



AHI

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

American Hellenic Institute

American Hellenic Institute Foundation



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
PUBLIC POLICY: AN OVERVIEW	2
LEGISLATIVE & POLICY INITIATIVES	4
AWARDS DINNER	10
LEADERSHIP VISITS ABROAD	12
BRIEFINGS, CONFERENCES & FORUMS	15
ATHENS AWARDS DINNER.....	18
GENERAL NEWS	19
AHI FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS & INITIATIVES	20
AHIF COLLEGE STUDENT FOREIGN POLICY TRIP TO GREECE & CYPRUS	22
MEDIA RELATIONS	24
HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS.....	24
FUTURE OF HELLENISM IN AMERICA CONFERENCE	25
AHI PRESIDENT CELEBRATES 30 YEARS WITH AHI	26
LEADERSHIP, AWARDS & STAFF NEWS.....	28

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE

1220 16TH STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20036

WWW.AHIWORLD.ORG • 301-670-9728 • INFO@AHIWORLD.ORG

Introduction

Dear Members and Friends:

As the American Hellenic Institute marks its 43rd year as the only Greek American think-tank and public policy center, it affords me great pleasure to present the Institute's 2017 Annual Report. All of AHI's policy-based programs and initiatives that advance the best interests of the United States on issues of importance to Greek Americans are encapsulated in this report.

In 2017, AHI issued 53 press releases detailing our numerous policy activities and events. These activities included: the 42nd Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner; the 16th annual "Future of Hellenism in America" conference; the 13th Annual Awards Dinner in Athens; our annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" on Capitol Hill; our fourth-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 9th 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 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 audience informed, we showcased commentaries, letters, and op-ed pieces that praised Greece's security cooperation amid crises and were critical of Turkey's foreign policy positions in addition to publishing our Capital Reports and hosting foreign policy forums. AHI also remain an important resource for media outlets seeking the Greek American perspective on U.S. policy in the eastern Mediterranean, placing letters to the editor and appearing in media interviews. Moreover, the AHI Foundation published the eighth volume of its Online Policy Journal that provides expert policy analysis and commentary.

In addition, AHI hosted policy forums and conferences, in the U.S. and abroad. For example, AHI hosted three intimate Washington, D.C.-based events for high-level Greek military officials with high-profile U.S. government officials and defense sector executives intended to raise awareness of Greece's strategic importance and to advance U.S.-Greece defense cooperation. Further, AHI hosted a panel presentation in Athens on the topic of Greece's strategic importance that featured U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt as the keynote speaker.

Also, AHI was fortunate to experience a few unique events in 2017. First, the year started-off with a tremendous boost with the announcement of one of the largest gifts to the AHI Foundation by E. John and Cleo Rumpakis of Portland, Oregon. The Rumpakis' \$175,000 donation to the foundation helped to refurbish and enhance the AHI Foundation Library. In October, we held a ceremony to rededicate the AHI Foundation

Library in honor of E. John and Cleo Rumpakis. This unique moment in AHI history was made especially memorable because we were fortunate to have His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, officiate the ceremony at Hellenic House. We are deeply grateful to E. John and Cleo Rumpakis and for Archbishop Demetrios' participation. Further, I commend AHI Foundation Graduate Fellow Gregory Graves, who performed the tedious task to properly catalog, restore and present roughly 2,500 books, 1,600 journals and unclassified government publications, and 400 historical documents and special collections in the Institute's possession, as part of the library's restoration. In addition to Graves's work to establish the library collection, he has produced 31 binders of previously declassified government documents regarding the illegal invasion of Cyprus in 1974 by Turkey, as part of his doctoral thesis, which he presented at a Noon Forum titled, "The Cyprus Crisis: A Declassified Dossier" in September.

Secondly, I am especially proud because for the first time, AHI made an official visit to Australia in late March/early April. The four-city visit—to Canberra, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney—provided an opportunity to introduce AHI, and its work, to the Greek-Australian community and to discuss the policy issues with Australian officials and Diaspora organizations. I sincerely thank the dynamic members of the Greek Australian community for their generous hospitality and for organizing an impactful itinerary of meetings and events in each of the four cities I visited.

Finally, with great thanks to the kindness and generosity of the AHI Board of Directors, a special professional milestone for me was celebrated in October—my 30th work anniversary at AHI. It was an emotional evening that I will never forget.

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.

2018: Keeping our Policy Issues at the Forefront

AHI looks to continue the momentum generated from programs offered in recent years. 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. One bright spot has already occurred in 2018 as I am pleased to report AHI participated in a third International Leadership Mission to Greece, Cyprus and Israel with leading American Jewish organizations and AHEPA in January. 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.

The eastern Mediterranean remains immensely important to U.S. interests, and we must advance and promote policies that embrace the rule of law. Despite recent crises, Greece continues to be a reliable, steady, and trusted NATO ally. On the other

hand, Turkey's troublesome foreign policy direction, which includes unprecedented heightened Turkish aggression in the Aegean, is ongoing and must be called out. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's public questioning of the integrity of the Treaty of Lausanne is especially troublesome. And we witnessed Turkish thuggery firsthand here in our nation's capital when President Erdogan's security detail brutally attacked peaceful U.S. protestors. 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. The FYROM name-recognition issue promises to come to a head in 2018. All of these issues require our collective attention and action.

Together, as advocates for the rule of law, we must continue to educate the Trump Administration and Congress on our issues. With nearly 50 announced retirements and resignations by members of Congress, it remains a significant challenge to keep members informed and engaged. We must remind legislators and policymakers that despite difficult economic conditions, Greece remains a loyal ally and contributes greatly to U.S. security and economic interests in the eastern Mediterranean. And the same holds for the Republic of Cyprus, which must be viewed as an important, valuable player and partner in the region for the United States, acting as a bridge-builder and geostrategic partner; and not just a country viewed through the lens of the Cyprus problem. In addition, we must work with the Trump Administration to sustain a high-level of engagement with Greece and Cyprus amid an increasingly cramped foreign policy agenda. Further, we must never forget that April 24, 2018 marks the 103rd anniversary of Armenian Genocide. Finally, AHI looks to build upon the momentum generated by uplifting programs such as our study abroad program for college students and our "Greek Heritage Night" at the ballpark while exploring additional ways to encourage growth in commerce, trade, and investment between the United States and Greece and Cyprus.

As I close the door on my 30th year at AHI, I am deeply grateful and appreciative of the members, board officers and staff for their dedication. Everyone worked together to make 2017 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

PUBLIC POLICY: AN OVERVIEW

U.S.-Greece Relations

The American Hellenic Institute maintains 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.

AHI has worked extensively, especially in 2017, to raise awareness of Greece’s strategic importance and to enhance U.S.-Greece defense cooperation with events staged in Washington, D.C. and Athens. For example, AHI hosted three presentations for high-level Greek military officials to convey Greece’s strategic importance to key officials and representatives of the defense sector in Washington; and furthermore, hosted a panel presentation on the topic in Athens that featured U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt and Alternate Minister of National Defense Dimitris Vitsas. Finally, AHI has worked with our allies on Capitol Hill to seek an increased investment in Greece’s International Military Education and Training program.

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 that 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);
- Turkey’s continuing violations of Greece’s territorial waters and airspace (2,573 infringements and violations of Greece’s airspace occurred in 2016); 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 by Turkey of the Greek airspace and territorial waters. As a result of Turkey elevating tensions in the eastern Mediterranean, and being 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 the Trump administration on three occasions, urging that the U.S. fundamentally re-assess our alliance and overall relationship with Turkey.

The Cyprus Problem

In 2017, the community observed the somber 43rd 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 the 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, 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.

- AHI held a very timely, high-profile briefing on Capitol Hill to mark the 43rd anniversary of the invasion where seven members of Congress, Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, the Chief Greek Cypriot Negotiator, who was one of the central figures at the Conference on Cyprus; Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Leonidas Pantelides; 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 accomplishes this task by submitting letters to the editors of prominent print media outlets, sending policy letters to government officials, producing op-ed pieces, and the dissemination of action alerts. AHI proudly hosted a Noon Forum in September 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. Furthermore, AHI’s commitment to Cyprus is demonstrated by annual visits to Cyprus. Finally, AHIF continues to introduce a younger generation of Greek Americans to Cyprus and Greece with its annual Foreign Policy Study Abroad Program.

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 2017, 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 as long as it is not tied-in to FYROM’s commitment to negotiate in good faith with Greece to find a solution to the continuing unresolved name-recognition issue. In all of AHI’s meetings with government officials, the FYROM name-recognition issue is also raised. 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.

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 6:** AHI sent a letter to President Donald Trump to raise concern about rising tensions in the Aegean Sea stoked by Turkey’s provocations and to urge the administration to call on Turkey to cease and desist with its provocations because of the implications to the United States’ national security interests.
- **March 20:** AHI wrote to United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz to express “profound disappointment” with his comments that attacked the launch of Emirates Airline’s year-round, non-stop daily service from Newark Liberty International Airport to Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport, Athens, Greece.
- **March 28:** AHI sent a letter to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson ahead of the secretary’s visit to Turkey. The letter requested Secretary Tillerson to raise Turkey’s provocations during his meetings.
- **May 1:** AHI sent a letter to President Donald Trump ahead of President Trump’s May 16 meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the White House. The letter cited examples of how Turkey is a force of instability in the region.
- **June 5:** AHI sent a letter to the heads of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats requesting an extensive hearing on Turkey’s history of violating U.S. laws in the wake of the May 16 attack on protestors by Turkish President Erdogan’s security detail.
- **October 12:** AHI sent a letter to President Donald Trump ahead of his October 16 meeting with Prime Minister of Greece Alexis Tsipras at the White House.

Statements & Announcements

- **January 17:** AHI and the AHI Foundation (AHIF) announced additions to their respective governing bodies, including the selection of Constantine (Kostas) Apostolos Galanis as AHIF President, and Dr. Athina Balta and Mr. Demitrios Halakos to the AHI Board of Directors.
- **January 18:** The AHI Foundation announced it was the recipient of a \$175,000 gift from E. John and Cleo Rumpakis of Portland, OR.
- **March 2:** AHIF announced the publication of the eighth volume of its Policy Journal.
- **March 16:** AHI announced the release of its 2016 Annual Report.

- **May 25:** AHI commended U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen for spearheading a letter to the Trump administration demanding justice for the Americans attacked by Turkish President Erdogan's security detail.
- **June 16:** In a joint statement, AHI, AHEPA, B'nai B'rith International, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations welcomed the third trilateral summit between Israel, Greece and Cyprus, held in Thessaloniki, Greece.
- **July 18:** AHI issues a statement in remembrance of the 43rd anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974. In addition to the tragic results of the Turkish invasion, which included the deaths of innocent civilians, forced removal of 170,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes, and mass destruction of Cyprus' cultural and religious heritage, AHI's statement also referenced Turkey's 40,000 illegal troops in Cyprus and Turkey's threats to Cyprus and cited Cyprus' contributions as a friend of the U.S. on issues of counterterrorism and security in the region.
- **September 11:** AHI applauded an increase in the funding level for Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) program that the Senate Committee on Appropriations approved in its Fiscal Year 2018 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill.
- **October 31:** AHI announced new hire, Constantine Politis.
- **November 2:** AHI announced its newest publication, "The Rule of Law Lobby: Grassroots Mobilization and the U.S. Arms Embargo on Turkey - 1974-1978," by Van Coufoudakis, Ph. D. and Serge Hadji, Esq.



LEGISLATIVE & POLICY INITIATIVES

AHI Brings Policy Agenda to New 115TH Congress

In January 2017, AHI met with members of Congress to review AHI's policy agenda for the 115th Congress and to provide updates on the latest developments in the eastern Mediterranean. The legislators AHI met with were: U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-chairs, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chair, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; Ted Deutch (D-FL), co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance, and ranking member, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa; Brad Sherman (D-CA), a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; Grace Meng (D-NY), member, House Appropriations Committee; Dina Titus (D-NV), member, House Foreign Affairs Committee; and Niki Tsongas (D-MA). In addition, AHI met with the senior foreign affairs staff of U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), who is the ranking member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs; and staff of U.S. Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA).

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

Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day



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

AHI celebrated the 196th anniversary of Greek Independence Day by hosting its annual “Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day,” March 22. The common democratic ideals held by Greece and the U.S. 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, Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

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

Special guest speakers were: Greek Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos, and on behalf of the Embassy of Cyprus, Congressional Liaison Eleftheria Aristotelous. Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Haris Lalacos also attended. During the evening, there was a presentation of traditional Greek dances performed by the Return to Origins Greek Folk Dance Troupe under the direction of Rena Papapostolou. The Greek School Students of Saint Katherine’s Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, VA, sang the American and Greek National Anthems.

AHI Marks 43rd Anniversary of Turkish Invasion of Cyprus with Congressional Briefing



Ambassador Leonidas Pantelides.



Nick Larigakis, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, and Ambassador Mavroyiannis.

AHI marked the 43rd 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 19. 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.

Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, the Chief Greek Cypriot Negotiator, who was one of the central figures at the Conference on Cyprus; Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Leonidas Pantelidis; and Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos, all attended and addressed the audience. Nick Larigakis moderated the briefing.

The briefing, held in cooperation with the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, featured: U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-chair, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues; U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), former chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), U.S. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Brad Sherman (D-CA), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats; Ted Deutch (D-FL), co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance, and member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; and Brad Schneider (D-IL), as speakers.

AHI, Lexington Institute Host Greece's National Defense Chief for Policy Discussion



Vice President & General Manager of the F-16/F-22 Integrated Fighter Group at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, Mr. Roderick "Rod" McLean speaks with Admiral Apostolakis.

Lexington Institute, a nonprofit public-policy think tank, in cooperation with AHI, hosted a high-level policy luncheon discussion for Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff, on the occasion of the admiral's visit to Washington, D.C., October 23, at the Capital Hilton. More than 30 policy experts from the public and private sectors, including officials from the White House, Pentagon, and Department of State; as well as representatives from the defense and security industries and think-tanks, attended the invite-only event.

Admiral Apostolakis commended the Lexington Institute and AHI for their successful roles to strengthen U.S.-Greece relations.

"I give to both the Lexington Institute and the "American Hellenic Institute the credit for their successful efforts to build a special bond of partnership and friendship between the United States and Greece," he said. "Mr. Larigakis has been very active with his initiatives and he has really helped promote our bilateral relations."

The admiral also took the opportunity to share the concerns of Greece and its Armed Forces as well as his perspective on relations with the United States.

"Our close neighborhood is full of challenges that are interlinked. You are perfectly aware of the situation in Syria

and Libya, as well as how much the East Med is affected by the terrorist threat and refugee flows," he said. "My country is placed at the center of this volatile region and we remain very concerned about the security issues."

Admiral Apostolakis added, "Greece, being a stable country and maintaining competent Armed Forces, plays a crucial role as stability and security provider."

AHI Hosts Hellenic Navy General Staff Chief for Maritime Security Presentation



Nick Larigakis, Vice Admiral Tsounis, and Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus, U.S. Congressman Gus Bilirakis

AHI hosted a reception and presentation with Vice Admiral Nikolaos Tsounis, chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, at the Hellenic House, November 8. The presentation served as an integral part of the vice admiral's Washington, D.C. visit during which he also met with his counterparts at the Pentagon.

Vice Admiral Tsounis made the case for elevating the U.S.-Greece partnership by stressing Greece's commitment to regional security. The vice admiral concluded his presentation, calling on the U.S. to invest its "political capital" in Greece. He reiterated the Hellenic Navy would continue to be fully operational, and a model of stability, despite continued budget constraints.

The invitation-only event was attended by thirty-five persons. Several high-profile public officials and private sector representatives were in attendance, including: U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL); Ambassador Tom Miller, former U.S. ambassador to Greece; Ambassador Tom Korologos, former U.S. ambassador to Brussels; Deanna DeSante, deputy director, OSD European Policy, Department of Defense; Colonel Panagiotis Kavidopoulos, defense attaché, Embassy of Greece; and Dennys Plessas, vice-president of Business Development Initiatives Europe, Middle East, & Africa, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, among many others.

AHI Hosts Hellenic Army Chief for Working Dinner



Dinner guests discuss U.S.-Greek military relations with special guest Lt. Gen. Stefanis.



Nick Larigakis (R) and Larry Michael (L) present Lt. Gen. Stefanis (C) with a custom Washington Redskins jersey.

AHI hosted a private dinner for Lieutenant General Alkiviadis Stefanis, chief of the Hellenic Army, September 20, at Metro 29 Diner, Arlington, Va. Lt. Gen. Stefanis became the first Greek military officer to be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the National Defense University. The induction is an extremely high honor for foreign military officials. The working dinner focused on the significant contributions of the Greek Armed Forces to NATO and U.S. interests in the region.

Thirty guests attended, including: Dean Popps, former acting U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology; Dimitrios Angelosopoulos, Counselor & Consul, Embassy of Greece in US; Major General Vasilios Garmpis, NATO HQ IMS L&R Division at Brussels, Belgium; Defense Attaché Col. Panagiotis Kavidopoulos, Embassy of Greece; Merrick “Mac” Carey, CEO, Lexington Institute; Emanuel “Manny” Rouvelas, partner, K&L Gates, Ambassador Tom Korologos, former U.S. Ambassador to Belgium; Col. Scott Miller, Army attaché, U.S. Embassy in Athens, Greece; Wendy Stancer, Greek desk officer, U.S. Department of State; and Rohit Nepal, deputy director of Southern European Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

Congressman Bilirakis Submits AHI Letter into Congressional Record

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AHI Receives United's Views on Greek Air Service Market

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

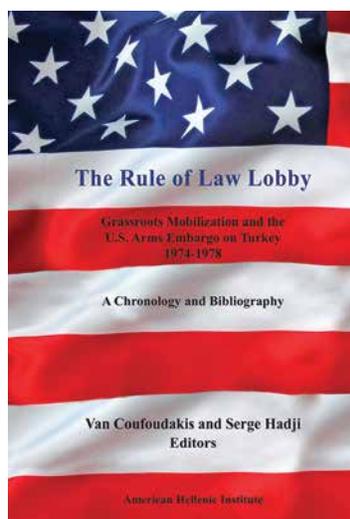
In an April 4 email to President Larigakis, and copied to United CEO Oscar Munoz, United's Vice President of International Network Patrick Quayle called United's 2016 seasonal New York/Newark-Athens service "a success" and stated United is committed to operate the service again in 2017, from May to October.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

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

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

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

AHI Announces Publication: The Rule of Law Lobby



In November, AHI announced its newest publication, "The Rule of Law Lobby: Grassroots Mobilization and the U.S. Arms Embargo on Turkey - 1974-1978," by Van Coufoudakis, Ph. D. and Serge Hadji, Esq. The volume focuses on the grassroots mobilization in the Greek American community following Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus on July 20, 1974 through the lifting of the U.S. Arms Embargo in 1978.

The mobilization events highlighted in the annotated Chronology recount how Greek Americans reacted to the invasion of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974. In addition to protesting vociferously and providing humanitarian assistance, the Greek American community gradually coalesced into a lobby under the newly unfurled banner of the "Rule of Law." This led to the remarkable accomplishment of cutting off military aid to Turkey under an arms embargo imposed by the U.S. Congress.

SAVE THE DATE! • MARCH 9, 2019

*44th Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement
& National Public Service*

Awards Dinner



MARCH 9, 2019 • THE CAPITAL HILTON WASHINGTON, DC



Special Event

AHI, AHEPA Host Prime Minister Tsipras in Honor of U.S. Visit

AHI and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA) hosted a dinner in honor of Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' visit to the U.S., October 16, 2017, at the Willard InterContinental, Washington, D.C. Prime Minister Tsipras was in the midst of a five-day visit to the United States, which included a meeting and joint press conference with President Donald J. Trump, Oct. 17.

In remarks, Prime Minister Tsipras discussed the importance of U.S. investment in Greece, the opportunities to enhance U.S.-Greece defense cooperation, and the critical role the Greek American community can play in the U.S.-Greece relationship.

Prime Minister Tsipras described members of the community as the best ambassadors, and added, "You represent the values of freedom and democracy."

AHI President Nick Larigakis and Supreme President Carl R. Hollister also offered remarks. They welcomed Prime Minister Tsipras to Washington and wished the prime minister, and his diplomatic corps, fruitful deliberations. Both presidents also remarked upon the opportunities to bolster the U.S.-Greece relationship across various sectors

and emphasized the importance of continued foreign direct investment in Greece to Greece's economic recovery.

Emanuel L. Rouvelas, partner, K&L Gates, and AHI and AHEPA member, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Government officials in attendance included: U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt, Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Leonidas Pantelides, U.S. Representative John Sarbanes, Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias, Greek Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos, and Greek Minister of Digital Policy, Telecommunications, and Media Nikos Pappas.



AHI President Larigakis and AHEPA Supreme President Hollister present Prime Minister Tsipras with a painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



AHI members share a moment with Prime Minister Tsipras.



Dignitaries seated with Larigakis, Prime Minister Tsipras, and Hollister included: Libra Group Chairman & CEO George M. Logothetis (at left) and U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt (at right).



Prime Minister Tsipras delivers remarks.

Awards Dinner

AHI Hosts 42ND Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner



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



Nick Larigakis, Paul Glasiris, Costas Galanis.

The American Hellenic Institute hosted its 42nd Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner on March 11 at the Capital Hilton in 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: Van Coufoudakis, Ph.D., Professor and Academic Leader; Paul Glasiris, Co-founder, Journalist, Editor, and former Senior Speechwriter for President Bill Clinton; Dennis Mehiel, Principal Shareholder and Chairman of U.S. Corrugated, Inc.; and George Korkos, M.D., FACS, Surgeon and Entrepreneur.

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

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



Nick Larigakis, Dr. Van Coufoudakis, Costas Galanis.



Nick Larigakis, Dennis Mehiel, Costas Galanis.



Nick Larigakis, Dr. George Korkos, Costas Galanis.



Dr. and Mrs. George Korkos with the members of their family.



From left: Costas Galanis, Leon Andris, Robyn Andris, Penny Korkos, Dr. George Korkos, Nick Larigakis.



Dr. George Korkos, Dennis Mehiel, and Jim Pedas.



Gene Rossides with Amb. and Mrs. Leonidas Pantelides and Demitris and Georgia Halakos.



From left: Dr. Spiro Spireas, Dr. Emily Spireas, Adriana Sifakis, George Sifakis, and Paul Kotrotsios.

LEADERSHIP VISITS ABROAD

AHI President's First-ever Visit to Australia



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



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

AHI President Nick Larigakis concluded AHI's first-ever official visit to Australia, March 27 to April 11, where he met with Greek Australian communities and public officials in four cities: Canberra, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney. In each city, he delivered a major speech.

Larigakis began his visit in Canberra where he held discussions with Greek and Cypriot diplomatic representatives and with various Australian members of Parliament as part of the Australian Hellenic Council (AHC) NSW's lobby day, which is a two-day event. He raised awareness of the pressing issues confronting the eastern



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

Mediterranean with the parliamentarians, including Turkey's provocations in the Aegean and its intransigence on the Cyprus settlement talks. Larigakis also gave a lecture at the Hellenic Club Woden sponsored by AHC NSW where he reiterated the developments in the eastern Mediterranean and discussed AHI's work to strengthen relations between the United States and Greece and Cyprus.

Larigakis arrived in Melbourne April 2. There, he delivered a lecture to the Greek Australian community on the topic "United States Relations with Greece & Cyprus: The Role of the American Hellenic Institute," on April 3, at The Greek Centre. The Greek Community of Melbourne and the Pan-Macedonian Association of Melbourne and Victoria sponsored the lecture. Approximately 150 persons attended. In addition, Larigakis met with various ministers of Victoria, Consul General of Greece in Melbourne Christina Simantirakis, and representatives of the Greek and Cypriot Australian community of Melbourne. While in Melbourne, Larigakis was interviewed by two radio stations, *SBS Radio* and *3 XY*, and a newspaper, *Neo Kosmos*. Finally, he toured the Hellenic Museum Melbourne and attended a dinner afterwards hosted by the Cypriot community of Melbourne in his honor.

In Perth, The Right Honorable the Lord Mayor of Perth, Lisa Scaffidi, hosted a welcome reception in Larigakis' honor and



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

presented him with a commemorative gift, April 6. The reception was held at the city's Council House, which was lit in blue and white, and attended by 90 persons. In addition, Larigakis spoke to the high school students and teachers of Saint Andrew's Grammar K-12 School (akin to a Greek charter school) and toured its campus and E&M Petrelis Amphitheater. Larigakis and 10 leading businessmen were hosted for lunch by Member of the Legislative Assembly Mr. Peter Katsambanis at the State Parliament House on April 7. On April 8, Larigakis delivered a lecture to 80 persons

at Alexander the Great Club in Inglewood, which was also sponsored by Australian Hellenic Council of Western Australia. In sum, Larigakis addressed 330 people on topics ranging from the eastern Mediterranean policy and the diaspora's involvement, to the Cyprus issue, to religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, during his visit to Perth.

Larigakis's visit to Australia included two stops in Sydney. The first, March 31 to April 2, included a meeting with Consul General of Greece in Sydney Dr. Stavros Kyrimis; a



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



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

luncheon with 16 leading Greek Australian businesspersons sponsored by John Azarias, a former Greek diplomat, at the Australia Club; and a tour of the Sydney Jewish Museum. In addition, Commodore of the Royal Motor Yacht Club of New South Wales John Barbouttis, provided Larigakis with a tour of Sydney Harbour.

Larigakis returned to Sydney, April 9 to 11, where he delivered his fourth major speech of the trip to the Greek Australian community of Sydney at the AHEPA Australia House on April 10. AHEPA Australia and Australian Hellenic Council (AHC) sponsored Larigakis's presentation. Also, on April 10, he met with His Eminence Archbishop of Australia Stylianos; and AHC Coordinator George Vellis provided Larigakis with a tour of Sydney. Grand President of AHEPA Grand Lodge of NSW and New Zealand John Kallimanis hosted President Larigakis for a dinner with community leaders on April 9.

AHI President Joins American Jewish Leaders on Cyprus Visit



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

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

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

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

Athens Visit

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

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

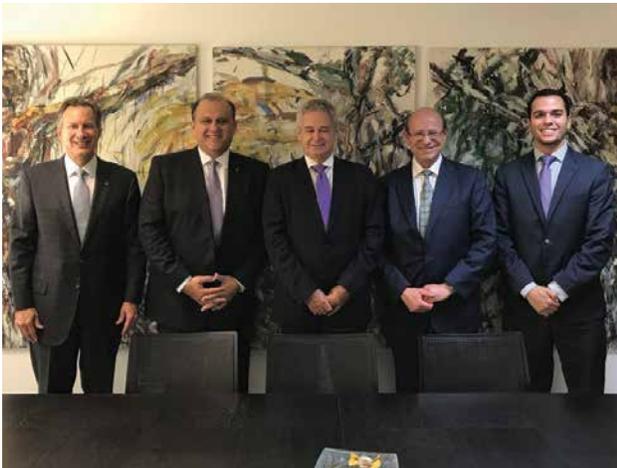


Nick Larigakis with Propeller Club President, George Xiridakis and President of the Marousi Chapter of the Rotary Club Internatioal, Angelos Karmanliolas.

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

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

AHI Conducts Annual Trip to Greece and Cyprus



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

An AHI 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 concern. The 10-day trip occurred May 6 to 18.

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



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

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

Extensive briefings with foreign and defense ministry officials, and several AHI presentations in Athens, were highlights of the delegation's itinerary in Greece from May 11 to 18. The itinerary also included 13th Annual AHI Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner at the Grand Bretagne Hotel, May 17.



AHI Delegation briefing with President Pavlopoulos and staff

Meetings with President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos, U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt, Minister of Tourism Elena Kountoura, and extensive briefings with foreign ministry and Department of Defense officials, including Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, chief, Hellenic National Defense General Staff (HNDGS), were highlights of the visit.



AHI Delegation with Deputy Foreign Minister Terens Quick (center); Ambassador Dimitri Alexandrakis, Director of A7, Department for North America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs(left); and Michael Kokkinos, Head of General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad



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

AHI held a presentation in cooperation with the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the topic, "Navigating the U.S. Business World," at the Chamber's Hermes Hall, May 15. Additionally, Larigakis provided two lectures on May 18. The first, to an audience of more than 50 students at the American Community Schools (ACS) in Athens, on the topic of the "Process of Lobbying." Larigakis serves as a member of the ACS Board of Trustees. In addition, four Rotary chapters hosted Larigakis as a guest speaker at the Athens Club. Larigakis spoke about AHI's role in U.S.-Greece relations.

On the trip, Larigakis was accompanied by: AHI Foundation President Constantine Galanis, AHI Board Member Leon Andris and AHI Legislative Director Peter Milios. AHI board members Kostas Alexakis, Nick Karamabelas, and Dr. George Tsetsekos joined the delegation in Greece only.

BRIEFINGS, CONFERENCES & FORUMS

AHI Hosts Briefing with Top Greek and Cypriot Diplomats in U.S.



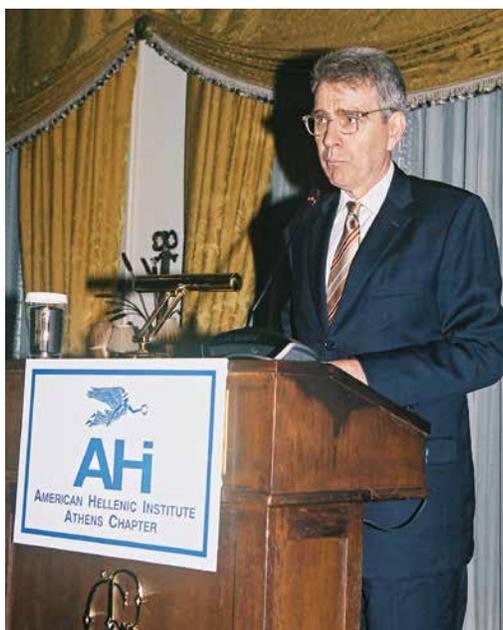
From left: Deputy Assistant Secretary Jonathan Cohen, Amb. Pantelides, Nick Larigakis, Amb. Lalacos.

AHI hosted a breakfast briefing with Ambassador Haris Lalacos, ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the U.S., and Ambassador Leonides Pantelides, ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S., March 11 at the Capital Hilton. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Jonathan Cohen also provided remarks. In opening remarks, Larigakis addressed the importance of two major crises challenging Greece and Cyprus and added that Turkey presents an additional challenge to an already delicate situation.

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

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

AHI Presentation in Athens Focuses on Greece as Strategic Partner



Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt, U.S. Ambassador to Greece presents the Keynote Address.



Panel from left to right: Deputy Minister Dimitris Vitsas, George S. Koumoutsakos, General Fragoulis Fragos, George Economou, and Athanasios Ellis, Moderator.

AHI hosted a panel presentation featuring U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt as keynote speaker, November 29, at the Hotel Grande Bretagne, Athens, Greece. Ambassador Pyatt, and four panelists, which included Greece's Deputy Defense Minister Dimitris Vitsas, all spoke on the topic, "Greece as Strategic Partner in the Eastern Mediterranean." More than 200 persons attended.

Nick Larigakis opened the panel discussion with welcome remarks that focused on AHI initiatives that serve to strengthen the United States-Greece relationship.

Ambassador Pyatt spoke in greater detail regarding the U.S.-Greece strategic partnership during his keynote address. The ambassador spoke about the security relationship between the U.S. and Greece, which includes military cooperation; Greece's contributions to energy security in the region, the people-to-people relationship that is important facet to the U.S.-Greece strategic partnership, and the United States' support for Greece's economic recovery.



Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff hosts Nick Larigakis for a meeting at the Ministry of Defense.

"I approach today's topic, Greece as a Strategic Partner in the Eastern Mediterranean, from a very optimistic point of view," Ambassador Pyatt said in his remarks. "We are certainly at a high point in terms of Greece-U.S. relations, as we heard from President Trump in October that the United States considers Greece to be a pillar of stability in this volatile region, a trusted partner and ally, and a potential energy hub for Europe."

About AHI, Ambassador Pyatt said: "AHI is one of the shining examples I often use of how Greece's large American diaspora community can most constructively work with Greece and help us strengthen our bilateral relationship. I would count some of the programs that Nick and Tom talked about as important examples: AHI's indispensable support for Prime Minister Tsipras' recent visit to Washington, the tremendous programs that Nick and the team put together for Admiral Apostolakis, General Stefanis, Admiral Tsounis, all of our key partners...But these are examples of AHI's truly unique role as a facilitator of the strategic relationship between the United States and Greece."

Panel Presentation

The panel presentation that followed Ambassador Pyatt's keynote address featured: Hellenic Deputy Minister of National Defense Dimitris Vitsas, General Fragoulis Fragos, former chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff and former Minister of Defense; George S. Koumoutsakos, shadow minister of Foreign Affairs, New Democracy party and member of Parliament; and George Economou, AHI-Athens president. Tom Ellis, senior international correspondent and columnist, Kathimerini, moderated the panel discussion.

Economou presented his remarks first, expounding on the thesis that Greece and Cyprus, together, are "par excellence strategic allies" of the West in the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

In his presentation, Deputy Minister Vitsas explored how the U.S.-Greece relationship can yield further fruitful cooperation: "Our goal is to serve our common objectives through initiatives, such as the upgrading of the Souda base within a long-term cooperation project, the exploitation of our energy resources, and the enhancement of the

Alexandroupoli's port as the energy and commercial gate between two continents. Last, but not least, it is important to encourage new productive investments and cooperation between Greek and American businesses."

General Fragos described the rise of Greece's geostrategic value as "rapid" despite its socio-economic crisis. He addressed Greece's geostrategic importance through the prism of energy production, even demonstrating how energy resources found around Greece and Cyprus historically, dating back to the Trojan War, have been vital. The former defense minister also spoke about the significance of NSA Souda Bay to the United States' security interests in the region. Finally, Fragos provided a presentation that detailed where instability in the Middle East resides and how Greece, in cooperation with Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Cyprus, can ensure stability.

In his presentation, Koumoutsakos described Greece as being "...at the crossroads of three continents..." and Greece "...is a pivotal state with great strategic potential." He also took the opportunity to present the New Democracy party's views about the future path of Greece's foreign policy. In particular, Koumoutsakos stated another priority will be given to developing Greece's four-way strategic partnership with Cyprus, Egypt and Israel that will allow for stability in the eastern Mediterranean.

AHI President Meets with Government Officials

In Athens, Larigakis met with several government and military officials, including: Minister of Tourism Elena Kountoura, Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff; Lieutenant General Christos Christodoulou, chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff; Director of the Prime Minister's Diplomatic Cabinet Evangelos Kalpadakis; and Ambassador Kathrine Boura, director, A7 Directorate for North America at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, President Larigakis met with several private sectors leaders to discuss Greece's economy and business environment.

Film Screening Commemorates Anniversary of Smyrna Catastrophe

AHI and St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, VA, commemorated the tragic 1922 fire of Smyrna with a private screening of "The Promise" at the church, October 11. The film, a powerful historical drama starring Christian Bale, Oscar Isaac, and Charlotte Le Bon, is set in 1914-1915 and depicts the Turkish genocide of 1.5 million Armenian Christians. The extermination of Armenians during World War I was the dark precursor to the Greek holocaust of Smyrna in 1922, which signaled the end the centuries-old Christian presence in Asia Minor. Following the screening, AHI Board Member James Marketos, Rev. Dr. Stefanos Alexopoulos, assistant professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, The Catholic University of America; and Dr. Robin Darling Young, associate professor of Spirituality, The Catholic University of America, were panelists for a discussion about the topic.

AHI Examines "The Cyprus Crisis: A Declassified Dossier"



Gregory Graves discusses his findings.

AHI hosted a Noon Forum on the topic, "The Cyprus Crisis: A Declassified Dossier," featuring Gregory Graves, an AHIF Graduate fellow and Ph.D. candidate at George Washington University, September 26. In his presentation, Graves expanded upon the thirty-one volumes of research he has conducted on the Cyprus crisis during the past year. The dossier includes compilations of day-to-day declassified documents from the U.S. government and other foreign archives. Graves indicated that his research will help historians to develop a comprehensive understanding of the Cyprus crisis by providing a chronological dossier of declassified documents. He refrained from introducing his own biases, choosing instead to provide the facts regarding U.S. policy decisions during the crisis, which will allow others to draw their own, more informed opinions.

A graphic for the AHI 15th Annual Golf Classic. It features a golf ball with the AHI logo on it, set against a blue sky with a white eagle. There are golf clubs and flags (red, yellow, and white) around the ball. A silver banner at the bottom reads "15TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC".

Monday, October 15, 2018
BELLE HAVEN COUNTRY CLUB
6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA
www.bellehavenCC.com Phone: 703.329.1448

Athens Awards Dinner

AHI Hosts 13th Athens Awards Dinner

The Thirteenth Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner was held May 17, The Grande Bretagne. Honorees were: Katerina Panagopoulos, national ambassador of Greece for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play to the Council of Europe and president, Hellenic Athletic Women's Association "Kallipateira," who received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award; and Dimitri Contominas, entrepreneur and chairman of the DEMKO Group, which operates television and radio stations including *Alpha TV*, who received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award. A record number of attendees, 450 persons, attended. In acceptance, the honorees conveyed their appreciation to AHI and to those who helped them to reach certain milestones in life. Each shared their career experiences and personal stories with the audience.

AHI President Nick Larigakis 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 of Capital Link served exceptionally as Master of Ceremonies. Ilias Malevitis, president, AHI-Greece, welcomed the audience. AHI Foundation President Constantine Galanis and George C. Economou, president, AHI-Athens Chapter, provided greetings.



Olga Bornozi, George Economou, Constantine Galanis, Dimitri Contominas, Katerina P. Panagopoulos, Nick Larigakis



George Economou; Constantine Galanis; Lt. General Alkiviadis Stefanis, Chief of the Hellenic Army; Elena Kountoura, Minister of Tourism



Olga Bornozi, Nick Larigakis, Katerina P. Panagopoulos, Dimitri Contominas, Laurie Holcombe



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



13th Annual Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner at the Hotel Grande Bretagne

GENERAL NEWS

AHI Celebrates Greek Independence Day at the White House and NYC

AHI celebrated Greek Independence Day at the White House on March 24. AHI President Nick Larigakis, AHI Foundation President Constantine Galanis, and AHI Board Members Leon Andris, Athina Balta, Esq., Ph.D.; Peter Bota, and Demitrios Halakos attended the ceremony officiated by President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and White House Director of the Office of Public Liaison George Sifakis also offered remarks. In addition, Larigakis attended celebrations in New York City for Greek Independence Day. Larigakis attended a dinner, March 25, and the traditional parade, March 26.

AHI President Serves as Grand Marshal at Greek Independence Parade



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

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

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

AHI organized its Fourth Annual Greek Heritage Night held in cooperation with Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies, June 20 at Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, Pa. Approximately 600 persons from the Tri-State Philadelphia area were in attendance to see the Philadelphia Phillies take on the St. Louis Cardinals.

Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos threw out the ceremonial First Pitch. The popular Phillies mascot, The Phillie Phanatic, sported an Evzone costume. The Phanatic and The Pan-Macedonian Dance Group, under the direction of Ioanna Yiantsos, performed Greek dances upon the

Phillies' field during the 5th Inning. The Pan-Macedonian Dance Group also preformed pre-game at the main entrance gate. Miss Elena Iliadis sang the National Anthem. A promotional video about Greece, made possible by the Press Office of the Embassy of Greece, was played on the ballpark's Jumbo-tron. Greek Heritage Night also featured a Greek cuisine stand.

"Congratulations to AHI for organizing, for yet another baseball season, a very successful Greek Heritage Evening with the Phillies," Ambassador Lalacos said. "More than 20,000 spectators in the stadium and many more TV viewers spent three hours with Greek music, dancing and scenery. Kudos for a tremendous outreach effort."



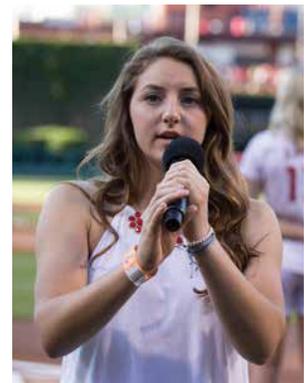
The Phillie Phanatic visits the VIP Suite to entertain the fans. (photo credit: CosmosPhilly)



The Pan-Macedonian Dance Group dancing around The Phillie Phanatic on the field during the 5th Inning



Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Haris Lalacos throws out the First Pitch.



Elena Iliades sings the National Anthem.

AHI Holds 14th Annual Golf Classic; Panel Discussion



Sports Panel discusses important topics in today's news.



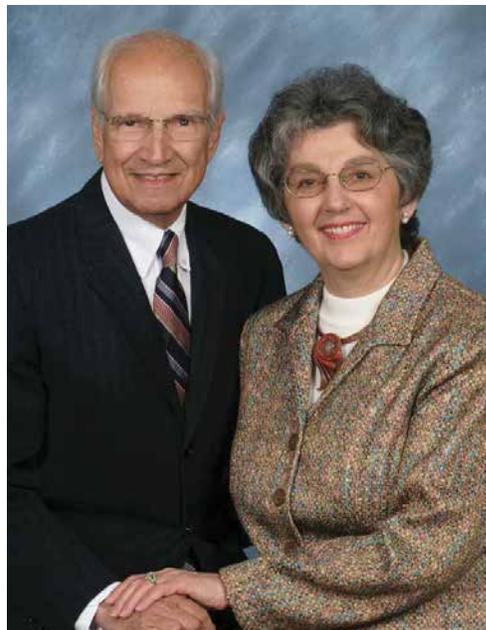
14th Annual AHI Golf Classic participants.

AHI hosted its Fourteenth Annual Golf Classic at Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA, Oct. 16, 2017. Fifty-four golfers participated. Celebrity appearances were made by: Christine Brennan, journalist, *USA Today*, Jim Daopoulos, *ESPN* rules analyst and former NFL official; George Wallace, sports director, *WTOP* Radio; and Tommy Greene, the *Comcast SportsNet* pre- and postgame studio analyst for the Philadelphia Phillies and former MLB pitcher. The Tournament Sponsor was Calamos Investments. Peter Bota served as Tournament Chairman.

The first-place team was comprised of: Chris Christou, James Tomaseski and Allen Lyubinsky. Second-place honors went to: Nick Chimicles, Jerry Couvaras and Tommy Greene. The third-place team included: George Sifakis, Peter Marketos, Michael Wagner, and Leif Ackerman. Mike Wagner earned the Closest-to-the-Pin honors and Longest Drive went to James Tomaseski.

AHI FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS & INITIATIVES

AHIF Receives Major Gift from E. John & Cleo Rumpakis



E. John and Cleo Rumpakis of Portland, Oregon

In January, the American Hellenic Institute Foundation was pleased to announce it was the recipient of a \$175,000 gift from E. John and Cleo Rumpakis of Portland, Ore.

The donation, which was made in December 2016, is one of the largest gifts received by AHIF. The donation has led to the restoration of AHI's Foundation Library in Hellenic House, and as a result, AHI's Foundation Library has been rededicated and named in honor of E. John and Cleo Rumpakis (see rededication ceremony below).

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

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

The Rumpakises added the AHI Foundation helps to educate the youth about the civic and political processes

through internships and raises awareness of Hellenism through seminars and conferences throughout the world. They also cited their longstanding relationship with AHI as a viable and stable organization through its strong leadership as a reason for the gift to the AHI Foundation.

Archbishop Demetrios Officiates AHIF E. John & Cleo Rumpakis Library Rededication Ceremony



His Eminence, Nick Larigakis, and Ambassador Haris Lalacos of Greece cut the ceremonial ribbon.

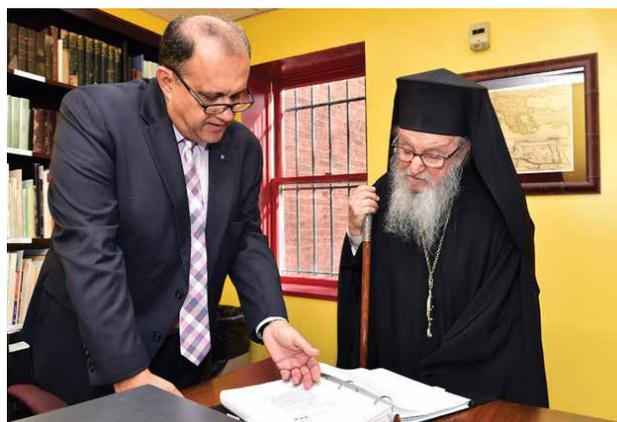
AHI held a ceremony to rededicate the AHI Foundation library in honor of E. John and Cleo Rumpakis, October 27, 2017. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, presided over the ceremony.

“We sincerely thank His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, who travelled from New York to preside over the ceremonies. His Eminence’s blessing, wisdom, and contribution to the Orthodox portion of the library were appreciated greatly,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said.

Archbishop Demetrios offered remarks following the ceremony. In addition, His Eminence spoke about the library’s significance and the books His Eminence donated to it: “This place could be a very good place for archival research. I am talking from experience from the Archdiocese. During my eighteen years, there have been at least five or six doctoral dissertations written based on the archival material of the Archdiocese. Here you have this excellent material on Cyprus and so many other issues related to the American-Greek relationship. Mr. Rossides has been a symbol of this type of things being himself a history expert. On this occasion we would like to offer a contribution to this institution.”



The guests in attendance at the AHIF E. John & Cleo Rumpakis Library ceremony.



Nick Larigakis shows His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America an example of the thirty one volume set of declassified documents on the Cyprus invasion of 1974, compiled by Gregory Graves.



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and AHI President Nick Larigakis in front of the sign identifying the AHIF E. John & Cleo Rumpakis Library situated at the front entrance to the Hellenic House.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were: His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos; Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos, Andreas Nikolaides, deputy chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Washington; Colonel Panagiotis Kavidopoulos, defense attaché, Embassy of Greece in Washington; and AHEPA Executive Director Basil N. Mossaidis. AHI Board Members: Leon Andris, Demitrios Halakos and his wife, Georgia; James Marketos, Esq., James Pedas; and longtime AHI supporters: Theodore Pedas, George Mermelas, John Sitalides, Paul Kotrotsios, and Panayiota Larigakis; along with current and former AHI staff, including: Georgea Polizos, Ellen Reklitis, and Marina Kiotsekoglou, were all in attendance.

During the library’s restoration process, President Larigakis stated AHI was able to “properly catalog, restore and present roughly 2,500 books, 1,600 journals and unclassified government publications, and 400 historical documents and special collections in the Institute’s possession, thereby creating a remarkable library that will serve the community as one of the most unique collections on Greece, Cyprus and the southeast Mediterranean.”

This task was performed with the extensive help of Gregory Graves, an AHI Foundation Graduate fellow, and Ph.D. candidate at George Washington University, who has been dedicated to studying the 1974 Cyprus invasion.



Ninth Annual AHIF Foreign Policy Trip to Greece, Cyprus a Success

The AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus completed its ninth year as ten students from across the U.S. participated in the two-week program held June 21 to July 7, 2017.

The student participants were: Elizabeth Tzimopoulos Conway, who graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University in 2017 with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science; Christopher Coombs, who graduated from the University of Utah as a double major in History and Political Science and is currently attending Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts to pursue a Masters in Divinity; Giana Damianos, a Dean's List student at Indiana University who is majoring in Economics and Political Science and minoring in Psychology; Theofilos Koulianos, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hampden-Sydney College with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Economics and Business. He currently is in graduate school at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business pursuing a Masters of Management Studies, and he will be studying in Shanghai beginning in January 2018; Theodore Pedas, a sophomore at Yale University who is a prospective Global Affairs major with a concentration in International Security; Stavros Piperis, who is a junior at Boston College studying Political Science and is a member of the department's Honors Program; Nico Bamberger Priskos, a 2017 graduate from the University of Utah where he double majored in Entrepreneurship and Political Science, along with a minor in International Studies; Paraskevie Ramfos, a sophomore and honors student at the University of Alabama, majoring in International Studies and minoring in French and Public Policy Studies; Stephanie Tanzi, an honors student at the College of Charleston, who is an Arts Management major and who participates at the school's Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community program; and Luke Tassopoulos, who is a fourth-year student at the University of Virginia, currently pursuing a B.A. in History as well as a Religious Studies minor.

During the two-week program, the students received firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, their relations with the U.S., and the interests of the U.S. in the region. Meetings or briefings were held with American embassies, officials from various foreign ministries, including Foreign Affairs; parliament members, religious leaders, think-tank organizations, and members of academia and the private sector of both countries. In Cyprus, the group visited the Turkish-occupied area. In Greece, the students also took a day-trip to visit Naval Support Activity



Deputy Assistant Secretary Jonathan Cohen.



White House Press Briefing Room.



Nicos Christodoulides, Cypriot Government Spokesman briefs students at the Presidential Palace.



Weapons and armor display at Stavrovouni Special Forces Camp.



His Beatitude Archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos II.



Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, Greek Cypriot Chief Negotiator.



A desecrated Orthodox Church in the Turkish occupied area.



UNFICYP Major Robert Schutz at the Old Nicosia Airport.



Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras with the students at the Megaro Maximou.



President Pavlopoulos entertains questions from the students prior to their official photo.



Lieutenant Commander Dimitris Bogiatzis, Commander of the H.S. Psaras frigate.

(NSA) Souda Bay, Crete, where they toured the NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI) and received a briefing.

“Foreign policy came to life as we explored pressing issues facing the Republic of Cyprus and Greece,” Participant Elizabeth Tzimopoulos Conway said. “It is one thing to read about foreign policy in a textbook or newspaper, yet another thing entirely to watch it unfold before your eyes. In Cyprus, we witnessed firsthand the consequences of the Turkish invasion of 1974—desecrated Greek Orthodox Churches, pillaged villages, and the abandoned ghost city of Famagusta. Despite the invasion and its devastating effects, however, we witnessed a nation that wishes to be known for more than just the Turkish conflict.”

Added, Participant Theodore Pedas, “The trip provided a unique degree of access in our meetings and tours. People who live incredibly busy lives, in immensely specialized fields, allowed us firsthand glimpses into their worlds. This intimacy provided striking moments, such as: seeing a live Turkish violation of Greek airspace when we were at the Ministry of Defense in Athens, talking to a pilot at Souda Bay who had just the day before engaged in a dogfight, or seeing the bones of the missing people from the invasion in a lab in Cyprus. These ‘in-the-moment’ experiences provide a certain power that one cannot get from an article or briefing.”



July 4th Embassy Reception at the Ambassador's Residence.



U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt welcomes students to his residence for a briefing on U.S. interests and initiatives in Greece.

MEDIA RELATIONS

In 2017 AHI issued 52 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

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

AHI Legal Counsel Interviewed on Greece's Debt Crisis

Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., AHI legal counsel and partner in Sfikas & Karambelas LLP, appeared on CGTN America's "Global Business America" program, June 15 to discuss developments with Greece's debt crisis with CGTN's Rachele Akuffo. In the interview, Karambelas explained the strict measures that Greece has taken to secure the release of 8.5 billion euros from their creditors. He stressed the importance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staying in deal.

To VIMA Interviews AHI President

During Larigakis's year-end visit to Greece, one of Greece's most widely-read newspapers, *To VIMA*, interviewed him. The exclusive interview appeared in the newspaper's Sunday edition, which is widely circulated. Larigakis reviewed AHI's mission, goals and initiatives. He also discusses AHI's policy priorities and how the Institute is addressing those priorities in the current political environment. Larigakis also provided his thoughts on Greece's role in an instable region. Moreover, one AHI initiative Larigakis highlighted to address sparking interest and involvement by the Greek American community in policy matters was the AHI Foundation's College Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus program.

HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS

AHI welcomes several dignitaries



Mr. Eftychios Damilakis and Nick Larigakis



Nick Larigakis with Averof Neofytou



(L-R) Rhode Island Senator Leonidas Raptakis, Georgia Representative Chuck Efstrotation, AHI President Nick Larigakis, Wyoming State Senator Stephan Pappas.

AHI hosted public officials at Hellenic House in October. Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis, Georgia Representative Chuck Efstrotation, and Wyoming State Senator Stephan Pappas, visited Hellenic House to meet with AHI President Nick Larigakis, October 24. State Senator Raptakis serves as the vice chair on the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs, Committee on Judiciary, representing the 33rd district of Rhode Island. State Representative Efstrotation is an administration floor leader and represents the 104th district of Georgia. State Senator Stephan Pappas represents the 7th district of Wyoming. M.N.A. Gerry Sklavounos is a député who represents the Laurier-Dorion riding in the Quebec Assemble National, attended a luncheon afterwards.

In addition to the meeting with Greek American and Greek Canadian legislators, Larigakis met with Mr. Eftychios Damilakis, advisor to Member of Hellenic Parliament Vassilis Leventis, October 17. MP Leventis is the president of the Union of Centrists Party.

AHI welcomed a visit to Hellenic House by Member of the Cypriot House of Representatives, Averof Neofytou, who chairs the House's Economics and Budget Committee. He visited June 5. The discussion focused on a wide array of topics, including: AHI's work to keep Cyprus on the agenda of policymakers in Washington, AHI initiatives that serve to strengthen U.S. relations with Cyprus, and Cyprus settlement talks. In addition to Larigakis, Konstantinos Polykarpou, Consul at the Embassy of Cyprus, attended the meeting.



AHIF Hosts 16th Annual Future of Hellenism in America Conference in Wilmington Delaware

Featuring nearly 20 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.



Nick Larigakis and Nick Chimicles present John Vasiliou with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in America.



(L-R) Dimitri Halakos, Dr. George Tsetsekos, Nick Larigakis, Senator Chris Coons, Ambassador Haris Lalacos, Nick Chimicles.



Odyssey Charter School of Wilmington Board of Directors and Staff accepting the award.



Nick Larigakis, and Nick Chimicles present Georgia Halakos with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in America.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation hosted its Sixteenth 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 Wilmington, DE, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Nov. 17-18.

AHIF held the most successful conference dinner to date, with more than 150 persons in attendance, November 17. AHI President Nick Larigakis officially opened the conference and welcome remarks followed from Conference Chairman Mr. Nick Chimicles, Esq. and greetings from Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, who represents Delaware at large; George Rassias, Partner at Schmidt, Kirifides & Rassias served as Master of Ceremonies. Ambassador Haris Lalacos, Greek Ambassador to the U.S. delivered the Keynote Address, "The Role of Greece in Promoting Hellenism Abroad." The Invocation and Benediction were given by Rev. Presbyterian Christos Christofidis of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Wilmington.

Georgia Halakos and John Vasiliou received AHI's Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in America. The Odyssey Charter School of Wilmington received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award in recognition of its contribution to public education and the advancement of Hellenic paideia 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



Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE).

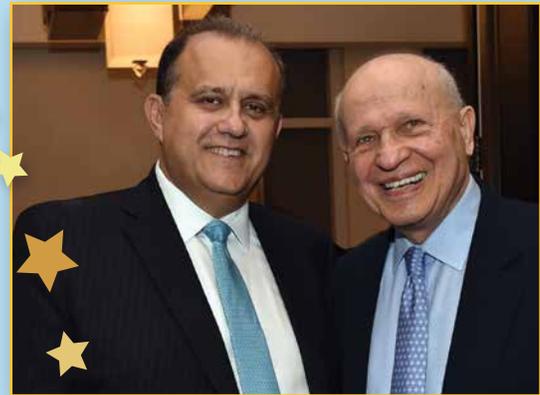
the Greek American Community, and Looking to the Next Generation of Greek Americans. U.S. Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, addressed the audience. He discussed how he led a delegation to Crete to enhance his knowledge of NSA Souda Bay. He also talked about the need to restart efforts to find a Cyprus solution, and he cited Turkish President Erdogan's belligerence. 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 theme "Keeping Hellenism Alive in 21st Century America: Challenges, Opportunities, and Threats" as the conference's luncheon keynote speaker.

AHIF hosted the conference in cooperation with AHEPA Chapter 95, Wilmington; AHI-Delaware Chapter, Hellenic News of America, Hellenic University Club of Wilmington, and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church community of Wilmington.

AHI Foundation Publishes Online Policy Journal

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation announced its eighth volume release of its *Policy Journal*. The 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, professor and director, Greek American Studies Project, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College (CUNY), writes of the pressing foreign policy issues facing the United States, Greece, and Cyprus. The issue's first section is titled, "The Crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean." Six essays discuss the crisis from a variety of perspectives. The five essays that follow take on broader issues that concern Greek America. In the "Emerging Voices of Greek America" section, young scholars and activists discuss the refugee crisis in Greece, gay rights in Greece, and the Pontian and Armenian genocides. Our two book reviews address the economic crisis in Greece and the some of the roots of the Cyprus conflict.

AHI President Celebrates 30 Years with AHI



AHI President Nick Larigakis and AHI Founder Eugene Rossides.



Nick Larigakis, Panayiota Larigakis, Constantine Larigakis.

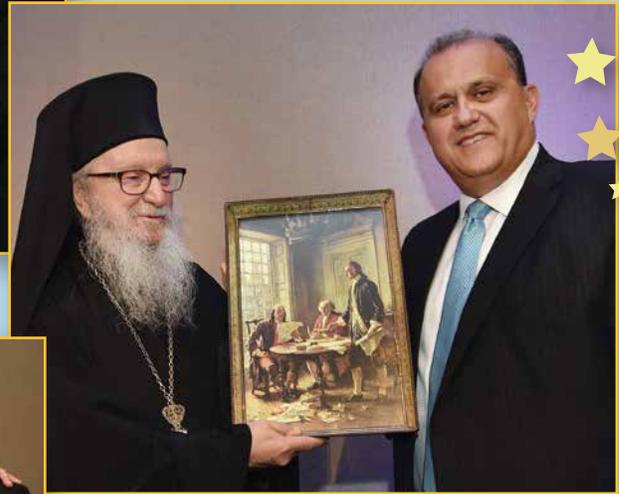
Colleagues, family, and friends came together to commemorate the 30th anniversary of AHI President Nick Larigakis's leadership and accomplishments at the Institute. The celebratory event hosted by the AHI Board of Directors was held at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, VA, October 27.

Among the dignitaries who offered congratulatory remarks and testimonials to Larigakis's three decades of work were: His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America; Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos, Andreas Nikolaidis, deputy chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Washington; AHI Founder Eugene Rossides, and AHEPA Executive Director Basil N. Mossaidis.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, conveyed congratulatory greetings on behalf of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I. Moreover, Ambassador Lalacos and Deputy Chief of Mission Nikolaides each shared congratulatory greetings from the heads of their respective governments, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades, respectively. Furthermore, in his remarks, AHEPA Executive Director Mossaidis extended congratulatory greetings from Supreme President Carl Hollister.



Paul Kotrotsios presents Nick Larigakis with a gift to remember thirty years.



Nick Larigakis presents a memento to thank His Eminence.



Eugene Rossides, Nick Karambelas, Kosta Alexakis, Nick Larigakis.



Nick Larigakis, His Eminence, and Eugene Rossides.

AHI Founder Rossides spoke to Larigakis’s dedication to AHI’s mission and the cause: “Talking about a guy that is there all the time, day in and day out, thinking about our issues and working every way he can to promote them; You don’t find that often. He is a man with integrity and movement up on the Hill and movement in the Congress, movement in the State Department and at the White House; he has become a respected member of the Washington policy establishment and that is not easy to do but he’s done it. He’s built the organization and the building and the people there to some degree we didn’t have before. I want to say, ‘Thank you, Nick,’ and ‘God bless you.’”

Colleagues’ Accolades

In addition, Marketos read several congratulatory messages and greetings, including from: Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff; U.S. Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis’s Congressional Record entry to mark the anniversary; U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, Rhode Island State Senator Lou Raptakis, who provided a Rhode Island Senate Citation that congratulated Larigakis; B’nai B’rith International CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin, R. Barbara Gitenstein, Ph.D., president, The College of New Jersey, which is Larigakis’s alma mater; and The Philadelphia Phillies.

Remarks from the Audience

The speaking program featured an “open mic” opportunity for colleagues, family, and friends to offer off-the-cuff congratulatory remarks. Among those who did were: Larry Michael, “Voice of the Redskins;” AHI Board Treasurer and Volunteer Legal Counsel Nickolas G. Karambelas, Esq., Hellenic News of America Publisher and Hermes Expo Founder Paul Kotrotsios, who presented a montage of photographs that captured Larigakis’s 30 years at AHI; Colonel Panagiotis Kavidopoulos, defense attaché, Embassy of Greece in Washington; Dean Sirigos, American Community Schools; Professor Polyvia Parara, Department of Classics, University of Maryland; and AHI-Athens Member George Mermelas. Larigakis’s brother, Constantine; and his daughter, Panayiota, also provided emotional, heartfelt remarks.

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

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

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

According to Graves, the assemblage of binders is comprised mostly of individual binders devoted to a single day or group of days from July 15 to August 31, 1974. Each "Daily Binder" contains: the schedules of the principal U.S. diplomats involved in managing the upheaval; the intelligence items these officials had access too; transcripts of their phone calls and meetings; and the relevant telegrams. In addition to these binders, the collection also features binders devoted solely to topics such as: Greek withdrawal and re-integration into NATO; the Turkish arms embargo; and intelligence studies from the 1960s and 1970s on U.S. and Soviet policy in the Eastern Mediterranean.

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

LEADERSHIP, AWARDS & STAFF NEWS

Politis Joins AHI Staff as Legislative Assistant, Special Projects Coordinator

In October, AHI was pleased to announce the hire of Constantine Politis as the Institute's Legislative Assistant and Special Projects Coordinator.

"We are excited and fortunate to have Constantine join our staff," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "The legislative experience he gained through his internships on Capitol Hill will be a tremendous asset to our mission."

Constantine holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Denison University in Granville, Ohio. He also obtained a minor in History and a concentration in Public Policy. Politis previously served as a policy intern for Congressional



Constantine Politis

throughout his tenure at Denison. Most notably, the Denison student government body appointed him to serve on the Campus Affairs Council where Politis worked directly with the university's vice president to find innovative ways to improve campus life. He helped to bring both the Denison College Republicans and Denison Orthodox Christian Fellowship to campus, where he served as co-president and vice-president, respectively. He also served as a Political Science Department fellow and writing tutor, and he was a member of the Moot Court team.

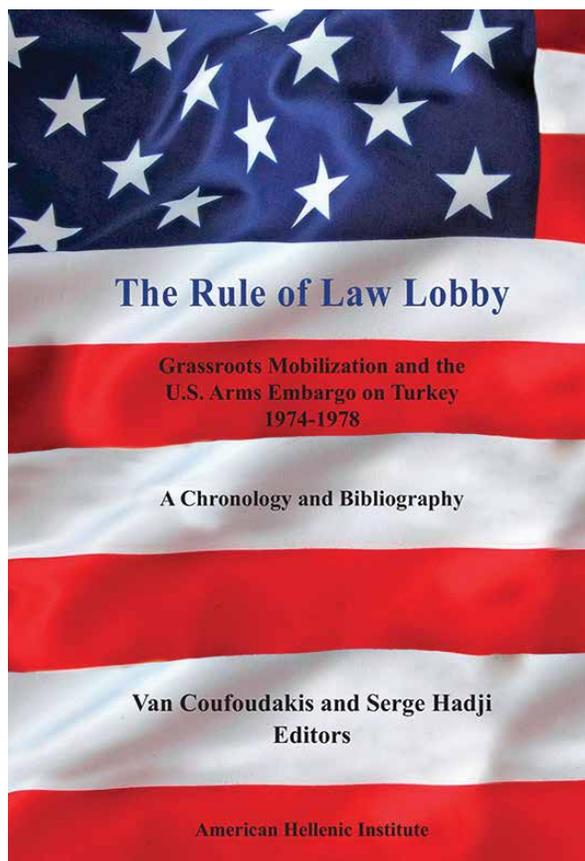
Politis received his introduction to European politics through a semester-long program centered in Copenhagen, Denmark. The program included field studies to the European Union and NATO headquarters in Brussels as well as to the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

Politis is a native of Pittsburgh, PA, where he attended Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church.

Internship Program Prospers

AHI's internship program is designed for college students who are interested in learning more about U.S.-Greece-Cyprus relations and how foreign policy is formulate in Washington, D.C. Students who are chosen for the program spent weeks to months working on various assignments comprising of research projects, attending events in area think tanks and in congress, and assisting with an assortment of educational events sponsored by AHI.

The 2017 interns were Stephanie Poulengeris, a graduate of American University, School of International Service in Washington, DC with a BA in Politics and International Studies, and Minor in Economics. Currently, Stephanie is a Business Development Analyst at Politico Pro in Washington. Marina Kiotsekoglou is a graduate student at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University pursuing a Master of International Affairs. "Through my internship at AHI and research on US relations with Greece and Cyprus -specifically, the Cyprus conflict- I have decided to pursue a Master's degree in conflict resolution. I consider my internship an invaluable experience and highly encourage others to take advantage of the opportunity to work with the AHI team," said Marina.



BOOK REVIEW

Dr. Christos P. Ioannides, Director, Center for Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies, Queen's College, CUNY.

"The exceptional value of *The Rule of Law Lobby* is based on two critical and complementary factors. First, it is an extensive chronology digesting contemporaneous press and other public record reports as well as an accompanying bibliography and illustrations. Secondly, the editors, Van Coufoudakis and Serge Hadji, were key participants and keen observers of the developments rendering them uniquely qualified to provide a most authoritative compilation of the record and account of the dynamics and logistics of this movement. The annotations include notes by Gene Rossides, a protagonist of this remarkable achievement and founder of AHI, who participated in the structuring of this work.

The Rule of Law Lobby is a seminal book which splendidly portrays the rise and evolution of this quintessentially American lobby spearheaded by AHI and seeking to influence US policy in the region. It is also a timely book since the rule of law is as relevant as ever and remains the guiding principle in the Greek American Community's striving for the Cyprus and Greek causes."



Visit **AHI Bookstore** for a preview & to purchase the book:
<https://www.aheworld.org/bookstore/>

The Rule of Law Lobby focuses on the grassroots mobilization in the Greek American community following Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus on July 20, 1974. The events highlighted in the annotated Chronology record how Greek Americans reacted to the invasion of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974. In addition to protesting vociferously and providing humanitarian assistance, the Greek American Community gradually coalesced into a lobby under the newly unfurled banner of the "Rule of Law." This led to the remarkable accomplishment of cutting off military aid to Turkey under an arms embargo imposed by the U.S. Congress.

NOV 2017 | 500 pages

3 maps, 50 illustrations, &
Brief Annotated Bibliography
6⁵/₈ x 9³/₄ inches

The Rule of Law Lobby

Edited by
Van Coufoudakis & Serge Hadji

ISBN: 0-941882-04-7

Paperback: \$15.00

Ebook: \$10.00

<https://www.aheworld.org/bookstore/>



The American Hellenic Institute
 in cooperation with *The Hellenic News of America* and *Cosmos Philly*
is proud to present the 5th Annual
"GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT"
AT THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018

Philadelphia Phillies "GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT"
 at Citizens Bank Park vs the Colorado Rockies (7:05 p.m.)

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.)

GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT (all tickets \$49) 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 inning; A concession stand dedicated to serving Greek food; and a thousand or more Greek Americans expressing our proud Hellenic Heritage from the stands!

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

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

Check Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit Card No: _____ Exp. Date _____

Name: _____ Signature _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

American Hellenic Institute, 1220 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036
 Tel: 202-785-8430; fax: 202-785-5178; Email: peter @aheworld.org



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



AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE

1220 16TH STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20036

WWW.AHIWORLD.ORG • 301-670-9728 • INFO@AHIWORLD.ORG