



# REPORT



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## AHI FOUNDER HONORED BY REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE



Aphrodite Rossides, Gene Rossides and Amb. Pantelides.

AHI Founder Eugene T. Rossides received a rare honor from the Republic of Cyprus, on Nov. 10, 2016. Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Leonidas Panetelides presented the Republic of Cyprus Presidential Exceptional Service Medal to Rossides “as a token of our gratitude for a lifetime of dedication to Cyprus and its cause.” The medal requires the approval of Cyprus’s Council of Ministers.

“Today, I am happy to correct a negligence on the part of the Cypriot Government,” Ambassador Panetelides said. “When I came to Washington six months ago, I found out the Government of Cyprus has never honored Eugene Rossides for his

*Continued on page 2*

## AHI PRESIDENT ATTENDS GREECE’S STATE DINNER FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA

AHI President Nick Larigakis attended events held in concurrence with President Barack Obama’s visit to Athens, Greece, Nov. 14 to 16, 2016, including the State Dinner hosted by President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos, Nov. 15.

“On behalf of AHI, I thank President Pavlopoulos for the invitation to attend Greece’s State Dinner in honor of President Obama,” Larigakis said. “It was an honor to be present at the State Dinner, where the strong bonds and shared values between the United States and Greece were reaffirmed. It was a memorable experience.”

President Larigakis also attended President Obama’s speech to the people of Greece at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation

*Continued on page 16*

## AHI HAILS OPIC POLICY SHIFT TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN GREECE



In a July 28 statement, AHI applauded the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) for a policy shift backed by AHI that states the “independent” U.S. government agency can do business in Greece and commends the efforts of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues for their advocacy and Co-Chair, U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), for her staunch backing of this important shift in OPIC’s policy position.

According to OPIC’s fact sheet, OPIC is authorized to do business in Greece if there are “strong development or foreign policy reasons to proceed.” In an August 2015 letter to AHI, OPIC President/CEO Elizabeth Littlefield indicated OPIC’s priorities, per its statutory man-

*Continued on page 16*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

AHI General News .....	2
Letters to the Editor .....	8
AHI In the News .....	9
Statements and Announcements .....	10
Letters to Government Officials .....	11
AHI Foundation News .....	12
In Memoriam .....	15

# AHI GENERAL NEWS

## AHI FOUNDER HONORED BY REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

*Continued from page 1*

many services to the people of Cyprus...Mr. Eugene Rossides, please accept this belated honor awarded on behalf of the people and the government of Cyprus in recognition of your many years of struggle for the just cause of justice and freedom for Cyprus.”

The ambassador eloquently described Rossides as “someone who chose freely to shoulder heavy burdens of duty and responsibility for the welfare of others.” He added the award is in recognition of the many qualities Rossides exhibits, including: loyalty, faithfulness, courage, and a commitment to the public good.

In accepting the award Mr. Rossides said “I am highly honored by this award. I must stress though that our work is not done. We must redouble our efforts in support of the rule of law and until the Turkish occupation of 37.3 percent of Cyprus is ended. It is in the interest of the United States to do so.”

“We congratulate Eugene Rossides on this well-deserved honor from the Republic of Cyprus,” AHI President Nick Lariagakos said. “Mr. Rossides is a true champion of the rule of law, democratic principles, and human rights. He is also an extraordinary example for future generations to emulate.”

## AHI PRESENTATIONS IN ATHENS, NICOSIA FEATURES CATO SENIOR FELLOW



*Doug Bandow.*

AHI hosted two presentations featuring Doug Bandow, senior fellow, Cato Institute, in Nicosia, Cyprus, Nov. 28, 2016; and Athens, Greece, Dec. 1, 2016, at the Hotel Grande Bretagne. Bandow presented on the topic, “The New U.S. President: What Does This Mean for U.S. Foreign Policy in the Eastern Mediterranean?” A Q&A with the audience followed both presentations.

“What policy the incoming Trump administration will follow in the Eastern Mediterranean remains unclear, though some outlines are apparent: support for Israel, focus on the Islamic State, pressure for increased allied support,” Bandow said. “Of greatest concern are the comments of some administration



*From left: Doug Bandow, Nick Lariagakos, Amb. Geoffrey Pyatt.*

designees suggesting that they believe Turkey is America's most important friend in the region. This runs against recent experience, in which Ankara has proved to be inconsistent in combating ISIS, reckless in risking war with Russia, and repressive in dismantling what democratic freedoms its people once enjoyed.”

He added, “The incoming administration needs to take a more clear-eyed view of a country that unfortunately has become more foe than friend.”

In Athens, U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt attended the presentation and offered special greetings to the standing-room-only audience of more than 160 persons who attended. Ambassador Pyatt conveyed his gratitude to AHI for its help in strengthening U.S.-Greece relations. AHI hosted the presentation in Athens in cooperation with its AHI-Athens Chapter. AHI-Athens President George Economou provided opening remarks. *Alpha-1 TV* covered the presentation. The station's owner, Dimitri Contominas, also was in attendance.

In Cyprus, AHI hosted the presentation in cooperation with Press and Information Office of Cyprus.

## AHI PRESIDENT MEETS TOP LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN GREECE, CYPRUS



*Nick Lariagakos and Doug Bandow with Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides.*

In Nicosia, President Nick Lariagakos met with several government officials, Nov. 28 and 29, including: U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus Kathleen Doherty, Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides, Speaker of the House of Representatives Demetris Syllouris, and Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, chief negotiator of the current Cyprus settlement



## AHI GENERAL NEWS

talks. Cato Institute Senior Fellow Doug Bandow accompanied Larigakis to the meetings. The Cypriot Press and Information Office also hosted a luncheon for President Larigakis, which was sponsored by the office's acting director, Patricia Hadjisotiriou. In addition, Journalist Antigoni Drousioti, *Phileletheros*, interviewed President Larigakis.



*Celebration for the Hellenic Navy, on the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas, at the Greek Naval Academy at Piraeus, President Prokopis Pavlopoulos pictured at center.*

In Athens, President Larigakis attended a series of meetings with government officials, Nov. 30 to Dec. 7, including: U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt, Dec. 7; Defense Minister Panos Kammenos, Nov. 30; Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias, Dec. 1; and Minister of Tourism Elena Kountoura, Nov. 30. He also met with Alternate Defense Minister Dimitris Vitsas and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Terrence Quick, Nov. 30. Additional meetings were held with: Michalis Kokkinos, head of the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad, and several foreign ministry desk officers for North America, Cyprus, Turkey, and the Balkans, Dec. 2; and Danae Badogianni, special advisor, EU and International Relations Office, General Secretariat of the Prime Minister, Dec. 7.

In addition, at the invitation of the chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, Vice Admiral Georgios Giakoumakis, Larigakis attended a celebration for the Hellenic Navy, which is held on the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas, at the Greek Naval Academy at Piraeus, Dec. 6. Among the officials in attendance was President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos. Also during the visit to Greece, President Larigakis also attended an American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce dinner, Nov. 29 and an awards dinner for the Greek shipping industry, Dec. 2.

### **Visit to Larissa**

President Larigakis travelled to Larissa for the day to visit the headquarters of the Hellenic First Army Unit for the Feast Day of St. Barbara celebration at the invitation of Lt. Gen. Ilias Leontaris, commander, Hellenic First Army Unit, Larissa, Dec. 4. Saint Barbara is the patron saint of the artillery. Lt. Gen. Leontaris also hosted the AHI president for a dinner at the Army Headquarters Officers' Club where several dignitaries from the Larissa community attended. Also in Larissa, Lt. Gen. Christos Christodoulou of the Chief Hellenic Tactical Air Force invited Larigakis to tour the tactical air base, and he hosted Larigakis for a luncheon at the Air Force Officers' Club. Finally, one of Greece's oldest newspapers, *Eleftheria*, interviewed President Larigakis during his stay in Larissa.



*Nick Larigakis with Lt. Gen. Ilias Leontaris, commander, Hellenic First Army Unit, Larissa and Lt. Gen. Christos Christodoulou of the Chief Hellenic Tactical Air Force.*

### **AHI Conducts Annual Trip to Greece, Cyprus**

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 4 to 12, 2016.



*From left: Georgea Polizos, Leon Andris, Nick Larigakis, President Nicos Anastasiades, Gus Andy.*



*Espen Barth Eide, U.N. Special Adviser on Cyprus with the AHI delegation.*

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

The AHI delegation received multiple briefings from Cypriot and American officials on the status of settlement talks for

## AHI GENERAL NEWS



AHI delegation with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Minister of State Nikos Pappas following their meeting at the Maximos Mansion.



Nick Larigakis with Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos.



President Prokopis Pavlopoulos with AHI delegation members at the Presidential Palace.



From left: George Economou, Dennys Plessas, Ambassador David Pearce, Artemis Zenetou, Nick Larigakis, Olga Bornozi and Ilias Malevitis.

Cyprus under UN auspices; Cyprus' efforts to explore for hydrocarbon reserves in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and on Cypriot commerce and tourism sectors. 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.

Meetings with Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Alexis Tsipras and President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos, then-U.S. Ambassador to Greece David Pearce, and extensive briefings with foreign ministry and Department of Defense officials, were highlights of the delegation's itinerary in Greece from May 7 to 11, 2016.

### **AHI Hosts 12th Athens Awards Dinner**

The itinerary in Greece included the 12th Annual AHI Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner at the Grand Bretagne Hotel, May 11, which drew a record number of attendees at more than 400 persons. Honorees were: Dennys Plessas Leonidis, vice president, Business Development Initiatives, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics/International; and Fulbright Foundation—Greece. Videos profiling the honorees and Lockheed Martin's involvement in Greece for half century were shown (and can be found at [www.ahiworld.org](http://www.ahiworld.org)). In remarks, then-Ambassador Pearce congratulated the honorees and commended AHI for hosting a "wonderful celebration for Greece, for the United States, and for our enduring friendship." Also, AHI President Nick Lari-

gakis made a special presentation of a public service award to former Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos P. Panagopoulos for his efforts to foster a stronger bond between the people of Greece and the people of the United States.

On the trip, AHI President Larigakis was accompanied by: AHI Board Member Leon Andris and AHI Legislative Director Georgea Polizos. AHI Foundation Board Member Gus Andy joined the group in Cyprus only, AHI Board Members Kostas Alexakis and Dr. George Tsetsekos and AHI-New Jersey representative Constantine Larigakis joined the delegation in Greece only.

### **AHI ORGANIZES THIRD GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT AT PHILLIES GAME**



The Olympians and the Phillie Phanatic.

AHI organized its Third Annual Greek Heritage Night held in cooperation with Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies, June 2, 2016, at Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, Pa. Approx-





Game attendees.

imately 700 persons from the Tri-State Philadelphia area were in attendance to see the Philadelphia Phillies take on the Milwaukee Brewers.

Cancer survivor Gabriella Pethokoukis, of Chicago, threw out the ceremonial First Pitch. Pethokoukis played collegiate women's volleyball at Villanova University. In April 2014, she was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma, a fast-growing form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Today, she is cancer-free. At the 112th Annual Philadelphia Sportswriters' Association Dinner, Pethokoukis received the 2016 Most Courageous Athlete Award, the association's most prestigious award.

The popular Phillies mascot, The Phillie Phanatic, sported an Evzone costume. The Phanatic and The Olympians, a Greek dance troupe under the direction of Betty Tsarouchis, from Saint Luke's Greek Orthodox Church, Broomall, Pa., performed Greek dances upon the Phillies' dugout during the 7th Inning Stretch. The Olympians also performed pre-game at the main entrance gate. Also, Olympians' performer Kathryn Corbino had the honor of a solo performance, singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" at the end of the 5th Inning. 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.

### **AHI HOSTS RECEPTION IN APPRECIATION OF COL. NEROULIAS**

AHI hosted a reception in appreciation for Col. Andreas Neroulias, June 6, 2016, at the 3 West Club, New York City. Col. Neroulias is the founder and organizer of AHI's monthly networking receptions that have been held in Manhattan for 20 years. The June 6 reception marked his "retirement" from his position as president of AHI's New York Chapter, a position he has held since 2001.

AHI President Nick Larigakis presented Col. Neroulias with a plaque that stated in part, "In appreciation for two decades of public service to the Greek American community and dedication to the mission of the American Hellenic Institute, for the promotion of Hellenism, strengthening relations between Greece, Cyprus, and the United States, and his generous commitment of time, support, and inspiration to the members and



Col. Andonios Neroulias proudly displays his plaque and is flanked by his wife, Eva (at left), and daughter, Laura (at right).

friends of the AHI New York Chapter."

### **AHI MARKS 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS WITH CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING**



Ambassador Leonidas Pantelides.

AHI marked the 42nd anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus by hosting a congressional briefing to discuss the current state of affairs on the island at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill, July 14, 2016. The briefing's forum allowed members of Congress to share their perspectives on the Cyprus issue and prospects for a solution amid the current settlement talks, which would be greatly aided with the removal of Turkish troops from the island. The legislators also called for continued U.S. engagement on Cyprus.

"For 42 years, the people of Cyprus have endured an illegal occupation and massive violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by Turkey, a NATO ally of the United States," President Nick Larigakis, who moderated the briefing, said. "It is unfathomable that in 2016 a NATO member currently illegally occupies an EU-member nation, Cyprus. The briefing provided us with the viewpoints of Congress's leading authorities on foreign affairs, our leaders of the Hellenic Caucus and the legislators who are deeply concerned about the Cyprus issue. We thank them for their insights on the issue and their support for Cyprus."

The briefing, held in cooperation with the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, featured: U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-

FL), co-chair, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues; 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. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), ranking member, House Committee on Budget; U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), and U.S. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), as speakers. Also, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Leonidas Pantelides and Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos as well as AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis, addressed the audience.

### **AHI BOARD MEMBER ADDRESSES CEREMONY MARKING CYPRUS INVASION ANNIVERSARY**

AHI Board Member, and AHI Foundation Fellow, Dr. Van Coufoudakis addressed a commemorative ceremony for the 42nd anniversary of the Turkish invasion and continuing occupation of 37 percent of the Republic of Cyprus, July 18, 2016. The ceremony took place near the Ledra Palace crossing in Lefkosia.

In his remarks, Dr. Coufoudakis told the audience their presence at this symbolic moment of the Republic proved the Republic of Cyprus was not “defunct” as Turkey claims, but rather, democracy in Turkey is defunct given the aftermath of recent developments in that country. He also dismissed the notion of “lost opportunities” as he reviewed the history of UN-sponsored talks for a resolution of the “Cyprus problem.”

### **NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO GREECE MEETS WITH AHI**

American Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt held an introductory meeting with AHI President Nick Larigakis, Legal Counsel Nicholas Karambelas and Legislative Director Georgea Polizos, Sept. 6, 2016, at AHI’s Hellenic House. The meeting occurred soon after the ambassador’s confirmation and as he prepared to depart for his new post. The discussion focused on a wide array of topics, including: initiatives to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece, the FYROM name dispute issue, the Greek economy, and Greece’s important role as the United States’ key strategic NATO ally in southeast Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. Amy Reichert, Greek desk officer, U.S. Department of State, accompanied the ambassador to the meeting.

### **NEW DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE MEETS WITH AHI**

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Jonathan Cohen, held an introductory meeting with AHI President Nick Larigakis and Legislative Director Georgea Polizos, Sept. 16, 2016, at the U.S. Department of State. Deputy Assistant Secretary Cohen previously served in Nicosia, Cyprus, as deputy chief of mission. As deputy assistant secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, Cohen’s portfolio

includes Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey. The discussion with Cohen focused on the Greek American community’s issues and positions vis-à-vis each of these three countries.

### **AHI MEETS WITH GREECE’S TOP MILITARY OFFICIAL**



*Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis with Nick Larigakis.*

AHI President Nick Larigakis met with Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, Chief of Hellenic National Defense General Staff, October 18, 2016, during the admiral’s visit to Washington, D.C., October 15 to 18. The meeting took place at the office of the Greek Defense Attaché. Admiral Apostolakis visited Washington at the invitation of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph F. Dunford, U.S. Marine Corps, to attend the Chiefs of Defense Counter Violent Extremist Organizations Conference.

“My thanks to Admiral Apostolakis for taking time out of his busy itinerary in Washington to meet,” Larigakis said. “His presence at a very important conference aimed to counter extremist organizations, which was at the invitation of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, indicates the vital and valued role Greece plays as a staunch NATO ally in global security.”

### **AHI HOLDS 13TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC; PANEL DISCUSSION**



*AHI golf tournament participants.*

AHI hosted its Thirteenth Annual Golf Classic at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, Va., Oct. 17, 2016. Fifty-eight golfers participated. Celebrity appearances were made by:



## AHI GENERAL NEWS

Christine Brennan, journalist, *USA Today*, Jim Daopoulos, ESPN rules analyst and former NFL official; and Dickie Noles, employee assistance professional for the Philadelphia Phillies and former MLB pitcher, who appeared at a morning sports panel to discuss current events and issues affecting the sporting world. The Tournament Sponsor was Calamos Investments, which was represented by Yanni Sianis, vice president, Global Business Development, who offered a greeting. Peter Bota served as Tournament Chairman.

The first-place team was comprised of: John Blazer, Tommy Greene, Nick Chimicles, and Yanni Sianis. Second place honors went to: Chris Christou, Trey Hardin, Allen Lyvbinsky, and Jeffrey Magoon. The third-place team included: Peter Marketos, Michael Wagner, Jason Lewis, and George Sifakis. Hardin earned Closest to the Pin honors and Longest Drive went to Dickie Noles.

“We especially appreciate the support of tournament sponsor Calamos Investments under the leadership of CEO John Calamos; and the participation of Christine Brennan, Jim Daopoulos, and Dickie Noles, who took the time from their busy schedules to present an enjoyable panel discussion,” President Larigakis said. He also expressed appreciation to Tournament Chair Peter Bota.

Additional sponsors included: **Hole Sponsors**—Atlanta Bread Company, Bailey’s Crossroads Auto Body, Blue Valley Vineyard and Winery, Capital Hilton, Circle Management Company, Courembis Companies & Courembis Law, Cyprus Air, Heating & Cooling, Giorgio’s Family Restaurant, James H. Lagos Company, Inc., LaMer Beachfront Inn, Market Development Group, Metro29, National Hellenic Society, Seasons Pizza, The Italian Place, Tysons Corner McLean Hilton, and USL Financials Inc. **Registration Sponsors**—Gold Crust Bakery Golf\_Cart Sponsors—Chimicles & Tikellis LLP, Don and Maria Wills, and Lou and Helen Nicozisis **Gift Bag Sponsors**—Atlantic Bank, Calamos Investments, Demitrios Halakos, Donmar Heating and Cooling Company, the Philadelphia Phillies, Vasili’s Kitchen Fresh Mediterranean.

### AHI HOSTS THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY STUDENT GROUP

AHI hosted 30 students from The College of New Jersey, for breakfast at the Hellenic House, Nov. 16, 2016. The students were in Washington for their Washington, D.C. Day. Guy Calcerano, TCNJ development officer, accompanied the students. AHI President Nick Larigakis is an alumnus of The College of New Jersey.

The students heard presentations from: Larina Konold, Cyprus desk officer, U.S. Department of State, Elizabeth Hittos, chief of staff, U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, and Paul Glasiris, editor-in-chief, *The Washington Monthly* and former chief speechwriter for President Bill Clinton. All three presenters spoke about their careers, various experiences, and answered questions from the students that ranged from career advice to interest in academic background. AHI Legislative Director Georgea

Polizos moderated the presentations and spoke about her experience at AHI.



From left: Larina Konold, Elizabeth Hittos, Guy Calcerano, Georgetta Polizos.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Phillies  
Greek Heritage Night  
at the  
Philadelphia Phillies**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### AHI PRESIDENT SHARES AHI'S MESSAGE WITH DELAWARE COMMUNITY

AHI President Nick Larigakis spoke before 70 persons at a reception hosted by Demitrios and Georgia Halakos, Greenville, Del., Nov. 3, 2016.

“On behalf of AHI, I sincerely thank Demitrios and Georgia Halakos for hosting me for a discussion about the importance of AHI's activities and initiatives to United States relations with Greece and Cyprus,” Larigakis said. “Demitrios and Georgia were gracious hosts. I appreciated the opportunity to share AHI's message with a significant number of people from the Delaware community.”

### AHI MEETS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY NULAND, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

AHI representatives met with State Department officials during a series of meetings held in December.

President Nick Larigakis and Legislative Director Georgea Polizos met with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Jonathan Cohen and Cyprus Desk Officer Larina Konold, December 13, 2016, at AHI's Hellenic House.

In addition, President Larigakis, accompanied by Deputy Assistant Secretary Cohen, met with Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland, December 14, 2016, at the U.S. Department of State.

Finally, President Larigakis and Legislative Director Polizos attended a briefing on Cyprus for Hellenic American organizations provided by U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus Kathleen Doherty, December 19, 2016, at the U.S. Department of State. Cyprus Desk Officer Konold also attended.

“We greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with State Department officials to discuss the latest developments in the eastern Mediterranean,” Larigakis said. “We welcomed the substantive discussion we had on issues of importance to the community. As 2017 becomes a year of transition, we look forward to continuing our work with the State Department on U.S. policy in the eastern Mediterranean region in the best interests of the United States.”

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### New York Times Publishes AHI Comment to Opinion Piece on Erdogan, ISIS

The *New York Times* published a submission from Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., AHI's legal counsel and board member, to an opinion piece authored by Roger Cohen titled, “Erdogan in His Labyrinth,” June 30, 2016. Cohen opined Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has played a “double game” when it comes to ISIS.

Karambelas wrote in his commentary, which the *New York Times* made as its “pick:” “*The author misses an essential point as to why Erdogan played the "double game" with ISIS. Truck-*

*loads of ISIS oil have passed over the Turkish border. These trucks did not "sneak" across the border but had to take main highways which are manned with Turkish border guards. The trucks were allowed to pass. Clearly, Turkish interests were receiving cash or other items of value in exchange for allowing the trucks to pass. The cash has stopped flowing so ISIS attacks Turkey. Turkey is unreliable. It regularly violates Greek airspace, a NATO ally and EU member state, with its US made military aircraft. These incursions are illegal under US law as US supplied military items can be used only for defensive purposes. Erdogan is also the main impediment to a Cyprus settlement. If the Turkish Cypriots were left alone, they could settle the issues with the Republic of Cyprus.*”

### New York Times Publishes AHI Comment to Editorial on Turkey's Anti-Americanism

The *New York Times* published a submission from Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., AHI's legal counsel and board member, to its editorial titled, “Turkey's New Anti-Americanism,” August 4, 2016. The newspaper's Editorial Board explored Turkey's misguided aim to blame Washington for July's failed coup attempt, which is centered around President Erdogan's demand for Washington to extradite Fethullah Gulen, who Erdogan accuses as being the main culprit behind the failed coup.

Karambelas wrote—in part—in his commentary, which the *New York Times* made as one of its “picks:” *Now the N.Y. Times and, for that matter, American officials are shocked ("shocked I say...") at "Turkey's New Anti-Americanism" which Erdogan reflects in his bizarre ravings about U.S. complicity in the coup. This is the opportunity for the U.S. to fundamentally re-access its relationship with and policies towards Turkey. Even if U.S. officials do not care about the abuses of human rights by Turkey, part of this assessment should be the fact that Turkey has enabled ISIS by allowing it to truck oil and other commodities through the territory of Turkey.*

### AHI Responds to Correct the Record on Turkey as Reliable Ally in Need

*The Hill*, a top U.S. political website vital to policy, politics, and election campaigns, published AHI's response to a November 8, 2016 op-ed titled, “Our ally Turkey is in crisis and needs our support” by Lt. General Michael Flynn, who is now national security adviser to President Donald Trump.

In his letter, AHI President Nick Larigakis rebuts Lt. General Flynn's claim that Turkey “...provides badly needed cooperation with U.S. military operations.” Larigakis demonstrates how Turkey has been an unreliable ally, citing Turkey's refusal to allow the United States to use bases in Turkey to open a northern front against the Saddam Hussein dictatorship which led a former Bush Administration official to call Turkey's negotiating tactics “extortion in the name of alliance.” Larigakis added, “Additionally, the United States' successful prosecution of the war against Iraq without access from Turkey proved Turkey's limited value as a strategic military resource in the region.” Larigakis also rebuts Lt. General Flynn's assertion that Turkey is the



## AHI IN THE NEWS

United States' strongest ally against ISIS and a source for stability in the region. Finally, Larigakis adds that Turkey lends to instability in the region with its egregious and frequent violations of Greece's sovereignty, its military occupation of the Republic of Cyprus, and bellicose threats against Cyprus as Cyprus explored for hydrocarbon reserves within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as Cyprus was in its right to do.

### ***AHI Responds to Correct the Record on Greece, Clinton and "Macedonia"***

*The Hill*, a top U.S. political website vital to policy, politics, and election campaigns, published AHI's response to a November 28, 2016 commentary titled, "When Greece and Hillary Clinton tried to erase Macedonia" by Bill Nicholov.

In her response, AHI Legislative Director Georgea Polizos rebuts Nicholov's commentary, stating it is "...rife with historical fallacies and comes across sounding more like a baseless, erroneous rant." Nicholov alleges that Hillary Clinton's campaign chair, John Podesta, made disparaging remarks about "Macedonia," citing WikiLeaks. Polizos corrects the record, stating, "Podesta merely stated that he continued to refer to Macedonia as FYROM which is in line with the U.N.-brokered Interim Accord, signed by the FYROM and Greece, in which both parties agreed to use the name FYROM until a mutually agreeable solution is found." Polizos also cites examples of how FYROM, under the administration of former Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, made provocative claims and promoted irredentism toward its neighbor, Greece, which despite these provocations, has and continues to compromise greatly on the name-recognition issue.

### ***AHI's Letter to 60 Minutes Refutes Importance of Turkey's Air Bases***

AHI wrote to *60 Minutes* following Correspondent Steve Kroft's November 20, 2016 report, "Turkey's disillusionment with the U.S.," which described Turkey's air bases, namely Incirlik, as having extreme importance to the United States and NATO for its staging areas and projection of power in the region.

AHI President Nick Larigakis' November 22 letter presents how the facts prove otherwise by citing how Turkey refused to allow the United States to use its bases to open a northern front against the Saddam Hussein dictatorship. "The United States' successful prosecution of the war against Iraq without access from Turkey proved Turkey's limited value as a strategic military resource," he wrote. Furthermore, Larigakis states that when Turkey does allow access, such as was the case with the fight against ISIS, it does so only after it stalls.

## AHI IN THE NEWS

### ***ERT TV Interviews AHI President on U.S. Election Outlook***

*ERT TV* interviewed AHI President Nick Larigakis on the U.S. election outlook on Friday, October 21, 2016. Larigakis discussed the U.S. presidential election process for Greece's public

TV station. In addition to general questions about the election, Larigakis was asked who of the two presidential candidates would be better for U.S. relations with Greece to which Larigakis offered his opinion. The interview aired in Greece the night of the election, Nov. 8, 2016.

## VISITORS TO HELLENIC HOUSE

### ***Greece's Deputy Defense Minister Visits Hellenic House***



*Deputy Defense Minister of Greece Dimitris Vitsas following his meeting with AHI.*

AHI welcomed a visit by Deputy Defense Minister of Greece Dimitris Vitsas to the Hellenic House during his visit to Washington, DC, Oct. 4, 2016. AHI Board Member James Marketos, Legislative Director Georgea Polizos, and Athina Balta joined AHI President Nick Larigakis at the meeting.

The discussion focused on a wide array of topics, including: how AHI keeps Greece on the agenda of policymakers in Washington and AHI initiatives that serve to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece. In addition, a discussion on Greece's military capabilities and the contributions of NSA Souda Bay to national security interests was held. AHI also shared its recently-released and updated "Greece: Valued Ally. Strategic Partner" Fact Sheet.

## NOON FORUM

### ***Book Presentation Commemorates 94th Anniversary of Smyrna Catastrophe***

AHI hosted a noon presentation to commemorate the 94th anniversary of the Smyrna Catastrophe in Asia Minor that featured Professor George Topalidis, adjunct professor, Center for Greek Studies, University of Florida, Oct. 11, 2016, at Hellenic House.

Professor Topalidis presented his research findings on early 20th-century emigration from the Ottoman Empire to the United States. Previously, he has presented his findings at the Modern Greek Studies Association Symposium in 2013 and at the West Coast Consortium for Hellenic Studies Conferences on two occasions over the past two years.

The creation of an online database by Professor Topalidis and his colleagues offers a unique blend of the most recent innova-

## STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

tions in digital history with a tried and true historical methodology, allowing users to virtually follow the journeys of hundreds of immigrants who embarked on the long and dangerous voyage to the United States. For more information, view Professor Topalidis' presentation at [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org).

### STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Resumption of United Airlines' Newark to Athens Seasonal Service Welcomed

In a May 31 statement, AHI welcomed United Airlines' resumption of summer seasonal nonstop service from Newark, N.J. to Athens, Greece. The service resumed May 25, 2016 and continued through to October 5, 2016.

"We sincerely thank United Airlines for resuming this service from a major metropolitan U.S. hub to Athens, Greece," President Nick Larigakis said. "We believe this service will provide a boost to tourism and a lift to the Greek economy during a critical time. Our hope is that United will grant strong consideration to making this service available year-round."

In January 2013, AHI and AHEPA representatives met with United Airlines to explore possibilities of establishing a direct route from a major United hub in the United States to Athens. The meeting came on the heels of a March 2012 joint letter the two organizations sent to United that expressed disappointment with the airline's November 2011 decision to terminate the Newark to Athens nonstop seasonal service.

In a separate initiative in April 2014, AHI, AHEPA, B'nai B'rith International, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, wrote a letter to United Airlines requesting it give its full consideration to establishing a direct route from Washington, DC (IAD) to Athens, Greece that would continue to Tel Aviv, Israel.

#### Statement on 42nd Anniversary of Invasion of Cyprus

In a July 19 statement, AHI remembered the solemn 42nd anniversary of NATO member Turkey's brutal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus, a member of the European Union:

*On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus with the illegal use of U.S.-supplied arms and equipment in violation of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the United Nations Charter, the NATO Treaty, and customary international law. Turkey occupied about four percent of Cyprus during the initial phase of its invasion. Turkish pilots flying American planes dropped American-made bombs, including napalm bombs, on Greek Cypriot communities.*

*Furthermore, on August 14, 1974, three weeks after the legitimate government of Cyprus was restored, Turkey launched the second phase of its invasion of Cyprus. As a result of its two-phase invasion of Cyprus, Turkey grabbed 37 percent of Cyprus's sovereign territory, killed innocent civilians, raped women ages 12 to 71, forced 170,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes and properties, and committed mass destruction of Cyprus' cultural and religious heritage, including an estimated 500 churches and religious sites belonging to Christian and Jewish communities.*

For the entire statement, please visit [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org).

#### NBC's Olympics Opening Ceremony Reporting Draws Outrage

In an August 9 statement, AHI conveyed its outrage at NBC as its commentators—Matt Lauer, Hoda Kotb and Meredith Vieira—linked Philip II of Macedonia and Alexander the Great to the nation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) during its coverage of the Opening Ceremony of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games on August 5, 2016. Furthermore, AHI is disappointed that NBC chose to recognize FYROM as "Macedonia" during its coverage.

"We are incensed NBC would convey such historical misinformation to its worldwide audience," President Nick Larigakis said. "We are also disappointed that NBC would ignore the International Olympic Committee and reference FYROM as 'Macedonia' thus wading the network and the Olympic Games, which are meant to be apolitical, into geopolitics. The essence of the Olympic Spirit is for nations to come together devoid of political tension. In one fell swoop, NBC, a neutral third party, stoked tension by ignoring the IOC's proper recognition of FYROM thereby evoking a sensitive issue with, of all nations, Greece, which founded the Olympic Games."

Larigakis added that NBC's irresponsible actions only serve to embolden and advance FYROM's long-term policy of extreme nationalism and provocation against Greece.

AHI sent a letter date August 10 to NBCUniversal CEO Stephen Burke requesting the network to issue an on-air retraction because of the historical inaccuracies reported by its commentators during the Opening Ceremony. The letter also raised the geopolitical implications of NBC's reference of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) as "Macedonia" during its coverage.

#### AHI President Honored by Community of Glossa, Skopelos, Greece



Larigakis receiving his award.

The Worldwide Association of Glossa Descendants honored AHI President Nick Larigakis for his distinguished work around the world as AHI president on behalf of the Greek Diaspora, at "ARAMIS" Taverna, in Loutraki, Skopelos, August 5, 2016. The Association's leadership: Sotiris Dionysiou, president; Michalis



## LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Falkos, secretary; Ioannis Stamatou, vice president; Thomas Sakarikos, treasurer; and Giorgos Orfanos and Mr. Vakoulas, association members, presented President Larigakis with a commemorative plaque, which read in part, *“For his distinguished presence in the international fora and the Greek Diaspora in the USA, notably honoring Glossa of Skopelos as his homeland.”*

### **Turkey’s Cancellation of Religious Service Commemorating Virgin Mary Condemned**

AHI condemned a decision by the Turkish government to not allow services to take place at the historical Greek Orthodox monastery, Panayia Soumela, in Trabzon, Turkey on August 15, the feast day of the Virgin Mary. AHI also called on the State Department, the Obama Administration and Congress to continue to exert the pressure necessary to ensure that Turkey adheres to the rule of law and religious freedom.

“This is only the latest in a string of religious freedom violations for Turkey,” President Nick Larigakis said. “For years, the Turkish government has disregarded international treaties intended to safeguard religious freedom and persecuted their religious minorities, including the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Turkey has reneged on promises to reopen the illegally closed Halki seminary and escalated violations of religious freedom and human rights against its minority populations of which bodies such as the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has noted.”

### **AHI Releases Updated Fact Sheet on Greece’s Contributions to NATO, Security**

On September 28, AHI announced it released a 2016 update to its fact sheet that details Greece’s contributions to United States interests in the eastern Mediterranean and to NATO. The fact sheet is titled, “Greece: Valued Ally. Strategic Partner.” It is available for download at [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org).

“When it comes down to it, Greece is a proven, reliable, and invaluable ally of the United States and an integral contributor to NATO. Greece takes its obligations to the Alliance seriously despite enduring two well-chronicled crises, economic and migratory,” President Nick Larigakis said. “Our fact sheet presents data, provides testimonials from prominent U.S. and NATO officials, and highlights examples of how Greece has contributed to United States security interests and international peacekeeping operations over many decades. We strongly encourage the community to utilize the fact sheet as an educational tool when speaking or meeting with policymakers and to share it widely.”

### **Milios Joins AHI Staff as Legislative Assistant, Special Projects Coordinator**

AHI is pleased to announce the hire of Peter Milios as the Institute’s Special Projects Coordinator and Legislative Assistant.

“We are excited and fortunate to have Peter join our staff,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “In college, Peter served in many capacities that required a significant amount of responsibility and accountability. The legislative experience he gained

through his internships in Florida, and his demonstrated passion for international affairs, will be a tremendous asset to our mission.”

Peter holds a Bachelor of Science in International Affairs and Political Science from Florida State University. He also obtained a minor in Middle Eastern Studies and a certificate in Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

“It is an honor to work for AHI,” Milios said. “The Institute had fostered the strong bonds between the United States and Greece and Cyprus, and works to promote Hellenism. I look forward to assisting in this capacity and giving back to the community, which has given me so much.”

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

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI), American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), B’nai B’rith International, and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued the following joint statement on Dec. 12, 2016:

“We welcome the second trilateral summit between Israel, Greece and Cyprus, held in Jerusalem on December 8, 2016. The second summit demonstrates a commitment between the three countries, which share democratic values and common interests, to strengthen their strategic partnership to provide stability to the eastern Mediterranean region. The announcement of a third summit to be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, is a further indication of the partnership’s development and significance.

“We are especially pleased the relationship is also progressing in areas of energy cooperation, as ministers from the three countries agreed to press for a natural gas pipeline from Israel to Europe. We also applaud the prompt emergency assistance provided by Greece and Cyprus to help Israel respond to the devastating wildfires in November and the announcement that the three countries will form a multinational regional rescue and emergency services force. Moreover, we continue to see growth in other critical sectors, such as tourism, that are a direct result of this strategic partnership.

“Finally, we take pride in providing broad diaspora support and encouragement for advancing the trilateral relationship’s advancement, and we look forward to continuing to do so in the future.”

In January 2016, the four organizations completed their second Leadership Mission to Israel, Cyprus and Greece. The groundbreaking inaugural mission was held in January 2014.



Peter Milios.

# AHI FOUNDATION NEWS

## LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

### ***President Obama's Greece Visit an Opportunity to Address Debt Relief, Support for Greece's Sovereignty in Aegean***

AHI sent a letter to President Barack Obama, requesting him to address debt relief and to support Greece's sovereignty in the Aegean Sea as he prepared for his November 15 and 16, 2016 visit Greece.

In the October 27 letter, AHI President Nick Larigakis stated the Institute's appreciation for the Obama Administration's support of NATO ally Greece during its debt and refugee crises. Larigakis cited Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew's July visit to Greece where he made the case for debt relief, a policy shift by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), which was backed by AHI; and U.S. humanitarian aid. Larigakis added that despite these unprecedented two crises, Greece remains a steadfast contributor to the defense efforts of NATO and to the projection of U.S. strategic interests in the eastern Mediterranean via NSA Souda Bay, Crete.

## AHI FOUNDATION NEWS

### ***AHIF Student Trip Alum Advises Trump on Foreign Policy***



George Papadopoulos (r) meets with Nick Larigakis.

George Papadopoulos, a participant on the 2009 AHIF Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus, served as a foreign policy adviser to President Donald Trump during Mr. Trump's presidential campaign. Papadopoulos, an international energy consultant, has been a researcher at the Hudson Institute before joining the London Center of International Law Practice. He also advised former Presidential Candidate Dr. Ben Carson.

Papadopoulos visited the Hellenic House on April 1 and met with AHI President Nick Larigakis and Legislative Director Georgea Polizos and received an up-to-date briefing on developments in the southeast Mediterranean.

"Southeastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean combine to form an important geopolitical region to the United States," Papadopoulos said. "The strong, bilateral relationships that the United States has with Greece and Cyprus has only con-

tributed to regional stability and the promotion of security and U.S. interests."

"We are proud to see all of our Study Abroad alumni and former interns take significant steps and succeed in their respective careers," Larigakis said. "Overall, it speaks to the quality and talent of students in the Greek American community. George is our most recent example of this success story, and we wish him the best going forward."

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



Students with Diana Doukas, Director of the White House Business Council, outside the White House complex.



Students with Government Spokesman Nicos Christodoulides.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus completed its eighth year as ten students from across the United States participated in the two-week program held June 17 to July 1, 2016.

The student participants were: Allie Martin, a sophomore at Boston University in the College of Arts and Sciences; Anastasia Kourtis, who graduated magna cum laude from Boston University in May 2015 with a B.A. in Classical Studies and Anthropology and a minor in Modern Greek; Anastasia Matiatos, an Honors student at the University of Arizona who is pursuing a double major in Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law and Fine Arts with minors in Classics and Spanish; Arthur Dedoulis, a sophomore at the Catholic University of America pursuing a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the Busch School of Business and Economics; Eleni M. Papageorge, a sophomore at the University of Virginia, who is double majoring in Speech



## AHI FOUNDATION NEWS

Pathology & Audiology and Psychology, and minoring in Deaf Studies; Jack Dulgarian, a senior at the University of Arizona earning a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with emphasis in International Relations and minors in Business Administration and Classics/Modern Greek; Kaliopi Batistas, a sophomore at Virginia Commonwealth University pursuing a major in International Studies with a focus on International Social Justice; Kelly Maria Kollias, a sophomore at Tufts University studying International Relations with a minor in Creative Writing/Journalism; Matt Kokkinos, a junior at Northeastern University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs, with a focus on international security studies and diplomacy; and Philip Bachas Daunert, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History at the University of Miami and is currently enrolled in the University of Miami's Master's Program in International Administration.



Students touring the House of Representatives of Cyprus.

During the 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 ministries, including foreign affairs; parliament members, religious leaders, think-tank organizations, and members of academia and the private sector of both countries. In Greece, the students toured military facilities at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, Crete, and provided oral testimony to the Hellenic Parliament's Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad about their experiences on the trip. In Cyprus, the group visited the Turkish-occupied area.

"The trip provided for an eighth-straight year a wonderful opportunity to lead an exceptional group of students to Cyprus and Greece," President Nick Larigakis said. "It was rewarding to see them gain firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues that concern U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. The AHI Foundation looks forward to offering this program annually as support for it has grown and student interest remains at significant levels since the program's inception."

"The most memorable experience would have to be the visit to the occupied area of Cyprus," Allie Martin, a participant on the trip, said. "It is the best example of something I never would've seen if it weren't for this trip. It's one thing to sit at a

table with a government official and have them tell you what goes on in the occupied area. It is a completely different thing to go there and see the abandoned cities and desecrated churches yourself. It wasn't until that visit that I truly started to care about issues I previously thought unimportant."

Added Matt Kokkinos, "The opportunity to attend the AHIF Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus is one which I feel so fortunate to have been given. Being able to meet, speak with, and question officials of the Cypriot, Greek, and American governments is an experience which is not available to so many individuals—the access to such senior officials was simply unparalleled—and having partaken in this program has given me knowledge and information regarding a variety of issues facing Cyprus, Greece, and the Cypriot and Greek American communities, as well as the U.S. and the American community at large."



Students at the Old Nicosia Airport with UNFICYP Officer Captain Major Robert Sczakson.



Students at a desecrated church.



Students at the Department of State with Cyprus desk officer Larina Konold and Greece desk officer Amy Reichert.

## AHI FOUNDATION NEWS



President Pavlopoulos with the students.



Students meeting with speaker of the Hellenic Parliament, Nikos Voutsis.



NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center (NMIOTC) briefing.



The students after testifying before the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad inside the Greek Parliament building.



Students aboard a skiff as they tour facilities around Souda Bay.

### AHIF Hosts 15th Annual Future of Hellenism in America Conference



Dr. Spiro Spireas, Anne Michals, Dr. Zenon Christodoulou, Nick Larigakis.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) hosted its Fifteenth 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 Elizabeth, N.J., at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel, Nov. 18-19, 2016.

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.

AHIF held a dinner on the eve of the conference, November 18. AHI President Nick Larigakis officially opened the conference and welcome remarks followed from Conference Chairman Dr. Zenon Christodoulou and greetings from AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiro Spireas. John Metaxas, *CBS New York* news anchor and reporter, served as Master of Ceremonies. Pavlos Yeroulanos, former Minister for Culture and Tourism and board member, Benaki Museum delivered the Keynote Address, "The Role of Greece in Promoting Hellenism Abroad." The Invocation and Benediction were given by His



## IN MEMORIAM

Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey. President of the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos Anastasia Michals received AHI's Hellenic Heritage and Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism in America.



From left: Dr. Zenon Christodoulou, Dr. Dan Georgakas, Nick Larigakis.



Dr. Van Coufoudakis.



From left: Dr. Zenon Christodoulou, Lou Katsos, Amb. Loucas Tsilas, Savas Tsivicos.

AHIF hosted the conference, in cooperation with the Hellenic Federation of New Jersey. The Hellenic Link of New Jersey and the New York Chapter of the American Hellenic Institute co-sponsored it.

"We sincerely appreciate the support from our many generous sponsors," Larigakis said. "Without their support, the Conference on Hellenism would not be the successful event that it was."

The conference was organized into five panels: Greek Educa-

tion in America, The Greek American Community and the Political Process, Current Perspective on Current Challenges, The Changing Nature of the Greek American Community, and Looking to the Next Generation of Greek Americans. The conference's opening keynote speaker, Professor Dan Georgakas, director of Greek American Studies, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY, presented on the theme, "The Now and Future of Greek America." Dr. Van Coufoudakis, former dean, professor emeritus, Indiana University-Purdue University College of Arts and Science, spoke on the theme "Keeping Hellenism Alive in 21st Century America: Challenges, Opportunities, and Threats" as the conference's luncheon keynote speaker.

### **Former AHI Foundation Participant Details Expedition of Cyprus**

Alexi Antoniou, a participant on the 2011 AHI Foundation Study Abroad program, launched a blog, "Circumventing Cyprus" that detailed his expedition around the entire island of Cyprus—over 400 miles in 60 days—to gather stories, pictures, and information about what unites this divided island. He was joined by his sister, Anna Antoniou, and cousin, Vasili Sotiropoulos. The group received a National Geographic Society Young Explorers grant and raised more than \$6,000 from a crowdsourcing campaign.

"We are proud to see all of our Study Abroad alumni continue to take significant interest in the countries they visited following their time in the program," President Nick Larigakis said. "Overall, it speaks to the quality and talent of students in the Greek American community. Alexi is our most recent example of this success story, and we wish him the best going forward."

## IN MEMORIAM

The American Hellenic Institute mourns the passing of our members, supporters, and friends. May their memories be eternal.

### **Passing of Former Congressman, NYU President Dr. John Brademas**

AHI mourned the passing of Dr. John Brademas, former United States representative from Indiana, President Emeritus of New York University, and longstanding AHI member. He passed away July 11, 2016. He was 89.

"We mourn greatly the passing of Dr. John Brademas," AHI Founder Gene Rossides said. "Dr. Brademas exemplified Hellenic ideals to the fullest extent.



Dr. John Brademas.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

He excelled as a public servant, valued the importance of education and the arts, and was a true champion of the Rule of Law. These were values instilled in him as the son of Greek immigrants. Without John's Capitol Hill acumen, and the respect he garnered during his service and a leader in Congress, the community's effort to impose an arms embargo on Turkey, following Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of the Republic of Cyprus, would not have been a success. We will forever be grateful for his staunch and unwavering support for the Greek American community's policy issues."

"Dr. Brademas will always be remembered fondly by the American Hellenic Institute and its members for his devotion to AHI, the Rule of Law, and to Hellenism for which we are deeply grateful and from which we all benefited," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "Our deepest sympathies and condolences are with his family. May his memory be eternal."

Dr. Brademas, who was the first American-born Hellene elected to Congress, was a recipient of the Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award. The former Majority Whip also keynoted and addressed several AHI forums, conferences, and events.

### AHI PRESIDENT ATTENDS GREECE'S STATE DINNER

*Continued from page 1*

Cultural Center, Nov. 16, and a reception U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt and The Hellenic Initiative hosted in honor of Global Entrepreneurship Week titled, "Entrepreneurs: United for Success," which was held at the ambassador's residence, Nov. 14.

In addition, AHI-Athens President George C. Economou hosted a luncheon for President Larigakis, Nov. 15, where representatives from the business and academic communities attended.

"I appreciated the efforts of AHI-Athens President Economou to organize a luncheon at which we had the opportunity to share AHI's mission and initiatives with key individuals from the community," Larigakis said.

### AHI HAILS OPIC POLICY SHIFT TO CONDUCT BUSINESS

*Continued from page 1*

dates, were for "low-income countries and those in Africa and Asia in particular." For nearly two years, AHI pressed Obama Administration officials and members of Congress on the fact that precedent existed for OPIC to operate its programs in EU countries when economic conditions and policy reasons support the need. AHI cited OPIC's work with Portugal and Malta along with Northern Ireland and other central European countries.

"OPIC's policy shift sends a strong message of support from the United States to Greece," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "We sincerely thank the administration, which has had high-level engagement on Greece's economic crisis, for clearly stating Greece's eligibility for assistance from OPIC. We are also deeply grateful to Congresswoman Maloney, whose diligence and steadfast commitment to this issue contributed to this policy success."

### Background

In April 2015, AHI wrote to OPIC, an "independent" government agency that provides financial products, such as loans or guaranties; or support for investment funds that help American businesses expand into foreign markets, requesting OPIC's support and assistance for Greece with its economic crisis by engaging in Greece where OPIC has been mostly inactive.

Subsequently, President Larigakis and AHI officials met with three OPIC officials and the staff of the Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairs. In addition, AHI held a November 2015 forum, "Greece Moving Forward," that included discussion of OPIC by Congresswoman Maloney.

AHI also raised OPIC at a roundtable discussion with White House officials held in August 2015. Following the meeting, Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairs Congresswoman Maloney and Congressman Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) released a co-authored letter to OPIC President Littlefield requesting the agency be allowed to operate in Greece.

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