



# AHi

## ANNUAL REPORT

# 2016

American Hellenic Institute

American Hellenic Institute Foundation



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## Introduction

Dear Members and Friends:

As the American Hellenic Institute commences its 43<sup>rd</sup> year as the only Greek American think-tank and public policy center, it affords me great pleasure to present the Institute's 2016 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 2016, AHI issued 62 press releases detailing our numerous policy activities and events. These activities included: the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner; the landmark 15<sup>th</sup> annual "Future of Hellenism in America" conference; the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner in Athens; our annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" on Capitol Hill; our annual trips to Greece and Cyprus, including our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Study Abroad Program; and our numerous public policy conferences and forums.

The majority of AHI's policy 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 July 2016, AHI secured a significant policy victory when the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) announced a policy shift that stated the "independent" U.S. government agency can do business in Greece. The policy objective—aimed to help spur business and commerce investment in Greece—was achieved after two years of persistence where 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 sent letters, held face-to-face meetings and a policy forum on the topic, leading to the policy success. AHI thanks Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairs U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis and Carolyn Maloney for their staunch backing of this important shift in OPIC's policy position.

Furthermore, on the policy front, AHI and Lexington Institute co-hosted a presentation on Capitol Hill that announced the release of a white paper, "Souda Bay: NATO's Military Gem in the Eastern Mediterranean." The rollout featured remarks by Greece's Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos. AHI also engaged policymakers in the administration and Congress through letters, testimony, and face-to-face meetings with high-ranking administration officials and a significant number of members of Congress and their staffs. Specifically, AHI met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Jonathan Cohen on several occasions during the year. AHI representatives also hosted U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt at Hellenic House prior to his departure to start his post in Athens. Where

appropriate, AHI showcased commentaries, letters, and op-ed pieces that praised Greece's security cooperation amid crises and critical of Turkey's foreign policy positions as well as crafting our own letters to the editor to media outlets; some of which received placement. We also continued to keep our audience informed with our Policy Statements, Capital Reports, and foreign policy forums. Additionally, the AHI Foundation published the seventh volume of its Online Policy Journal that provides expert policy analysis and commentary.

In 2016, AHI remained an important resource for media outlets seeking the Greek American perspective on U.S. policy in the eastern Mediterranean. AHI representatives appeared on *ERT* and international broadcast news outlets and were published in *Foreign Affairs*, the *New York Times*, and *The Hill*, among others.

In addition, AHI hosted timely policy forums and conferences, in the U.S. and abroad, on Greece's migration crisis, Turkey's impact on stability in the eastern Mediterranean, and on the next U.S. administration. I am also pleased to report AHI participated in a second Leadership Mission with leading American Jewish organizations and AHEPA in January, and I had the honor to attend events held in concurrence with President Barack Obama's visit to Athens in November, including the State Dinner hosted by President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos. Furthermore, in June, I am especially proud that AHI organized its third-annual "Greek Heritage Night" with the Philadelphia Phillies that provided tremendous public exposure for Greece and our Greek heritage.

We accomplished all of these initiatives thanks to the dedication of AHI's Board of Directors and with the assistance from our staff and support from our members.

Finally, we were all especially proud AHI Founder Eugene Rossides received a well-deserved, long overdue honor from the Republic of Cyprus. On a somber note, we mourned the passing of a giant in the Greek American community, former U.S. Rep. John Brademas, who led the congressional fight to impose an arms embargo on Turkey, and longtime AHI supporter and friend of Greece, Nancy Horton. May their memories be eternal.

## 2017: A New Administration & Congress

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.

The eastern Mediterranean remains a region of immense importance to U.S. interests, and we must advance and promote policies that embrace the rule of law in the region. Greece

remains mired in two crises, economic and migratory. Despite these 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. As Cyprus settlement talks continue into 2017, Turkey still maintains 40,000 illegal troops on the island and insists on keeping its guarantor status in a post-settlement unified Cyprus, which is unacceptable. Little, if any, progress with respect to religious freedom in Turkey, including the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has been realized despite calls from entities such as the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to address it. The FYROM name-recognition issue remains at a stalemate as Skopje continues to press for NATO membership. All of these issues require our collective attention and action.

Together, as advocates for the Rule of Law, we must work to educate a new Trump Administration and Congress on our issues. The 115<sup>th</sup> Congress remains in Republican controlled and there will be new members serving on congressional committees of importance to our issues. In addition, we must work with the Trump Administration, and the State Department under new Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, to ensure the high-level of engagement of the previous administration on Greece and Cyprus remains. We must work to keep our policy issues at the forefront of the Trump Administration's foreign policy agenda. We must also remind legislators and policymakers that despite difficult economic conditions, Greece and Cyprus remain loyal allies and contribute greatly to U.S. security and economic interests in the eastern Mediterranean. Further, we must never forget that April 24, 2017 marks the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Armenian Genocide. Finally, AHI looks to build upon the momentum generated by uplifting programs such as our study abroad initiative for college students and our "Greek Heritage Night" at the ballpark.

I am deeply grateful and appreciative of the members, officers and staff for their dedication. Everyone worked together to make 2016 another productive year. Alongside our own activities in Washington, 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 valued asset—our members. Thank you.

With warm regards and gratitude,



Nick Larigakis  
President

## PUBLIC POLICY: AN OVERVIEW

### 2016 Policy Statements on Greek American Issues

The American Hellenic Institute released its Policy Statements in 2016. The statements present issues affecting the Greek American community as they pertain to United States relations with Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey. In essence, the statements set the course for AHI's policy direction for the year. The policy statements include an updated AHI Fact Sheet detailing Greece's contributions to United States interests in the eastern Mediterranean and to NATO. They are distributed to government officials and policymakers from the executive and legislative branches. They also serve as a guide when communicating positions to U.S. policy makers and the media. The positions are based on the best interests of the United States and advocate for the rule of law.

### 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 ongoing violations of Greece's territorial waters and airspace led to 2,573 infringements and violations of Greece's airspace in 2016;
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's public questioning of the integrity of the Treaty of Lausanne; and
- Turkey's aggression against Cyprus which includes its continuing illegal occupation of 37.3 percent of Cyprus, and from October 2014 to April 2015, included incursions into Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

In sum, the threat of *casus belli* still stands and a considerable number of formal complaints were made by Greece over continued violations by Turkey of the Greek airspace and territorial waters.

### The Cyprus Problem

In 2016, the community observed the somber 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. The resumption of settlement negotiations gained momentum in 2016, but there were also setbacks.

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, 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. Annually, AHI organizes a high-profile briefing on Capitol Hill to mark the anniversary of the invasion where prominent members of Congress speak about the issue.

### FYROM Name-Recognition

The FYROM name-recognition issue is included in the AHI Policy Statements, which call on the U.S. "to consider withdrawing its 2004 recognition of FYROM as the 'Republic of Macedonia'" if FYROM refuses to cooperate in negotiations. The statements also advocate for a position that FYROM will not join NATO and the European Union until the name dispute is resolved.

Throughout 2016, AHI embarked on initiatives to raise awareness to help end the misappropriation of the name "Macedonia" by the Former Yugoslav Republic of "Macedonia" (FYROM). For example, AHI submitted written testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations that opposed U.S. aid to FYROM. AHI also wrote two letters to the editor on the issue and spoke out vehemently when *NBC* commentators presented historical inaccuracies and recognized FYROM as "Macedonia" during its Olympic Opening Ceremonies. Additionally, *The Hill*, a top U.S. political website vital to policy, politics, and election campaigns, published the AHI's response rebutting a November 28, 2016 commentary titled, "When Greece and Hillary Clinton tried to erase Macedonia" by Bill Nicholov. 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 in the 2016 Policy Statements. 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.

AHI condemned the initial decision by the Turkish government to not allow religious 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.

## 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

- **August 10:** AHI sent a letter 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.
- **October 27:** AHI sent a letter to President Barack Obama as he prepared for his November 15-16 visit to Greece. In the letter, Larigakis raised several policy issues.
- **November 28:** *The Hill*, a top U.S. political website vital to policy, politics, and election campaigns, published the AHI’s response rebutting the historical fallacies found in a November 28, 2016 commentary titled, “When Greece and Hillary Clinton tried to erase Macedonia” by Bill Nicholov.

#### Statements

- **February 12:** In a joint statement, AHI, AHEPA, B’nai B’rith International, and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, hailed their second Leadership Mission to Israel, Cyprus, and Greece.
- **March 11:** AHI mourned the passing of long-time AHI supporter and friend of Greece, Nancy Horton. Horton was the daughter of George Horton, the U.S.’s Consul-General in Athens, Thessaloniki, and Smyrna at the time of the Smyrna Catastrophe in 1922.
- **March 21:** AHI and the Lexington Institute announced the release of a Lexington Institute white paper, “Souda Bay: NATO’s Military Gem in the Eastern Mediterranean” at a Capitol Hill presentation.
- **May 31:** AHI welcomed United Airlines’ resumption of summer seasonal nonstop service from Newark, N.J. to Athens, Greece. The service resumed May 25 and continued through to October 5.
- **July 12:** 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 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.

- **July 19:** AHI issues a statement in remembrance of the 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 43,000 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.
- **July 28:** AHI applauded the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) for a policy shift backed by AHI that stated the “independent” U.S. government agency can do business in Greece.
- **August 9:** AHI conveyed its outrage at NBC as its commentators—Matt Lauer, Hoda Kotb and Meredith Vieira—linked Philip II of Macedon 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. AHI also conveyed disappointment that NBC chose to recognize FYROM as “Macedonia” during its coverage.
- **August 15:** 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.
- **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.”
- **October 28:** AHI commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OXI Day. “On the 75th anniversary of OXI Day, we remember the heroism of the Greeks, led by Greece’s Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas, who issued a defiant call against fascism,” Larigakis said. “In a watershed moment, the Greeks demonstrated bravery, defeating Mussolini’s army and thereby altering the outcome of World War Two by forcing Hitler to change his strategy. World leaders from FDR to Churchill took notice, and the Greeks reinvigorated the will of others to fight the Axis powers.”
- **December 12:** In a joint statement, AHI, AHEPA, B’nai B’rith International, and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations welcomed the second trilateral summit between Israel, Greece and Cyprus, held in Jerusalem on Dec. 8.

## LEADERSHIP VISITS ABROAD

### Second Three-Country Leadership Mission with American Jewish Groups, AHEPA



*From left: Chairman Stephen M. Greenberg of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, AHEPA Supreme President John W. Galanis, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Gary P. Saltzman of B'nai B'rith International, AHI president Nick Larigakis.*

A 13-member delegation of community leaders from American Hellenic and American Jewish organizations, including the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), participated on their second three-country Leadership Mission to Israel, Cyprus, and Greece, Jan. 10 to 19. The purpose of the Mission was to evaluate the critical and developing relationship between these three countries on security, energy, economics and political areas. The 2016 Mission also sought to build upon the initial Mission the four organizations took in January 2014. Meetings were held



*From left: Aleco Haralambides, President Nicos Anastasiades and Nick Larigakis.*



*Delegation with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.*

with high-ranking government and military officials—in addition to local community leaders—from the three countries and the United States. The Mission also visited military installations at Palmachim Air Base, Yavne, Israel and Souda Bay, Crete, Greece. The other participating organizations included: American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), B'nai B'rith International, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

“Our meetings made clear that the trilateral relationship between Israel, Cyprus, and Greece is vibrant and strong on all levels. We believe the relationship has developed to the betterment of the region and is on sustained course. In a region with so much instability, the trilateral relationship possesses the potential to allow the eastern Mediterranean to become a community of nations based on shared common values and aspirations. We applauded the leaders of these three countries for their foresight in establishing this cooperative relationship which we hope other nations will join.”



“The American Hellenic and American Jewish communities will continue to work to foster closer cooperation in the United States and support the trilateral relationship. We are grateful to the many leaders who afforded us the opportunity to exchange views and ideas. The friendship and hospitality shown to us made the trip all the more meaningful and productive.”



## 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.

"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."



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.



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



President Prokopis Pavlopoulos with AHI delegation at the Presidential Palace.



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

In Cyprus, 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. 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



Nick Larigakis with Amb. Christos Panagopoulos.

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. The itinerary also included 12th Annual AHI Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner at the Grand Bretagne Hotel, May 11.

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 President Visits Cyprus, Greece on End of Year Trip to the Region



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

AHI President Nick Larigakis visited Cyprus and Greece, Nov. 28 to Dec. 7.

In Nicosia, Larigakis 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 negotiators of the current Cyprus settlement talks. Cato Institute Senior Fellow Doug Bandow accompanied Larigakis to the meetings.

Also, the Cypriot Press and Information Office hosted a luncheon for Larigakis, which was sponsored by the office's acting director, Patricia Hadjisotiriou. In addition, Journalist Antigoni Drousioti, *Phileleftheros*, interviewed Larigakis.

In Athens, 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,



*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.*

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, 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

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.

During his stay at Larissa, one of Greece's oldest newspapers, *Eleftheria*, interviewed President Larigakis.



## AHI President Attends Greece's State Dinner for President Obama

President Larigakis attended events held in concurrence with President Barack Obama's visit to Athens, Greece, Nov. 14 to 16, 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."

Larigakis also attended President Obama's speech to the people of Greece at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation 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 Larigakis, Nov. 15, where representatives from the business and academic communities attended.

## MEDIA RELATIONS

In 2016 AHI issued 62 press releases that were widely distributed to mainstream, Greek American, and foreign press, the Obama 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

In 2016, AHI wrote four letters to the editor and two comments to various news print and online publications of which four were published.

*The Hill*, a top U.S. political website vital to policy, politics, and election campaigns, published AHI's response to a Nov. 8 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, 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 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.

*The Hill* also published AHI's response to a Nov. 28 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.

Moreover, the *New York Times* published two comments submitted by AHI to the newspaper's editorials. The first was 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. Cohen opined Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has played a "double game" when it comes to ISIS. The *New York Times* made Karambelas' commentary one of its "picks." The second was also submitted by Karambelas to the *Times'* editorial "Turkey's New Anti-Americanism," August 4. 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. Once again the *Times* made Karambelas' commentary one of its "picks."

AHI submitted a letter to the editor to *The Washington Times* in response to a March 20 op-ed titled, "Why a Stable Macedonia Matters" by Jason Katz. In his letter, Larigakis rebuts the author's claim that Greece impedes FYROM's path toward stability and prosperity. Instead, Larigakis points out Greece has been one of the largest sources of foreign investment in FYROM in recent years. Larigakis also rebuts Katz's position that former Prime Minister Gruevski has "sought alignment with the West," arguing that Gruevski's long-term policy of extreme nationalism and provocation against Greece is in conflict with Euro-Atlantic values and in breach of the UN-brokered Interim Accord. Finally, Larigakis adds that Greece, under extreme economic duress, continues to bear the burden of the refugee crisis that has only been exacerbated by FYROM's border closures.

AHI wrote to *60 Minutes* following Correspondent Steve Kroft's Nov. 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. 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.

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

ERT TV interviewed Nick Larigakis on the U.S. election outlook on Friday, October 21. 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.

## AHI-Athens President's Article Published in Foreign Affairs Greek Edition

*Foreign Affairs*, a leading magazine for analysis and debate of foreign policy, economics and global affairs, published an article in its Greek edition authored by George Economou. Economou is founder of G.C. Economou & Associates Law Firm and president of the American Hellenic Institute-Athens Chapter. The article is entitled "QUO VADIS CYPRUS? The slippery road to reaching agreement." It appeared in the December 2015 – January 2016 Greek edition of *Foreign Affairs*.

In the article, Economou states, "...the groundwork is being prepared for the acceptance of a compromised federal solution similar to the 'Anan Plan' which will castrate Cyprus as a sovereign and independent state." Economou argues that in the midst of everyone's haste to solve the Cyprus problem that one should step back and consider the repercussions not just for Cyprus, but for Greece and potentially the West. Economou sets the stage by tracing the modern history of Cyprus.

## NEO Magazine Features AHI's Awards Dinner, President

*NEO Magazine* featured the work of the AHI and President Larigakis. The article by Cindy Klimek titled, "The American Hellenic Institute Celebrates 41 Years of Public Service" appeared in the March 2016 edition. In the interview, Larigakis discusses AHI's 41st Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement & Public Service Awards Dinner, held March 5 as well as the history of the dinner, which has showcased prominent Greek Americans over the years. The feature article also recounts AHI's founding in 1974 in support for the rule of law following Turkey's invasion of the Republic of Cyprus and reports on AHI's work today.

## BRIEFINGS, CONFERENCES & FORUMS

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



From left: Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos of Greece, AHI President Nick Larigakis, Consul of Cyprus Konstantinos Polykarpou.

AHI hosted a breakfast briefing with then-Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos, ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the U.S., and Consul Konstantinos Polykarpou, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, March 5 at the Capital Hilton, as part of its Annual Awards Dinner weekend.

In his 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 Panagopoulos commended AHI and Larigakis for creating an important bridge and maintaining open channels between Greece and the United States. He explained Greece's economic state and the government's overarching plan for Greece to return to growth, stating the end goal is to achieve a modern economy and a modern state that will be able to compete successfully. In addition, Ambassador Panagopoulos addressed the destabilizing effect of the refugee crisis in Greece and the whole of Europe and the importance of an upcoming EU summit dedicated to addressing the challenges facing the EU.

Consul Polykarpou addressed three issues dictating foreign policy in Cyprus. The first is the ongoing negotiations to find a solution to the Cyprus problem. He applauded President Anastasiades' renewed efforts as well as maintaining a common vision with Turkish Cypriot leader, Mustafa Akinci. Polykarpou emphasized the importance of U.S. support, especially in encouraging Turkey to contribute more to the process. He highlighted the Treaty of Guarantee and his government's belief that it is obsolete for the future of a unified Cyprus. The second issue centers around energy, Polykarpou said. The necessity of cooperation with Greece, Israel and Egypt is of particular importance, he added.

## AHI Examines Turkey's Effect on Peace, Stability in Eastern Med

AHI hosted a Noon Forum titled, "The Role of Turkey in Affecting Peace and Stability in the Eastern Mediterranean," featuring Doug Bandow, senior fellow, Cato Institute, Feb. 25 at Hellenic House. Bandow made the strong case for the United States to drop Turkey as an ally. Bandow stated the justification for Turkey's membership in NATO and America's defense guarantee for Ankara has long since passed. He added that Turkey's actions, including its provocations with Russia which has drawn concern from NATO, demonstrate it is not an ally of the United States.

## Migration Crisis and its Impact Greece Focus of Forum



Katerina Sokou

AHI hosted a Noon Forum titled, "The Migration Crisis and Its Implications for Greece," featuring Katerina Sokou, Washington correspondent, SKAI TV and Kathimerini, April 6 at Hellenic House. Sokou emphasized the implications of the humanitarian crisis and recent attempts to address the challenges it presents. According to Sokou, for the European Union, the crisis has become an economic, political and security issue, and with regard to Greece, the crisis has put the country on the frontlines because of its geographic location. Greece faces a multitude of challenges, including public health and security. Sokou also provided staggering statistics of the number of refugees, demonstrating the broad scope of the crisis. A Q&A session followed her presentation.

## 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 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 innovations 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.ahiworld.org](http://www.ahiworld.org).

## AHI Presentations in Athens, Nicosia Features Cato Senior Fellow

AHI hosted two presentations featuring Doug Bandow, senior fellow, Cato Institute, in Nicosia, Cyprus, Nov. 28; and Athens, Greece, Dec. 1 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 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



From left: Doug Bandow, Nick Larigakis, Amb. Geoffrey Pyatt.



*Doug Bandow*

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.

## Hellenic House Visitors



*George Hatzimarkos, Miltos Goudamanis, Anthony Kambourakis, John Horozoglou, and Panos Satzoglou meet with Nick Larigakis.*

During 2016, AHI hosted several dignitaries visiting Washington, DC at AHI’s Hellenic House.

AHI hosted a group visiting from Greece on the occasion of the White House’s ceremony in commemoration of Greek Independence, April 4. The visiting group included: George Hatzimarkos, governor, South Aegean Region; Miltos Goudamanis, CEO, Global Strategies Council; Anthony Kambourakis, president, Hotels’ Association of Rhodes and owner, Rhodes Palace Hotel; John Horozoglou, communications director for a travel agency; and Panos Satzoglou, program director, Cosmos FM NY 91.5 Hellenic Public Radio.

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



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

## SAVE THE DATE





American Hellenic Institute Foundation

**Presents the  
16th Annual  
Conference  
on  
The Future  
of Hellenism  
in America**

***Dinner***  
***Friday, November 17,  
2017***

***Conference***  
***Saturday, November 18,  
2017***

**(City to be determined)**



## GENERAL NEWS

### AHI Celebrates Greek Independence Day at the White House

AHI celebrated Greek Independence Day at the White House on April 4. Nick Larigakis, Legislative Director Georgea Polizos, Board Member Leon Andris, and AHI Foundation Board Member Jim Lagos attended the ceremony officiated by President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

### AHIF President, AHI Members Serve as Grand Marshals at Greek Independence Parades



*Dr. Spiro Spireas, pictured with his wife Dr. Emily Spireas, receiving an award in commemoration of his role as a Grand Marshall from Petros Galatoulas and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. Courtesy of Dimitrios Panagos.*



*Dr. Spiro Spireas pictured with other Grand Marshalls at the parade. Courtesy of Dimitrios Panagos.*



*Paul Kotrotsios, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Dr. Panayiotis Baltatzis.*

AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiros Spireas and AHI Members Paul Kotrotsios and Dr. Panayiotis Baltatzis served as Grand Marshals at Greek Independence Day parades held this month. Dr. Spireas served as one of the Grand Marshals of the New York City Greek Independence Day Parade, April 10. Kotrotsios and Dr. Baltatzis served as Grand Marshals of the Baltimore Greek Independence Day Parade, April 3.

### AHI President Speaks at NHTA Conference

President Larigakis shared his foreign policy expertise with the delegates of the National Hellenic Student Association Conference, April 2, Baltimore, MD. Larigakis discussed the topic "Sovereignty in the Aegean" before an audience of more than 100 students. Larigakis spoke about the violations of Greece's airspace committed by Turkey over the Aegean Sea. His remarks also included Turkey's violations of Greece's territorial waters, and he explained the differences between infringements and violations of airspace.

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



*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 at Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, Pa. Approximately 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.



*Game attendees.*

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 preformed 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 Jumbotron. Greek Heritage Night also featured a Greek cuisine stand.

## 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. Fifty-eight golfers participated. Celebrity appearances were made by: 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 Jeffery 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.

## AHI Legal Counsel Publishes Guide to Business Entities in Greece

Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., a partner in Sfikas & Karambelas, LLP, in cooperation with Tribonian Publishing, LLC, has published the "Comparative Guide to Business Entities in Greece for United States Business Persons." Mr. Karambelas is legal counsel to the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) and a director on AHI's Board of Directors. The purpose of the publication is to introduce to U.S. business persons the business entities which are available under Greek law. The publication compares U.S. business entities to the Greek business entities and discusses their similarities and differences. The publication is available free of charge as an ebook. It can be downloaded from [www.ngklaw.com](http://www.ngklaw.com).

## AHI Hosts Reception in Appreciation of Col. Neroulas



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

AHI hosted a reception in appreciation for Col. Andreas Neroulas, June 6 at the 3 West Club, New York City. Col. Neroulas 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.

Larigakis presented Col. Neroulas 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 friends of the AHI New York Chapter."



## 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. The ceremony took place near the Ledra Palace crossing in Lefkosia.

In 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.”

## AHI Meets with Greece’s Top Military Official



*Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis with Nick Larigakis.*

President Larigakis met with Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, Chief of Hellenic National Defense General Staff, October 18 during the admiral’s visit to Washington, DC, 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.

## 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. The students were in Washington for their Washington, D.C. Day. Guy Calcerano, TCNJ development officer, accompanied the students. Nick Larigakis is an alumnus of The College of New Jersey.

The students heard presentations from Larina Konold,



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

Cyprus desk officer, U.S. Department of State, Elizabeth Hittos, chief of staff, U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, and Paul Glastris, 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.

## AHI President Shares AHI’s Message with Delaware Community

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

“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.”



# Awards Dinner

## AHI Hosts 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) hosted its 41st Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner, March 5 Capital Hilton, Washington, DC.

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: Basil N. Mossaidis, AHEPA Executive Director; Rena Papapostolou, Co-founder, Return to Origins, Greek language educator; Nicolas Bornozis, Founder, President/CEO, Capital Link; and Peter J. Pappas, Sr., Chairman of the Board, P.J.M. Holdings Corp., and Philanthropist.

Larry Michael, "Voice of the Redskins," and senior vice president and executive producer of Media, Washington

Redskins, was the evening's emcee. AHI volunteer legal counsel and Board of Directors Treasurer Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., partner in Sfikas & Karambelas LLP, introduced Michael. The Marines of Headquarters Battalion presented the colors and the American and Greek national anthems were performed by Maria Pearce. Rev. Steven P. Zorzos, Presiding Priest of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Washington, DC, offered the invocation and benediction. Apollonia provided the musical entertainment. Opening the evening's program were President Larigakis and AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiro Spireas, both of who offered greetings.



AHI President Nick Larigakis, Senator Mazie Hirono, AHI Founder Gene Rossides.



From left: Honorees Nicolas Bornozis, Rena Papapostolou, Basil Mossaidis, Peter Pappas, Sr.



Phillip Frangos (former AHEPA Supreme President) with Mrs. Frangos, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Baltis, Jeannette Zaykowski, Basil Mossaidis.



Presentation of the colors by the United States Marine Corps.



Dinner attendees.





*Rena Papapostolou with her family.*



*Ambassador of Greece Christos Panagopoulos.*



*From left: Dr. Billie Lepczyk, Wanda Pedas and Candace Jean.*

As part of the weekend's festivities AHI hosted a breakfast briefing with Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos and Consul Konstantinos Polykarpou, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, March 5; and major benefactors and supporters attended a buffet dinner graciously hosted at the Embassy of Greece, March 4.



*Basil Mossaidis, Jeannette Zaykowski, Olga Bornozi and Nicolas Bornozis.*



*Tom Lagos, Eugenia Bazigos, Argeri Lagos, Senator Mazie Hirono, Rep. John Sarbanes, and Dr. Christine Warnke.*



*From left: Peter Pappas, Gene Rossides, AHI Board Member Dr. George Tsetsekos.*



*Senator Paul Sarbanes and Gene Rossides.*

## LEGISLATIVE & POLICY INITIATIVES

### 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 stated the “independent” U.S. government agency can do business in Greece. AHI commended 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.

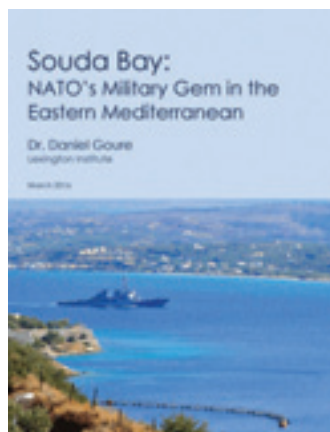
According to OPIC’s fact sheet, OPIC is authorized to do business in Greece if there are “strong development or foreign policy reasons to proceed.” In an August 2015 letter to AHI, OPIC President/CEO Elizabeth Littlefield indicated OPIC’s priorities, per its statutory mandates, were for “low-income countries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

### AHI, Lexington Institute Co-host Presentation Announcing Release of Souda Bay White Paper



AHI and Lexington Institute, a nonprofit public-policy research organization, co-hosted a presentation on Capitol Hill to announce the release of a Lexington Institute white paper, “Souda Bay: NATO’s Military Gem in the Eastern Mediterranean,” March 21 Rayburn House Office Building. The presentation featured the white paper’s author, Dr. Daniel Goure, vice president, Lexington Institute; and Greece’s Minister of Defense, Panos Kammenos. AHI President Nick Larigakis moderated.

Larigakis, who has visited Souda Bay on several occasions, addressed the importance of Greece as a geopolitical asset to NATO and staunch ally and Souda Bay as a key military facility in the eastern Mediterranean.

In his remarks, Defense Minister Kammenos explained Souda Bay’s importance based upon its reach of operations, including Europe, Africa and the Middle East; and a broad range of missions that it can support such as to combat piracy, terrorism and human trafficking. He emphasized the usefulness of Souda Bay during times of peace as well as crisis.

In presenting the white paper, Dr. Goure provided context on the reasons Souda Bay should be discussed, mentioning the historical significance of the base and the future geostrategic and potentially stabilizing role it could play in a complex region. The return of a “meddlesome” Russia and



*Dr. Daniel Goure,  
Lexington Institute  
Vice President.*





*Nick Larigakis and Defense Minister Panos Kammenos.*

the refugee crisis are just a few of the issues complicating the region. He added, the role of Greece is becoming increasingly important because of its access and existing facilities. Dr. Goure described Crete as a permanent aircraft carrier in the middle of the Mediterranean and emphasized that Greece has never restricted access to this base or any other resources they maintain. Greece also remains consistently above the NATO target for GDP spending on defense even amid its economic crisis. Finally, Dr. Goure underscored that Souda Bay is vital to the national security of the United States.



*Attendees*

A Q&A session followed the presentation during which Dr. Goure mentioned that unlike bases in Turkey, Souda Bay has never been used by Greece as a “bargaining chip.” Visit [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org) to download the white paper.

## Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day

AHI celebrated the 195th anniversary of Greek Independence Day by hosting its annual “Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day,” on April 13. The common democratic ideals held by Greece and the United States were reaffirmed by several members of Congress at the event which was held in cooperation with the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

Members of Congress who addressed the audience included (in order of appearance): U.S. Reps. Lee Zeldin (R-NY), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), former chairman and current member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; Dina Titus (D-NV), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), and Frank Pallone (D-NJ). U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) also stopped by and chatted with AHI staff during the event. In addition, although U.S. Reps. John Sarbanes (D-MD) and Tony Cárdenas (D-CA) were unable to attend, they submitted written remarks to AHI.



*Rep. Virginia Foxx, Rep. Gus Bilirakis, Rep. Dina Titus, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Nick Larigakis with the The Greek School students.*

Special guest speakers were: Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos, Deputy Chief of Mission Andreas Nikolaides, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus; and AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis. 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., and the Hellenic School of Potomac, Md., sang the American and Greek National Anthems.

## AHI Submits Testimony to House Appropriations Subcommittee on FY2017 Foreign Aid

AHI submitted testimony to the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs on the Obama Administration’s foreign aid proposals for FY2017 on March 24. In the best interests of the United States, AHI’s testimony opposed: any military assistance the administration will request for Turkey until Turkey removes its troops and illegal Turkish settlers from Cyprus; aid the administration will request for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM); and any reduction that might be introduced in the aid levels for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. 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 Marks 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Turkish Invasion of Cyprus with Congressional Briefing



Ambassador Leonidas Pantelides

AHI marked the 42<sup>nd</sup> 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. 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.

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.

## New American Ambassador to Greece Meets with AHI

American Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt held an introductory meeting with President Larigakis, Legal Counsel Nicholas Karambelas and Legislative Director Georgea Polizos, September 6 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.

### *Meetings with State Department Officials*

President Larigakis and Georgea Polizos met with State Department officials to review AHI's policy agenda and to provide updates on the latest developments in the eastern Mediterranean throughout 2016.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Jonathan Cohen, held an introductory meeting with Larigakis and Polizos met, Sept. 16 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.

In December, AHI representatives met with State Department officials during a series of meetings.

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

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

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

## SAVE THE DATE



**Monday, October 16, 2017**

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# Awards Dinner

## AHI Hosts 12th Athens Awards Dinner

AHI hosted its 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, Larigakis 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.



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



*Olga Bornozi, Nick Larigakis, Katerina Panagopoulou and Captain Panagiotis N. Tsakos.*



*Steve and Berit Veletsis, Nick Larigakis and Jim and Ted Pedas.*



*Nick Larigakis and Ambassador David Pearce.*



*Nick Larigakis addressing dinner attendees at the Grande Bretagne hotel.*



## AHI FOUNDATION INITIATIVES

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

The 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.

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 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.

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.



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



*Students with Government Spokesman Nicos Christodoulides.*



*Students touring the House of Representatives of Cyprus.*



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



*Students at a desecrated church.*

"The most memorable experience would have to be the visit to the occupied area of Cyprus," Martin 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."



*President Pavlopoulos with the students.*



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



*Students touring Souda Bay.*



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



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



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

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.

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.



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

AHIF held a dinner on the eve of the conference, November 18. Larigakis officially opened the conference and welcome remarks followed from Conference Chairman Dr. Zenon Christodoulou and greetings from AHF 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 Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey. President of the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos Anastasia Michals received AHF's Hellenic Heritage and Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism in America.

The conference was organized into five panels: Greek Education 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.

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.

## AHIF Foundation Publishes Online Policy Journal

The AHIF issued its seventh volume of its *Spring 2016 Online Policy Journal*. The journal is a forum for commentary and scholarship on issues of vital importance to Greek Americans. This particular issue probes recent developments in Cyprus, the historical atrocities committed by Turkey, and the dynamics of Greek America. Professor Dan Georgakas, director, Greek American Studies Project, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College (CUNY), is editor of the Online Policy Journal. He also provided the Forward.

## AHIF Student Trip Alum Advises Trump on Foreign Policy

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 AHF President 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 contributed to regional stability and the





*George Papadopoulos (r) meets with Nick Larigakis.*



## LEADERSHIP, AWARDS & STAFF NEWS

### AHI Founder Honored by Republic of Cyprus for Exceptional Service



*Aphrodite Rossides, Gene Rossides and Amb. Pantelides.*

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.”

### 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,” 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.”

AHI Founder Eugene T. Rossides received a rare honor from the Republic of Cyprus, on Nov. 10. Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Leonidas Pantelides 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 Pantelides said. “When I came to Washington six months ago, I found out the Government of Cyprus has never honored Eugene Rossides for his 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 acceptance, 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,” Larigakis 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 President Honored by Community of Glossa, Skopelos, Greece



Larigakis receiving his award.

The Worldwide Association of Glossa Descendants honored 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. The Association's leadership: Sotiris Dionysiou, president; Michalis Falkos, secretary; Ioannis Stamatious, vice president; Thomas Sakarikos, treasurer; and Giorgos Orfanos and Mr. Vakoulas, association members, presented 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."*

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



Peter Milios

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," 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."

## 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 formulated in Washington, DC. 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.

AHI's interns in 2016: Vasilia Anayiotis a senior at Dickinson College pursuing a BA in International/Global Studies; Melina Dunham is a junior at Barnard College (Columbia University) where she studies Political Science with a concentration in Comparative and International politics. She is an Athena Leadership Scholar and a Speaking Fellow; and Tiffani Wills, pursuing a BA at the University of Alabama.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**MARCH 3, 2018**

*43rd Annual Hellenic  
Heritage Achievement  
& National Public Service*

*Awards  
Dinner*



**MARCH 3, 2018 • THE CAPITAL HILTON  
WASHINGTON, DC**

# American Hellenic Institute Foundation College Student Foreign Policy Study Trip to Greece and Cyprus

**June 21 – July 7, 2017**

To stand in a place where, for generations, Christians stood in awe and reverence of the Creator of all, where incense and psalmody once rose from earth to Heaven in praise of the God who became man; but now stands abandoned and desecrated, with no respect or honor given to things of the earth or of Heaven, is truly a powerful and moving experience.

– *Manoli Anagnostiadis, University of Maryland, upon viewing a desecrated Church in occupied Cyprus in 2012.*

The AHIF Foreign Policy trip to Cyprus and Greece was an invaluable experience. Through briefings with prominent government officials, and experiences like visiting the occupied territory of Cyprus, I gained an understanding why it is important to lobby for Greek and Cypriot issues in the United States. The study trip made me a better-informed Greek American and has put me in a position where I can make a difference and advocate for Greek and Cypriot issues in America.

– *Michael Savvas, University of San Diego (2010 trip)*

The AHIF trip is something I will never forget. I am returning to the United States with new friends, amazing memories, and as a more learned person because of this foreign policy trip. I wouldn't trade those two weeks for anything.

– *Lia Seremetis, University of Cincinnati (2009 trip)*

**For more information on how to apply, visit:**

**<http://ahiworld.org/for-students/policy-trip.html>**  
or email Yola Pakhchanian at **[yolap@ahiworld.org](mailto:yolap@ahiworld.org)**

Photos, from top:

The students at the Acropolis (2009).

Students aboard the HS Papanikolis submarine with Lieutenant Commander Georgios Karagiannis, Commanding Officer (2014).

At the old Nicosia International Airport with a member of the UN Peace keeping forces (2010).

Student delegation with the President of Greece, Karolos Papoulias (2011).

Students aboard the HS Salamis frigate (2013).

Students at the House of Representatives in Cyprus (2012).

Students tour Acropolis Museum (2015).

Students with Diana Doukas, Director of the White House Business Council, outside the White House complex. (2016)







The American Hellenic Institute  
in cooperation with The Federation of Hellenic American Societies  
of Philadelphia and Greater Delaware Valley, *The Hellenic News of America* and Cosmos Philly  
is proud to present the 4th Annual

## "GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT" AT THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES



**TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017**

### Philadelphia Phillies "GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT"

at Citizens Bank Park vs the St. Louis Cardinals (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.)

**(VIP tickets need to be ordered directly through AHI)**

**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

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







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