in America," before an audience of 60 persons. Gus and Peter Stavropoulos and Tom Kyros sponsored the luncheon. Dr. Harry Dimopoulos coordinated the event. Father Philemon Patitsas introduced Larigakis.

Later in the evening, Larigakis presented under the theme, "U.S. Policy Choices: Greece, Cyprus & Turkey," at an informal dinner hosted by Dr. John Eliopoulos, Dr. Harry Dimopoulos (who was unable to attend), and John Pizzi and held at the Royal Palm Country Club. Approximately 30 persons attended the dinner which was added-on for individuals who could not attend the luncheon.

"On behalf of AHI, I appreciated the opportunity to address the Greek American community of Naples on the policy issues of importance to the Greek American community," Larigakis said. "I sincerely thank the community for its hospitality and for its strong interest in the topics discussed."

President Larigakis especially thanked: Father Philemon Patitsas, Archons Gus Stavropoulos, Thomas Kyros, and Dr. John Eliopoulos; Art Katsaros, Spero Manas, Richard Pappas and John Pizzi, for organizing and hosting the day's speaking engagements.

In his remarks to the audiences, Larigakis provided an overview of U.S. policy in the Eastern Mediterranean, especially in light of developments pertaining to Turkish aggression in the Aegean Sea. Turkey's ongoing occupation of the Republic of Cyprus and its suppression of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's religious freedom were also discussed. He encouraged the community to reach out to their members of Congress to advocate on these issues.

## AHI Representatives Participate at Greek Independence Day Celebrations



Nick Larigakis, President of AHI; Carl Hollister, Supreme President of the Order of AHEPA; Demitrios Halakos, AHI Board Member.

AHI participated at several events held to commemorate the 197th anniversary of Greek Independence in 2018.

President Nick Larigakis served as an Honored Guest at the annual Greek Independence Day parade, April 22, 2018. In his remarks to

audiences at a dinner hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York on April 21, and at a pre-parade gathering held Sunday morning, Larigakis reminded the community that its work is not done as long as Turkey continues its aggression in the Aegean Sea, its occupation of the Republic of Cyprus, and its suppression of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's religious freedom. He added all these acts are in violation of international and U.S. law, and because of the latter, the community must reach out to their members of Congress to advocate on these issues.



Nick Larigakis speaks at the pre-parade reception in New York.

## AHI Celebrates Greek Independence Day at the White House

AHI celebrated Greek Independence Day at the White House on March 22. President Larigakis, AHI Board Members Dr. Athina Balta and Demitrios Halakos, AHI Foundation Board Member John Alahouzos, and AHI Legislative Director Peter Milios attended the ceremony officiated by President Donald J. Trump, and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America.



AHI Board Member Demitri Halakos, AHI Board Member Athina Balta, AHI President Nick Larigakis, AHI Foundation Board Member John Alahouzos.

## AHIF President Serves as Grand Marshal of Tarpon Springs Greek Independence Parade

AHI Foundation President Constantine Galanis served as one of several Grand Marshals at the Tarpon Springs, Fla., Greek Independence Day parade held March 18. AHI President Nick Larigakis participated as an Honored Guest of the parade committee.



(L - R) Constantine Galanis; Rear Admiral Ioannis Paxivanakis; Nick Larigakis; Captain Charalampos Pegklidis, Greek Naval Attaché; Colonel Panagiotis Kavidopoulos, Greek Defense Attaché.

"It was an honor for AHI to be recognized in this esteemed manner by the organizers of the Tarpon Springs Greek Independence Day Parade," Larigakis said. "We enjoyed celebrating the 197th anniversary of Greek Independence with the historic commu-

nity of Tarpon Springs and surrounding areas. We commend the organizers and thank everyone who attended and participated."

Galanis added, "It was a pleasure and a privilege to participate in the Greek Independence Day Parade in Tarpon Springs. The sea of Greek flags on both sides of the streets held by the people was inspiring and made my conviction even stronger to continue to participate and support all activities that support and promote Hellenism throughout the United States. Greece and Cyprus need our support during these days and our struggle will not cease until Greece is no longer threatened by its neighbors and until Cyprus is freed."

While in Tarpon Springs, Rear Admiral Ioannis Paxivanakis, deputy chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, presented Larigakis and Galanis each with an honorary plaque at the annual Greek Independence Day dinner. AHI also commended the efforts of AHI member George Mermelas, who served as chairman of the parade's Public Relations Committee and who helped with the parade's organization.

## AHI-sponsored Greek Heritage Night at Phillies Game a Home Run

AHI organized its Fifth Annual Greek Heritage Night held in cooperation with Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies, June 13, at Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, Pa. Approximately 800 tickets were sold for Greek Heritage Night, which featured the Phillies versus the Colorado Rockies. Super Bowl LII Champion Chris Maragos, defensive back, Philadelphia Eagles, threw out the First Pitch. World renown Crossover Classical Singer Anastasia Zannis performed the National Anthem.

The popular Phillies mascot, The Phillie Phanatic, sported

an Evzone costume. The Phanatic and the Hellenic Heritage Dance Troupe of St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, Cherry Hill, NJ, performed Greek dances upon the Phillies' field during the 5th Inning. The Hellenic Heritage Dance Troupe also preformed pre-game at the main entrance gate. A promotional video about Greece, made possible by the Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO), was played on the ballpark's Jumbo-tron. Greek Heritage Night also featured a Greek cuisine stand.



The Phillie Phanatic dances with Hellenic Heritage Dance Troupe. Photo courtesy of Cosmos Philly.



World renowned crossover classical singer Anastasia Zannis performing the National Anthem.



Super Bowl LII Champion Chris Maragos, defensive back, Philadelphia Eagles and Anastasia Zannis with AHL members.

## AHI President Larigakis Attends Thessaloniki International Fair



Greek Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos and US Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt (center) surrounded by the Chiefs of the Hellenic Armed Forces at the inauguration of the Hellenic Armed Forces pavilion.

AHI President Nick Larigakis attended the 83rd Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) where the United States was this year's "honored country." Larigakis attended the Gala Reception for the United States at the invitation of American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, hosted at Hyatt Regency, September 7, 2018. He also attended the Official Inauguration of the United States Pavilion at the invitation of the U.S. Embassy, September 8.

Following the inauguration, Larigakis interfaced with government officials from the United States and Greece, including Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and U.S. Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI), who chairs the Senate



(L-R) Minister Nikos Pappas, Minister of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Information; US Ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt; and Nick Larigakis at the U.S. pavilion.



Dennys Plessas, Vice President of Business Development Initiatives Europe, Middle East, & Africa, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics and Nick Larigakis.

Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, as they toured the United States Pavilion.

President Larigakis also spoke with Secretary Ross, who was in the company of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. Larigakis congratulated Secre-

tary Ross for his participation at the Fair and noted that the secretary's presence underscored how important the current state of U.S.-Greece relations is viewed.

In addition, Greece's Defense Minister Panos Kammenos invited President Larigakis to the Inauguration of the Hellenic Armed Forces pavilion, September 8. Later that evening, Larigakis attended Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras's speech to commence the Fair at the invitation of the Board of Directors of Helexpo, S.A. (The speech is essentially the equivalent of a State of the Union Address in the United States.)

Finally, President Larigakis attended a reception on the occasion of the Inaugural Presentation of the Hellenic Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, September 9, at the invitation of chapter's president, Athanasios Kouimtzis. The reception was held at the Thessaloniki Officers Club.

## AHI Hosts Vice President of New Democracy Party for Dinner



Mr. Georgiadis (lower left) with members of the AHI Board of Directors.

AHI hosted a private dinner for Adonis Georgiadis, who is the vice president for New Democracy Party, September 26 at the Kingbird Restaurant, Watergate Hotel. According to President Larigakis, the dinner focused on informing Vice President Georgiadis on the current work of the American Hellenic Institute to help advocate for U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus and included a discussion on other areas of mutual interest.

## AHI Holds 15th Annual Golf Classic; Panel Discussion

AHI hosted its Fifteenth Annual Golf Classic at Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Va., Oct. 15. Forty-eight golfers



AHI 15th Annual Golf Classic participants



(L-R) Golf Classic Chairman Peter Bota; George Wallace, sports director, WTOP Radio; Christine Brennan, journalist, USA Today; Jim Daopoulos, ESPN rules analyst and former NFL official; Nick Larigakis, AHI President.

participated. Celebrity appearances were made by: Christine Brennan, journalist, *USA Today*, Jim Daopoulos, *ESPN* rules analyst and former NFL official; and George Wallace, sports director, *WTOP Radio*. The Tournament Sponsor was Calamos Investments. Peter Bota served as Tournament Chairman.

The first-place team was comprised of: Chris Christou, Ben Kwon, James Tomaseski and Allen Lyubinsky. Second-place honors went to: Yanni Sianis, Jim Daopoulos, Father Demitri Antokas, and Tommy Greene. The third-place team included: Peter Bota, Michael Gleeson, Dave Riddle, and Eddie Gleeson. Michael Marroco earned the Closest-to-the-Pin honors and Longest Drive went to James Tomaseski.

President Larigakis expressed appreciation to Tournament Chair Peter Bota and the long-list of tournament sponsors.

## AHI President Speaks to New Haven, Connecticut Community

AHI President Nick Larigakis addressed the Greek American community of New Haven, Connecticut, at a presentation hosted by AHEPA Chapter 98, New Haven, and the Hellenic Bar Association of Connecticut, at the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church Social and Educational Hall, October 23.

In his presentation, Larigakis provided an overview of U.S. policy in the eastern Mediterranean, including: the status of Cyprus reunification talks, the United States' military presence at NSA Souda Bay, Crete; the impact of the possible name-change of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Greece-Cyprus-Israel relationship, and the geopolitical tensions in the Aegean Sea caused by Turkish aggression. Because the event occurred close to Oxi Day, Larigakis also stressed the long-term ramifications of Greek's heroic resistance to the Axis powers in early World War II.



Larigakis with AHEPA Past Supreme Governor Gregory J. Stamos and AHEPA Chapter 98 President Dr. Evangelos Hadjimichael.

He encouraged the community to reach out to their members of Congress to advocate on these issues. A robust Q&A session followed Larigakis' presentation.

## HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS

During 2018, AHI hosted several dignitaries visiting Washington, DC at AHI's Hellenic House. The dignitaries included high-ranking diplomatic and military officials, among others. They were:



Nick Larigakis speaks to the graduate students from the University of Piraeus.

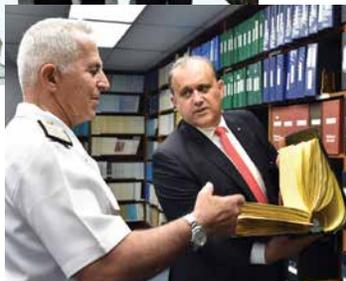
**February 6:** Sixty students from the University of Piraeus (Athens) and university staff. President Larigakis spoke to the students about AHI's history and its mission. He spoke about the advocacy process in the United States and the role of Greek-Americans in educating their elected officials on policy issues. The students shared their perspectives of the United States, as well as their interest in future career opportunities.



AHI Board Members with Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, Chief of the Hellenic Armed Forces outside of Hellenic House.

**May 2:** Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis.

Admiral Apostolakis thanked AHI for the great work it does to promote Greece around the world. He also discussed the daily multi-faceted challenges that Greece faces in the Eastern Mediterranean including from its NATO ally, Turkey. AHI Board Members Athina Balta and Peter Bota, and AHI Legal Counsel and Board Treasurer Nick Karambelas, joined Larigakis at the meeting.



Nick Larigakis giving the Admiral a tour of the E. John & Cleo Rumpakis AHIF Library.



Averof Neophytou, President of Disy and Nick Larigakis

**June 4:** Averof Neophytou, president of the Democratic Rally (Disy) Party in Cyprus.

**September 26:** AHI welcomed Colonel Vasileios Lampropoulos, the Embassy of Greece's new defense attaché. The discussion focused on a how AHI keeps the broader policy issues impacting Greece on the agenda of policymakers and how AHI works on initiatives that serve to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece.

**October 3:** Yuri Kim, director, Office of Southern European Affairs, and Emily Stoll, Greek desk officer, from the U.S. Department of State. The discussion focused on topics ranging from the need to lift the arms embargo on Cyprus, to Turkish aggression in the Eastern Mediterranean, to Greece's important role as a pillar of stability in the region.



Col. Vasileios Lampropoulos (left) with Nick Larigakis.



Nick Larigakis with Yuri Kim, director, Office of Southern European Affairs, State Department.



(L-R) AHI Board Members Nick Karambelas, Leon Andris, Dr. Athina Balta, Defense Minister Kammenos, Nick Larigakis, James Marketos.



Larigakis welcomes Greek Defense Minister Panos Kammenos to Hellenic House.

**October 10:** Greece's Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos, who commended the work of AHI. Several dignitaries accompanied Defense Minister Kammenos to Hellenic House, including: Ambassador Eleftherios Karayannis, director of Diplomatic Office of the Defense Minister; Lt. Gen. Theologos Symeonidis, (retired, Hellenic Air Force), director of the Defense Minister's Office; Captain Timothy Ketter, United States Navy, U.S. Defense attaché in Athens; Col. Vasileios Lampropoulos, Defense & Military attaché of Greece to the U.S.; and Mr. Ilias Kammenos.

## AHI FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS & INITIATIVES



(L-R) James Marketos; Matthew Palmer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs; Nick Larigakis; Leon Andris.

**October 16:** Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Matthew Palmer and Emily Stoll, Greek desk officer, from the U.S. Department of State. The discussion focused on topics ranging from the need to lift the arms embargo on Cyprus, to Turkish aggression in the Eastern Mediterranean, to Greece's important role as a pillar of stability in the region.



(L to R) Nick Karambelas, Ambassador Marios Lyssiotis, Nick Larigakis, James Marketos.

**October 19:** Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Marios Lyssiotis. Larigakis shared AHI's Issue Brief on the United States' arms embargo on the Republic of Cyprus with Ambassador Lyssiotis. Other topics of discussion included the ongoing acts of aggression taken by Turkey in Cyprus's sovereign territory and Cyprus' efforts to develop its hydrocarbon resources. The ambassador toured Hellenic House's E. John and Cleo Rumpakis Library to review library's extensive volumes of history.



(L-R) James Marketos, Lt. General Nikolaos Manouris, and Nick Larigakis.

**November 6:** Lieutenant General Nikolaos Manouris, inspector general and deputy chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff (HAGS).



(R-L) Peter Milios, Elias Gerasoulis, James Marketos, Nikos Christodoulides, Nick Larigakis, and Amb. Marios Lyssiotis.

**November 7:** Foreign Minister of the Republic of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides and Ambassador of Cyprus to the United States Marios Lyssiotis. The foreign minister briefed AHI on his visit to Washington, which included a meeting with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

### Study Abroad Alumni Have Their Experiences Published

Marina Kiotsekoglou, a graduate student at The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, and Floriana Boardman, a sophomore at Fordham University, participants on the Tenth Annual AHI Foundation Study Abroad program, had their experiences published.

In her piece titled, *Why the Cyprus Conflict Requires International Intervention*, Kiotsekoglou recounted what it was like to experience the Cyprus problem in person and the actions required by the international community to resolve the issue. The *International Affairs Review*, a graduate student-run publication of the Elliott School of International Affairs in Washington DC, published her account on November 12.

Floriana Boardman had her study abroad experience published in *The Voice*, the community news and history of the Charlotte Greek American community.

In her piece titled, "AHI Foundation Foreign Policy Trip: Human Rights and Politics Collide in Cyprus," Boardman highlights the tragic human rights issue of the missing people in Cyprus. She details the statistics of those still missing from the brutal Turkish invasion in 1974 and how the Cyprus Problem should be viewed from a moral and humanitarian standpoint in order to bring closure to the families of those who's loved ones are still missing.

### AHI Foundation Publishes Online Policy Journal

AHIF announced the release of its ninth volume of its policy journal on January 19, 2018. The online journal is available gratis at **AHIF Policy Journal** website, <http://www.ahifworld.org/journal-issues>. The policy journal is a forum for commentary and scholarship on issues of vital importance to Greek Americans. In his introduction to the current issue, Editor Dan Georgakas writes of the pressing foreign policy issues facing the United States, Greece and Cyprus. Georgakas stated, "The focus of this particular issue is on Turkish behavior and statements that have rendered Turkey the most dangerous country in the eastern Mediterranean for the United States, Greece and Cyprus."

*"...[AHI's advocacy] strengthens the U.S. government and the profound partnership and friendship between our two countries... [AHI has been] of immeasurable help... in facilitating some of the most important moments in the bilateral ties between our two countries."*

— U.S. Ambassador Pyatt, May 18, 2018



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

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus completed its landmark tenth year as ten students from across the United States participated in the 18-day program held June 19 to July 6, 2018.

The student participants were: Vanessa Balis, an Honors Scholar and Media Fellow junior at DePauw University majoring in English Literature and minoring in Spanish; Floriana Boardman, a sophomore at Fordham University majoring in Political Science with a double minor in Orthodox Christian Studies and Middle Eastern Studies; Adonis Caramintzos, a junior at Hunter College pursuing dual majors in Economics and Political Science; George Evangeloulis, a Presidential Scholar junior at the University of Southern California, majoring in Journalism and Marketing; Marina Kiotsekoglou, a former AHI intern who graduated from Pennsylvania State University and is now pursuing a master's degree at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University; Sophia Kyrou, a sophomore at Trinity College majoring in Political Science and Human Rights with a minor in French; Maria Nifakos, a Dean's List student and rising senior at Emerson College, majoring in Journalism and minoring in Sociology and Political Science; Alexis Tsapralis, a summer AHI intern and junior Dean's List student at Barnard College of Columbia University studying Political Science with a concentration in International Relations; Alexander Velis, a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign's Gies College of Business studying International Business and Finance; and Michael Zoumadakis, a recent graduate of the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business where he majored in Business Administration and minored in Political Science.

Throughout the two-week program, the students received firsthand experience regarding the foreign policy issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, their relations with the United States, and the interests of the U.S. in the Eastern Mediterranean. Briefings and meetings were held with American embassies, officials from various foreign ministries, members of parliament, the armed forces, prominent think-tanks, and members of academia and the private sector of both countries. The principal events of the trip included a visit to the Turkish-occupied area in Cyprus and a day-trip to Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, Crete, where the students toured the NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI) and received numerous briefings.

"This trip has truly opened my eyes to the hardships that Greece and Cyprus face and how critical it is for Greek-



AHI student trip participants standing outside U.S. Capitol Building with Shayne Woods, legislative assistant for Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) & Christina Parisi, legislative director for Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Hellenic Caucus co-chairs.



AHI students with Haris Lalacos, Ambassador of Greece to the United States.



White House Briefing Room, part of the students West Wing tour of the White House complex.



Alumni of the AHIF student foreign policy trip gather at the reunion to kick off the tenth annual trip.



Students pose with Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides (center) and Director of Middle East and North Africa Directorate, Andreas Kakouris (far right).



Meeting with Prodomos Prodromou, Government Spokesman

Americans to lobby Congress to support stronger U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus," Participant Floriana Boardman said. "Through the American Hellenic Institute Foundation, I now understand how a relationship between the United States, Cyprus and Greece is beneficial to all three countries."

Added Participant Michael Zoumadakis, "Prior to the AHIF Foreign Policy Trip, I had never traveled to Greece or Cyprus. Having grown up in a traditional Greek household, I was unaware of the beauty, military capabilities, and general strategic importance housed in these two Mediterranean nations. Through numerous meetings with top politicians, business, religious, and community leaders, as well as visitations to the most important bases and sites, I gained a deeper understanding of the role they play in international politics, especially with respect to the United States."



AHIF students at a desecrated church located in the illegally occupied area.



Students with a submarine class-214 at Salamis Greek Naval Fleet headquarters.



An abandoned Cyprus Airways plane lies on the tarmac at the UN controlled Nicosia International Airport.



Students touring Souda Bay on a skiff boat.



Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, Chief of the Hellenic Armed Forces.



Meeting with Amb. Geoffrey Pyatt at the Ambassador's residence in Athens.



President Prokopis Pavlopoulos, President of Greece.



## AHIF Hosts 17th Annual The Future of Hellenism in America Conference in Dallas, Texas



(L-R) Constantine Galanis; Barbara Vittas; Ambassador Haris Lalacos; Maria Lainioti Carayannopoulos; Nick Larigakis.

AHI Foundation hosted its Seventeenth Annual Conference on the Future of Hellenism in America, keeping the discussion of the promotion and preservation of Hellenism at the forefront of the community. This year's conference was held in Dallas, Texas, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, Nov. 9-10. Featuring nearly twenty prominent speakers from across the country, conference presentations analyzed key issues including: the future of Greek American organizations, the political process and lobbying, religious and ethnic identity, promoting Hellenic values through business, Greek education, and perspectives from young Greek Americans. Speakers also identified how Hellenism could be promoted in the future through these various channels.

On the eve of the Hellenism Conference, November 9, AHIF held a successful conference dinner with more than 125 persons in attendance. There, AHI President Nick Larigakis officially opened the conference and welcome remarks followed. George Naftis served as Master of Ceremonies. Ambassador Haris Lalacos, Greek ambassador to the United States, delivered the Keynote Address, "The Role of Greece in Promoting Hellenism Abroad." The ambassador emphasized the U.S.-Greece relationship is at a high point and future relations appear bright. The Invocation and Benediction were given by Rev. Presbyter Peter Kostakis, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas.

Barbara Vittas and Maria Lainioti Carayannopoulos each received AHI's Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in America.



Barbara Vittas receives the AHI Hellenic Heritage Award for the Promotion of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in America.



Maria Lainioti Carayannopoulos receives the AHI Hellenic Heritage Award for the Promotion of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in America.

The conference was organized into four panels: Current Perspective on Current Challenges, Engagement in Our Community & How We Compare, The Changing Nature of the Greek American Community, and Looking to the Next Generation of Greek Americans. The conference's opening keynote speaker, Professor Dan Georgakas, director of Greek American Studies, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY, presented on the theme, "The Now and Future of Greek America." Dr. Van Coufoudakis, former dean, professor emeritus, Indiana University-Purdue University College of Arts and Science, spoke on the



Eric Fusfield, deputy director, B'nai B'rith International Center for Human Rights and Public Policy.

theme “Keeping Hellenism Alive in 21st Century America: Challenges, Opportunities, and Threats” as the conference’s luncheon keynote speaker. The conference concluded with a discussion titled, “Where Do We Go from Here?”

Special thanks to Donna Ralli-Lalngas and Paul A. Peters for their tremendous work in helping to make this year’s conference a complete success. Their assistance throughout the planning and implementation of the conference was instrumental. Also, Paul and Magdaline Peters held a post-conference reception for conference speakers and

participants during the evening at their home in Fort Worth.

Each year the conference is held in a different U.S. city to spread the seeds of ideas generated at the conference and to obtain feedback from the local Greek American community on various challenges facing Hellenism in America. Conference speakers identified key challenges facing the Greek American community today and offered suggestions for the future.



*Nick Larigakis, President of AHL.*



*Professor Van Coufoudakis provides the Luncheon Keynote Address.*



*George Vittas serves as moderator of the panel, “Current Perspectives on Current Challenges.”*



*Dr. Georgios Anagnostou, professor, Ohio State University Department of Classics.*



*Professor Dan Georgakas provides the Opening Keynote address.*



*Professor Alexander Kitroeff, associate professor of History, Haverford University.*



*Nick Larigakis speaks to the Dallas-Forth Worth community at the reception hosted by Paun and Magdaline Peters at their residence.*



*Conference attendees.*



# Athens Awards Dinner

## AHI Hosts 14th Athens Awards Dinner

The Fourteenth Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner was held at The Grande Bretagne hotel in Athens on May 18.

The two honorees who each received the Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award were Dr. Panagiotis Behrakis and the Hellenic Armed Forces, represented by Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis.

AHI recognized Dr. Behrakis for his tireless efforts to combat tobacco usage in the youth of Greece and the Hellenic Armed Forces for its illustrious achievements throughout history in the defense of Greece's sovereignty, their defense and promotion of peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and their commitment to defense cooperation with the United States and NATO.

Ilias Malevitis, president, AHI-Greece, welcomed the audience. George C. Economou, president, AHI-Athens Chapter, provided greetings. Olga Bornozi of Capital Link served exceptionally as Master of Ceremonies.

Moreover, AHI President Nick Larigakis addressed the audience. In addition to congratulating the honorees, 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.



*Olga Bornozi, Master of Ceremonies.*



*Admiral Apostolakis accepts the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award on behalf of the Hellenic Armed Forces.*



*(L-R) Deputy Minister for Sports Giorgos Vasiliadis, representing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras; AHI Athens Chapter President George Economou; AHI Greece President Ilias Malevitis; Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, Chief of the Hellenic Armed Forces; Dr. Panagiotis Behrakis; U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt; and AHI President Nick Larigakis.*



Dinner guests.

### Ambassador Pyatt: AHI Provides “Immeasurable Help”

U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt provided opening remarks about the strong relationship between the United States and Greece. Ambassador Pyatt also thanked AHI “for its long history of advocating for Greece and Greek Americans.” He added AHI’s advocacy “strengthens the U.S. government and the profound



Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt providing greetings.

partnership and friendship between our two countries,” and that AHI has been “...of immeasurable help...in facilitating some of the most important moments in the bilateral ties between our two countries.”



Dr. Behrakis accepts the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award.

## LEADERSHIP, AWARDS & STAFF NEWS

### AHI President Honored for Contribution to Hellenic Armed Forces Day Celebration



Larigakis (L) receives certificate of appreciation from Defense Attaché Colonel Vasileios Lampropoulos (R).

The Embassy of Greece in Washington’s Defense, Military Naval and Air Attaché Office President Nick Larigakis for his role in contributing to the success of the celebration of Hellenic Armed Forces Day. Defense Attaché Colonel Vasileios Lampropoulos presented a Certificate of Appreciation to President Larigakis at AHI’s annual Christmas reception, Dec. 17, 2018. It reads:

*“On behalf of the Defense Delegation of the Hellenic Embassy*

*With Sincere thanks for being a generous sponsor of our Armed Forces Day Celebration event on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2018*

*With your tireless effort and valuable support*

*We succeeded in making this day a big event.*

*We hope that we will work together in the near future again”*

In acceptance, Larigakis stated his deep gratitude for the recognition and commended the Defense Office at the Embassy of Greece for its work in Washington. In his speech, President Larigakis said “We deeply appreciate the essential work of the Embassy of Greece in Washington in collaborating with organizations such as ours in order to highlight Greece as a crucial nation in the projection of American geostrategic interests in the Eastern Mediterranean as well as the peace and stability of the region.”

In addition to Col. Lampropoulos, who led a delegation of ten Greek embassy officials; U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Matthew Palmer and Director of the Office of Southern European Affairs Yuri Kim, were in attendance.

## Gerasoulis Joins Staff as Legislative Assistant



*Elias Gerasoulis.*

AHI was pleased to announce the hire of Elias Gerasoulis as the Institute's Legislative Assistant, July 24.

"We are excited and fortunate to have Elias join our staff," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "During his time at the University of Pennsylvania, Elias served in many capacities that required a significant amount of responsibility and

accountability. The legislative experience he gained through his internships working for both Congress and the United Nations, and his demonstrated passion for international affairs, will be a tremendous asset to our mission."

Elias Gerasoulis graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in European History. Elias was also a participant of the 2015 AHI Foundation Student Foreign Policy trip and spoke at the future of Hellenism conference in 2015 and 2017. He is originally from Edison, New Jersey.

"I am deeply grateful and honored to work for AHI," Gerasoulis stated. "The Institute has tirelessly promoted and defended Hellenism. I look forward to contributing to this important cause."

Throughout his collegiate career, Elias gained legislative experience as an intern for U.S. Congressman Tom MacArthur and the Greek Permanent Mission to the United Nations, to which he served as a Summer Adviser. He also was involved in Penn's Greek-American organization and was on the board of PIPAC, Penn's pro-Israel advocacy group.

## Dr. Coufoudakis Honored by University of Nicosia School of Law



*Dr. Coufoudakis Honored by University of Nicosia School of Law.*

The University of Nicosia School of Law awarded AHI Board Member Dr. Van Coufoudakis the degree of Doctor of Philosophy Honoris Causa, October 11, as decided by the Senate of the University of Nicosia. The university's academic leadership, various Cypriot academics, political leaders, students and friends of the

honoree attended the ceremony held in Nicosia, Cyprus. The Rector of the University of Nicosia, Professor Philippos Pouyioutas stated the award is the highest recognition granted to an individual for their contribution to the arts, sciences and to Cypriot culture. He went on to highlight Dr. Coufoudakis' contributions to Cyprus and to the field of International Relations. In acceptance, Dr. Coufoudakis expressed his admiration for the university's growth and development. He also discussed his involvement

in the Cyprus problem since 1963 and commented on current developments in the UN-sponsored talks on Cyprus. Dr. Coufoudakis also spoke about what influenced his academic career and stressed how freedom of expression allowed him to partake in public affairs, much as Pericles asked citizens of democratic polities to do.

## Retired Rear Admiral Appointed VP of AHI-Athens Chapter



*Rear Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis.*

AHI announced the appointment of retired Rear Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis to the position of Vice President of the AHI-Athens chapter, Sept. 26. Rear 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 Rear Admiral.

During his service in the Hellenic Navy, Kyriazis served in a variety of warships as a staff officer and commanding officer. He also served in staff and administrative positions in Greece and abroad, as a senior and flag officer, including at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium (2002-2003); and Naval attaché of the Embassy of Greece in Washington, DC. (2006-2008).

## AHI Interns Reflect on their Experiences



*AHI summer 2018 interns: Alexandra Choate (left) and Alexis Tsapralis (right).*

AHI's summer internship program is designed for college students who wish to gain experience in government affairs and foreign policy issues. AHI prides itself in preparing college students for the next step in their international relations careers, and this past summer, Alexandra Choate and Alexis Tsapralis took full advantage of their time as AHI's interns.

During her internship, Alexandra attended and reported on symposiums and panels located across Washington, DC and assisted in editing AHI's soon-to-be-published book, "The Future of Hellenism in America," among other important duties. "This internship was deeply meaningful to me. Every day at work was a chance to do right by my heritage: to push for stronger US support for Greece and Cyprus, to advocate for Greek American interests, to demand real change in the most powerful city in America," she said.

Following her participation in AHI Foundation's Foreign Policy Trip to Washington, DC, Cyprus, and Greece, Alexis returned to AHI where she drafted press releases, attended panel events, composed Capitol Reports, and conducted research on relevant breaking news pertaining to the Eastern Mediterranean. "This internship was an invaluable experience. Not only was I able to put into practice the knowledge I gained while on AHIF's Foreign Policy Trip, but I was also able to deepen my understanding of the core issues affecting the Eastern Mediterranean."



The American Hellenic Institute  
in cooperation with *The Hellenic News of America* and Cosmos Philly

is proud to present the 6th Annual  
**“GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT”**  
**AT THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019



**Philadelphia Phillies “GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT”**  
at Citizens Bank Park vs the St. Louis Cardinals (7:05 p.m.)

**GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT (all tickets \$49 - behind 3rd Base) will include:**

Special Welcome; Ceremonial First Ball; 2 minute pre-game video highlighting Greece; The Phillie Phanatic dressed as an “Evzone” leading a Greek Dance Troupe on the field during the 5th or 7th i nning; A concession stand dedicated to serving Greek food; and a thousand or more Greek Americans expressing our proud Hellenic Heritage from the stands!

**VIP TICKETS \$300 PER PERSON (only 20 spaces available) includes:**

Ticket to watch the game from MVP Suite, which will include food and drinks for the entire game; visit by a Phillies Alum; and a very special visit by the “Phillie Phanatic” dressed in the “Evzone” costume. (Pending availability.)

**To purchase tickets online visit [www.phillies.com/greekheritage](http://www.phillies.com/greekheritage)**

# of VIP ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_ at \$300 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ # of ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_ at \$49 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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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)  Nike (\$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 *Modern Greeks: Greece in World War II: The German Occupation and National Resistance and Civil War* by Costas Stassinopoulos.

\$500

## Solon Membership

Marathon membership benefits, plus:

- Free attendance at any two AHI Business Network Events nationwide
- A complimentary copy of *Modern Greeks*

\$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

## Nike Membership

Olympic membership benefits, plus:

- A special invitation to join the annual delegation trip to Greece and Cyprus and participate in high-level meetings with members of the executive and legislative branches of the Greek and Cypriot governments
- Receive a Sustaining Member listing on the AHI Memorial Wall, prominently displayed in the lobby of Hellenic House
- Underwriting credit for the year at all AHI events

\$10,000





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