



# REPORT



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## AHI CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRIP TO GREECE, CYPRUS



(L to R) Georgetta Polyzos, Gus Andy, Leon Andris, President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias, Nick Larigakis, Kostas Alexakis.

A delegation from AHI successfully completed the organization's annual leadership trip to Greece and Cyprus where it held substantive meetings with high-ranking government and religious officials and business leaders with the purpose of strengthening relations and addressing issues of mutual concern. The two-week trip occurred May 8 to 18, 2013.

"We had a very productive series of high-visibility meetings in  
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## AHI'S CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING YIELDS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARING, ACTION ON CYPRUS



Senate Foreign Relations Chair Sen. Menendez.

AHI observed the 39th anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus by hosting a congressional briefing and forum to discuss the current state of affairs on the island at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill, July 25, 2013. The briefing's forum allowed members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to engage in a candid discussion about how issues affecting Cyprus can be advanced on Capitol Hill and within federal agencies, including its 39-year division and its energy findings.

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## AHIF STUDENT FOREIGN POLICY TRIP TO GREECE, CYPRUS A SUCCESS



Briefing on Capitol Hill with Congressman Gus Bilirakis, co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus completed its fifth year as nine students from across the United States participated in the two-week program held June 19 to July 6, 2013.

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

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# AHI GENERAL NEWS

## AHI CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRIP TO GREECE, CYPRUS

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Nick Larigakis and then Foreign Minister Avramopoulos providing a joint statement following the briefing with the AHI delegation.



AHI delegation meets with Member of Parliament Antonis Georgiades, president of the Committee for Greeks Abroad.



AHI delegation with then Minister of Defense Panos Panagiotopoulos.

Greece and Cyprus,” said President Nick Larigakis. “We accomplished the objectives we set out to achieve, and we received insightful briefings on issues of importance to the Greek Amer-

ican community. We thank all of the leaders who took the time to meet with us to discuss these very important issues.”

## AHI Works to Address Many Issues Facing Cyprus

The AHI delegation received multiple briefings from Cypriot and American officials on the potential to resume direct talks for a Cyprus settlement under UN auspices, Cyprus’ efforts to explore for hydrocarbon reserves in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and the impact of Cyprus’ banking crisis. 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.



AHI delegation with President Nicos Anastasiades.

During its stay in Cyprus, May 8 to 11, 2013, the delegation met with: President Nicos Anastasiades, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus John Koenig, and President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou. Additional meetings were held with ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, including: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Andreas Mavroyiannis, Ambassador Andreas Kakouris, director, Division of Cyprus Question and Turkey; Ambassador Euripides Evriviades, political director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a dinner meeting with Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades. Also in Cyprus, Mr. Miltos Miltiadou, senior press and information officer, Press and Information Office of the Republic of Cyprus, hosted the delegation for a luncheon on May 10.

An audience with His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II and meetings with CIPA Director General Charis Papacharalambous and Dr. George M. Georgiou, head of the Governor’s Office, Communications and Budget, Central Bank of Cyprus rounded out the itinerary in Cyprus.

## Athens: AHI Holds Meetings with High-level Officials

An audience with President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias and meetings with Greece’s Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos and Defense Minister Panos Panagiotopoulos were highlights of the delegation’s busy itinerary in Athens. The itinerary also included the 9th Annual AHI Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner at the Grand Bretagne Hotel, May 15.

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Nick Larigakis with President of the Hellenic Parliament Vangelis Meimarakis.

The delegation also met with other government officials, including President of the Hellenic Parliament Vangelis Meimarakis, Vice President of Parliament Ioannis Tragakis, and several directorates of the ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for various countries and regions including the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Konstantinos Tsiaras, Director Ioannis Papameletiou and Deputy Director Evaggelos Sekeris (Cyprus desk), and Director Nafsika-Nancy Vraila (Turkey desk).

On May 14 the AHI delegation met with U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel B. Smith at the ambassador's residence. Larigakis commended the work of American Ambassador Smith and welcomed the ambassador's perspective on issues of importance in the region to the Greek American community. Also that day, the AHI delegation met with Member of Parliament Antonis Georgiades, president of the Committee for Greeks Abroad; and Alexis Tsipras, opposition leader and president of SYRIZA. During the evening, Mr. Yiannis Mytilineos, a prominent businessman, hosted the delegation for dinner at Tatoea Country Club, Kifissia. "We sincerely appreciate the kind hospitality of Mr. Mytilineos, who generously hosted us for a wonderful dinner at Tatoea Country Club," Larigakis said.

### Delegation Tours Souda Bay, Receives Briefings



(L to R) Hellenic Air Force Deputy Commander Dimitrios Fouskas, NSA Souda Bay Commanding Officer Captain James Gibson, Leon Andris, Kostas Alexakis, Gus Andy, Nick Larigakis, Commander Konstantinos Sampanis (NMIOTC educational and training director), NAMFI Commander Brigadier General Lazaros Skylakis, Hellenic Navy Commodore Helmis, Georgera Polizos.

On May 16 the AHI delegation took a one-day flight to Crete to tour the military installations located at Souda Bay and received extensive briefings by United States and Hellenic military officers. Briefings were offered by: Hellenic Navy Commodore Helmis, Commander Konstantinos Sampanis, educational and training director, NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center (NMIOTC); Hellenic Air Force Deputy Commander Dimitrios Fouskas; NSA Souda Bay Commanding Officer Captain James Gibson and Commander/Secretary of Defense and Executive Officer Demetrios Grimes; and NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI) Commander, Brigadier General Lazaros Skylakis. A luncheon reception for the delegation was held at the NAMFI Officers' Club, "Asteria." "Our tour and the briefings we received were eye-opening experiences for our delegation," Larigakis said. "There is no doubt Greece contributes significantly to United States and NATO operations and missions via NSA Souda Bay. In April, AHI published a fact sheet that provides details on Greece's contributions, and we share it during our various meetings in Greece. AHI will continue to raise awareness about Greece's strategic importance to the United States and NATO to ensure she receives proper due as a pivotal ally in the region."

### AHI Hosts Gala Affair in Athens, Honors U.S. Envoy, Philanthropist



Award recipients Amb. Daniel B. Smith and Isabella Arvaniti with President of the Hellenic Parliament Vangelis Meimarakis.

The Ninth Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner was held May 15. More than 220 AHI friends and supporters attended the dinner at The Grande Bretagne. Ms. Isabella Arvaniti, CEO/President of K. Arvanitis, S.A. and philanthropist and the Honorable Daniel B. Smith, ambassador of the United States to Greece, were honored for their professional achievements and contributions to the community.

"Our honorees have demonstrated excellence in their respective careers," said Larigakis. "We truly admire their accomplishments and their contributions to society and community service."

President of Hellenic Parliament Vangelis Meimarakis offered remarks, saluting AHI's work and emphasized that his presence was intended to send a message that AHI is a

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“remarkable and positive voice of Hellenism in the U.S.”

In acceptance, Ambassador Smith remarked, “We deeply appreciate the work that the American Hellenic Institute does to preserve and enhance the ties of friendship and cooperation that exist between the United States and Greece....During my time in Athens, the people of Greece have experienced extraordinary difficulties in the face of a deep recession and financial crisis. I’d like to thank you tonight for the role that you have played in strengthening the bonds between the United States and Greece at such a critical time.”

Ms. Arvaniti has built shelters for needy or abused children and is known for her charitable works, including arranging for the renovation of a building complex and fully equipping it to offer health services to 50 children for the Smile of the Child agency.

### **AHI Delegation Participants**

AHI President Nick Larigakis was accompanied on the trip by: AHI Board of Directors Secretary and Legal Counsel Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq.; AHI Board Members Kostas Alexakis, Dr. George Tsetsekos, and Leon Andris; AHI Foundation Board Member Gus Andy, and AHI Legislative Assistant Georgea Polizos.

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

The newly-appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Dr. Amanda Sloat, met with American Hellenic Institute (AHI) President Nick Larigakis on November 4, 2013. The meeting took place at the U.S. Department of State. Davida Baxter, Greek desk officer, U.S. Department of State, attended the meeting.

“On behalf of AHI, I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Deputy Assistant Secretary Sloat,” Larigakis said. “I welcomed the substantive discussion we had on issues of importance to the community. I look forward to maintaining an open line of communication in the best interest of United States interests in the region.”

The discussion focused on a wide array of topics, including: initiatives to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece, the reunification of Cyprus, the FYROM name dispute issue, Greece’s important role as the United States’ key strategic, political and economic ally in southeast Europe and the eastern Mediterranean; and the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

### **AHI HOSTS TENTH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC; SPORTS PANEL HELD**

On October 21, 2013, AHI hosted its Tenth Annual Golf Classic at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, Va. Celebrity appearances were made by Larry Michael, Voice of the Washington Redskins, and John Brazer, director of Publicity, Philadelphia Phillies, both of whom appeared at a morning sports panel to discuss current events and issues affecting the

sporting world. The Tournament Sponsor was Calamos Investments.

The first place team was comprised of: Mark Magliocchetti, Steve Denis, Chip Kennett, and Desmond McCarthy. Second place honors went to: Peter Bota, Michael Gleeson, Eddie Gleeson, and David Riddle. The third place team included: Nick Larigakis, Don Wills, Constantine Larigakis, Billy Pedas, and John Brazer.



*Tournament participants.*

“We are also grateful to our organizers, our generous sponsors, and golfers who took the time to support AHI,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. He also expressed appreciation to Tournament Chair Leon Andris, who joined Michaels, Brazer, and Larigakis on the sports panel; and to Golf Coordinator Adriana Sifakis, who organized the tournament. For a full list of tournament sponsors, please visit <[www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org)>.

### **AHI ANNOUNCES BENEFIT PROGRAM WITH STREAM ENERGY**



AHI is proud to announce it has partnered with Stream Energy to provide individuals, families, and businesses with an opportunity to enroll in electricity services and support AHI at the same time. Through Stream Energy’s unique Power Up! Program, AHI will receive a monthly commission for the duration of one’s enrollment with Stream Energy.

“During these challenging economic times, we are all looking for ways to support our favorite causes while still being conscious of family budgets,” AHI President Larigakis said. “Our partnership with Stream Energy will allow AHI supporters and friends to help the Institute simply by paying their energy bills. There’s no extra out-of-pocket cost for the enrollee; and in fact, they may find a little extra change in their pockets. Meanwhile, AHI benefits on an ongoing basis.” Stream Energy is a retail energy provider that pays American Hellenic Institute monthly, residual income for every energy customer AHI enrolls on Stream Energy service. Customers can sign up for residential or commercial services. To enroll, visit <[www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org)>.

### **NEWLY-CONFIRMED U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GREECE MEETS WITH AHI**

The newly-confirmed American ambassador to Greece, David D. Pearce, met with representatives of AHI on September 6, 2013, as part of his final preparations before he departs for his new post. The meeting took place at the U.S. Department of State.

“We greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Pearce,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “We welcomed the substantive and candid discussion we had on issues of importance to the community. We look forward to growing our relationship in the effort to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece and in the pursuit of our common goals and objectives.”

The discussion focused on a wide array of topics, including: initiatives to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece, the reunification of Cyprus, the FYROM name dispute issue, the Greek economy, Greece’s important role as the United States’ key strategic, political and economic ally in southeast Europe and the eastern Mediterranean; and the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Davida Baxter, Greek desk officer, U.S. Department of State, accompanied the ambassador to the meeting. AHI Legislative Assistant Georgea Polizos attended with President Larigakis.

### **AHI-BACKED CYPRUS RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY U.S. REP. BILIRAKIS**

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) introduced a resolution backed by AHI on April 26, 2013 that expresses the United States’ commitment to the reunification of the Republic of Cyprus and the establishment of a unified government on Cyprus that guarantees the human rights of all Cypriots and condemns any attempt to use the current economic crisis as a means of forcing the restart of negotiations or imposing a settlement on the people of Cyprus, announced AHI.

“As advocates for the rule of law, we welcome the introduction of this resolution that unequivocally presents the multitude of violations of law committed by Turkey upon Cyprus and its people and that a just settlement on Cyprus must include the removal of all Turkish military forces from Cyprus,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “By adopting this resolution, the people of the United States, via the U.S. House of Representatives, will send a clear message that any attempt to use the current economic crisis as a means to impose a settlement on the people of Cyprus is condemned and that Cyprus has exclusive control of, and to right to exploit, its exclusive economic zone, or EEZ.” He added, “We appreciated the opportunity to work with Congressman Bilirakis and his staff on this legislation, and we thank him for introducing this measure.”

In addition to U.S. Rep. Bilirakis, U.S. Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Michael Grimm (R-NY), Albio Sires (D-NJ), Dina Titus (D-NV), John Sarbanes (D-MD), James McGovern (D-MA), and Frank Pallone (D-NJ) are original co-sponsors of the resolution. Reps. Bilirakis and Maloney are the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues.

### **AHI PRESIDENT ACCEPTS APPOINTMENT TO ACS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

AHI President Nick Larigakis has accepted an invitation to serve on the inaugural Advisory Council of the American Community Schools of Athens. Mr. Constantine Stergides, chairman, ACS Athens Board of Trustees and Stefanos Gialamas, Ph.D., president, ACS Athens, extended the invitation to President Larigakis, which he accepted September 12, 2013.

“I am very honored and pleased to accept this wonderful invitation, and I thank Chairman Stergides and President Dr. Gialamas for offering me the opportunity to serve ACS Athens in this capacity,” Larigakis said. “I am keenly aware of the tremendous work the school performs in Athens and how the school facilitates the promotion of U.S. relations with Greece. I look forward to working with the Advisory Council and ACS Board to helping the school achieve its worthy goals and objectives.”

ACS Athens is a student-centered international school, embracing American educational philosophy, principles and values. Through excellence in teaching and diverse educational experiences, ACS Athens challenges all students to realize their unique potential: academically, intellectually, socially and ethically—to thrive as responsible global citizens.

### **AHI PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES AT AHEPA DISTRICT WORKSHOP**

AHI President Nick Larigakis participated at the AHEPA District 5 Workshop held in Cherry Hill, N.J., September 28, 2013. “I appreciated the opportunity to participate at the AHEPA District Workshop and to contribute to a discussion held on Hellenism and its future in the United States,” AHI President Larigakis said. “The discussion was productive with many perspectives and insights shared. I congratulate AHEPA for hosting the event.” Larigakis participated at the invitation of AHEPA District 5 Governor Sammy Thomas.

### **AHI SUPPORTS TRADE, INVESTMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S., E.U.**

AHI avidly supports the efforts of President Barack Obama to negotiate and conclude the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the United States and the European Union. The TTIP is comprehensive agreement which would enable goods and services to flow freely between the United States and the European Union, harmonize quality and other standards and facilitate cross border investment.

AHI has commenced a program to support the enactment of the TTIP. The TTIP will create the largest trading and investment community in the world. The United States will realize benefits in terms of job creation, commercial activity and lucrative markets for exports. In addition, the TTIP is essential to the improvement of the economies of Greece and Cyprus. As member states of the European Union, Greece and Cyprus will be part of this trading and investment and realize the commercial and economic benefits which will flow from the TTIP.

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AHI has joined the Business Coalition for Transatlantic Trade (BCTT) which is a coalition of groups and companies that support the TTIP. AHI will participate in the activities of BCTT as well as other groups of TTIP supporters. AHI will testify at public hearings, advocate passage of the TTIP in Congress, publish articles on specific provisions of the TTIP and update the membership developments as the TTIP progresses through the law making process.

### AHI HOSTS BOOK-SIGNING EVENTS FEATURING FMR. ATHOC PRESIDENT



Amb. Gianna Angelopoulos, Nick Larigakis and Atlanta event sponsors.

AHI hosted two book-signing presentations for Ambassador Gianna Angelopoulos, former president of the 2004 Athens Organizing Committee, in support of her book, “My Greek Drama” in Atlanta and Philadelphia on May 21 and 23, respectively. The events were held in cooperation with several Hellenic organizations and individual supporters. More than 100 persons attended each event.

“We are proud to organize events for Ambassador Angelopoulos that provided her with the opportunity to share her passion for Greece and the Olympic Games to the communities of Atlanta and Philadelphia,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “Ambassador Angelopoulos is a dynamic individual who has an inspiring message and story to tell. Her love of Greece, its culture, and people are all clearly evident in her presentation.”



Amb. Gianna Angelopoulos, Nick Larigakis and Philadelphia event sponsors.

The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum Theater served as the venue for the Atlanta book-signing and presentation that AHI held in cooperation with the Carter Library & Museum with special thanks to Tony Clark of the Carter Library and with the assistance of AHI member Dr. Victor Polizos.

The Union League of Philadelphia served as the venue for the Philadelphia book-signing and presentation that AHI hosted in cooperation with: American Hellenic Lawyers Association, Federation of Hellenic American Societies of Philadelphia, Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia, *Hellenic News of America*, Cretans of Delaware Valley, and the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia; and with the support of the following individuals: AHI Foundation President Spiro Spireas, Ph.D.; Nicholas Chimicles, Esq., George Horiates, Esq., and George P. Tsetsekos, Ph.D.

### AHI IN THE NEWS

#### Op-ed

AHI released an op-ed written July 26, 2013, by AHI President Nick Larigakis titled, “Mr. Samaras Comes to Washington.” On the occasion of Prime Minister Antonis Samaras’s initial visit to the White House to meet with President Barack Obama on August 8, Larigakis’ op-ed details Greece’s increasingly important presence and role in the southeastern European and eastern Mediterranean region, citing Greece’s military capabilities and contributions to NATO as well as recent developments in the energy sector, including the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) agreement. These advances, Larigakis argues, warrants the United States’ acknowledgement for the need for a “special relationship” with Greece, which should be explored when the two leaders meet on August 8. In addition, President Larigakis presents four ideas for how the United States government can potentially assist Greece as it endures its economic crisis.

### NOON FORUM

#### Greek War Relief Presentation Commemorates Oxi Day

AHI hosted a noon forum “Greek War Relief: America’s Formidable Response to Famine in World War II Greece” featuring AHI Board Member James L. Marketos, Esq., partner, Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe, LLP. The forum was held October 28, 2013 at Hellenic House to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of Oxi Day.

Utilizing the backdrop of Oxi Day, and addressing an American aspect to the Oxi Day story, Marketos’ presentation demonstrated the effectiveness with which Greek War Relief, organized brilliantly through the Greek War Relief Association, addressed the dire and desperate situation Greece was in under Axis occupation and during the post-war years. Prominent Greek Americans organized the Greek War Relief Association within ten days of the Italian attack on Greece, according to Marketos. Within six months of the Italian attack, it collected

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more than \$4 million. Relief supplies included: food, clothing, medicine, and other vital supplies. By the end of the war, Greek War Relief had established 150 medical clinics throughout Greece and established an orphan support program as well as a “Give an Animal to Greece” program to help restore Greece’s decimated livestock.

“Not until after liberation in December 1944 did the Greek people learn that more than \$30 million in relief supplies had reached them due to the efforts of the American people through the work of Greek War Relief,” Marketos said.

In a separate event, AHI President Nick Larigakis was the main speaker at an Oxi Day commemoration event held at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Norfolk, Va. The luncheon was held Sunday, October 27, 2013.

### **91st Anniversary of Smyrna Catastrophe Commemorated**

AHI hosted a noon forum to commemorate the 91st anniversary of the Smyrna Catastrophe in Asia Minor featuring Dr. Robert Shenk, professor of English, University of New Orleans, October 7, 2013, at AHI’s Hellenic House. Dr. Shenk, a retired captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve and former instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy, presented on the topic “Key Decisions during the Smyrna Crisis, September 1922” and based his lecture upon a chapter from his book, “America’s Black Sea Fleet: The U.S. Navy Amidst War and Revolution, 1919-1923.” AHI Board Member James Marketos, Esq., who traces his family’s roots to Asia Minor, introduced Dr. Shenk.

Dr. Shenk’s presentation provided background about the U.S. Navy’s presence in the Near East region and the perspective of the chain of command led by Rear Admiral Mark L. Bristol and presented accounts from naval personnel of the atrocities committed against the Greek and Armenian communities of Smyrna by the Turks. He also cited the important efforts of U.S. Consul General George Horton and Asa Jennings, an American missionary who worked at a Y.M.C.A. in Smyrna at the time of the crisis.

### **VISITORS TO HELLENIC HOUSE**

#### **Greek Prime Minister’s Top Economic Adviser Visits AHI**

Professor John Mourmouras, chief economic adviser to the Prime Minister of Greece, Antonis Samaras, visited American Hellenic Institute’s (AHI’s) Hellenic House on October 30, 2013.

“It was a privilege to welcome Professor Mourmouras to Hellenic House,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “We discussed the current state of the Greek economy and the initiatives that are being undertaken by the Greek government to address the country’s economic standing. We look forward to working together to promote Greece as a key business and tourist destination.”

AHI has had a longstanding interest in promoting business investment in Greece. It was the first organization to host a trade conference on doing business in Greece in 1975. AHI also published several editions of a book on the topic, *Doing Business in Greece*.

#### **AHI Welcomes New Cypriot Ambassador to U.S. to Hellenic House**



*Eugene Rossides, Ambassador George Chacalli, Nick Larigakis and Nick Karambelas at the Hellenic House.*

Cyprus’s new ambassador to the United States, George Chacalli, visited AHI’s Hellenic House on July 15, 2013. “We were honored to welcome Ambassador Chacalli to Hellenic House,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “We discussed recent developments in Cyprus, and we look forward to working with him and the embassy staff on issues of mutual interest. We wish Ambassador Chacalli the best in his new post.” AHI Founder Gene Rossides and legal counsel and board member, Nick Karambelas, joined AHI President Larigakis for the meeting with Ambassador Chacalli.

#### **AHI Welcomes Greece’s Defense Minister to Hellenic House**



*Dimitris Avramopoulos, Minister of National Defense of Greece with Nick Larigakis.*

Greece’s minister of Defense, Dimitris Avramopoulos, visited AHI’s Hellenic House on July 30, 2013. “We were honored to welcome Defense Minister Avramopoulos to Hellenic House,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “We discussed the purpose of the minister’s current visit to Washington and its importance to relations between the United States and Greece.”

Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos and

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Col. Evangelos Papadopoulos, defense attaché, embassy of Greece accompanied the defense minister. AHI President Larigakis and AHI Legislative Assistant Georgea Polizos met with Minister Avramopoulos.

### **AHEPA Supreme President Visits Hellenic House**



AHI President Nick Larigakis with AHEPA Supreme President Anthony Kouzounis (left) during the latter's visit to Hellenic House.

Newly-elected AHEPA Supreme President Anthony Kouzounis visited AHI's Hellenic House on September 12, 2013. "We were pleased to welcome AHEPA Supreme President Anthony Kouzounis to Hellenic House," Larigakis said. "We had a productive conversation about the challenges we face in the Greek American community and ways in which the two organizations can work together whenever our respective missions coincide. We wish Anthony the best in his term as supreme president." Supreme President Kouzounis, of Houston, Texas, was in Washington to administer AHEPA's annual District Governors Conference.

## STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **AHI Applauds Hudson Institute Conference on Greece, Cyprus, and Israel**

AHI applauds a high-level conference held October 22, 2013 by the Hudson Institute titled, "Power Shifts in the Eastern Mediterranean: The Emerging Strategic Relationship of Israel, Greece, and Cyprus."

"I commend the Hudson Institute for organizing this important and timely conference that examined the significant political, economic and security developments in the Eastern Mediterranean," said AHI President Nick Larigakis, who attended the event.

The conference featured Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos, ambassador of Greece to the U.S.; Ambassador George Chacalli, ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S.; U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL), a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance; and Eli Groner, minister for Economic Affairs, Israeli Embassy. U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), former chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, intended to participate but attended the funeral of a colleague instead. She did submit her remarks for the conference record.

In addition, several representatives from the energy sector,

Hudson Institute fellows, and AHI Legal Counsel Nick G. Karambelas, Esq., also participated. Karambelas spoke on the topic "The Energy Security Changes of the Eastern Mediterranean" during the conference's third panel of the day.

### **Hudson Analyst: U.S. Policy in Region Lacking Concern**

Furthermore, AHI welcomes an opinion piece authored by Seth Cropsey, a senior fellow at Hudson Institute titled, "Eastern Mediterranean gas finds," published by the Orange County Register, October 25, 2013. Cropsey argues there is a lack of concern in United States policy toward the eastern Mediterranean especially as the region grows in economic importance with the discovery of significant energy finds by Noble Energy.

### **AHI Assesses Findings of European Commission's "Turkey 2013 Progress Report"**

AHI released its assessment of the European Commission's 2013 report on progress made by Turkey in preparing for European Union membership.

"Overall, the American Hellenic Institute agrees with the findings in the 2013 Progress Report on Turkey," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "AHI especially welcomes the Commission's critical stance on Turkey with regard to Cyprus and the specificity with which the report addressed Turkey's restrictions upon the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Turkey's violations of the airspace and territorial waters, or exclusive economic zones, of Greece and Cyprus."

The 80-page EC report covers the period from October 2012 to September 2013. To view AHI's assessment and the report, please visit <[www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org)>.

### **AHI Statement on 39th Anniversary of Turkish Invasion of Cyprus**

AHI issued a statement on July 17, 2013 in remembrance of the 39th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974. The statement begins:

"Today we remember the solemn 39th anniversary of NATO member Turkey's brutal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus, a member of the European Union. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus with the illegal use of U.S.-supplied arms and equipment in violation of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the United Nations Charter, the NATO Treaty, and customary international law. Turkey occupied about four percent of Cyprus during the initial phase of its invasion. Turkish pilots flying American planes dropped American-made bombs, including napalm bombs, on Greek Cypriot communities."

The statement highlighted some of the tragic results of the Turkish invasion, including the deaths of innocent civilians, forced removal of 170,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes, approximately 1,600 Greek Cypriots missing, and mass destruction of Cyprus' cultural and religious heritage. AHI's statement cited Turkey's continued and intensified threats toward Cyprus, and called attention to Cyprus as a valued and proven ally of the US on counter-terrorism and security issues in the Eastern Mediterranean.

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

### **AHI Welcomes Opinion Piece Published by Hudson Institute**

AHI welcomes a commentary published August 20, 2013 by the Hudson Institute titled, “Mediterranean Gas Find: A Chance for U.S. to Break with Turkey” by Seth Cropsey, a senior fellow at Hudson Institute, which draws attention to the key strategic roles Greece and Cyprus play in the eastern Mediterranean. It also raises concern about how current Turkish policy runs counter to U.S. strategy on the Eurasia landmass.

“We applaud Mr. Cropsey’s commentary,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “Mr. Cropsey correctly observes that in coordination with Israel, Greece and Cyprus are key nations that are friendly to the West—as well as stable ones—in a region that is otherwise becoming increasingly volatile. Mr. Cropsey also rightly demonstrates how Turkey is a threat to U.S. allies in the region as well as to the region itself.” He added, “We encourage our audience to share Mr. Cropsey’s commentary with colleagues, family and friends in the community as well as with legislators.”

Mr. Cropsey writes: “A combination of Islamist rule, a neo-Ottoman ideology and Turkey’s attempt to return as the region’s hegemon opposes the U.S. goal of a democratic and peaceful region. It threatens America’s allies—Greece, Cyprus, Israel, and new EU member Bulgaria, which has complained of Turkey’s control over both supplies and prices of the natural gas it transits to the EU. Current Turkish policy runs counter to the traditional goal of U.S. grand strategy that seeks to prevent hegemony on the Eurasian landmass.”

### **AHI Statement: Reject the Turkish Caucus-led Congressional Letter on Restart of Cyprus Negotiations**

AHI issued a statement on April 29, 2013 with regard to a congressional letter being circulated in the U.S. House of Representatives by co-chairs of the Turkish Caucus, U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY) and U.S. Rep. Stephen Cohen (D-TN) that attempts to generate congressional support for the restart of Cyprus settlement negotiations due to the current state of Cyprus’s economic condition:

“The American Hellenic Institute deplors the congressional initiative spearheaded by the Turkish Caucus to generate congressional support for a letter to be sent to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon that utilizes the context of Cyprus’s economic crisis as the basis to renew negotiations for a Cyprus settlement.

“AHI rejects any attempt to use Cyprus’s current economic condition as a means of forcing the restart of negotiations or imposing a settlement upon the people of Cyprus. In fact, we welcome legislation just introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Gus Bilirakis that expresses this position.

“AHI discourages U.S. representatives from signing on to the Whitfield-Cohen letter, and instead, support Congressman Bili-

rakis’ resolution. AHI furthermore encourages the Greek and Cypriot American communities to convey their disagreement with the Whitfield-Cohen letter to their U.S. representatives.”

### **AHI Appalled by U.S. Commission’s International Religious Freedom Report Upgrading Turkey**

AHI is appalled by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom’s (USCIRF) two-tier upgrade of Turkey from a designation as a “country of particular concern” (CPC) in 2012 to a less harsh status of “other countries and regions monitored” in its 2013 Annual Report which the commission released April 30.

“We are deeply troubled with the commission’s complete reversal of position on Turkey’s treatment of religious minorities,” said President Nick Larigakis. “In fact, the reversal is so drastic; it raises an eyebrow and calls into question whether or not the commission was susceptible to outside lobbying or political coercion. Obviously, we disagree with the commission’s conclusion on Turkey.”

Larigakis added, “Despite very limited progress, the Turkish government continues to tolerate assaults upon its many minority populations, including the Greek Orthodox Christian minority and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. All outstanding issues remain unresolved, including the illegal closure of the Greek Orthodox Halki Patriarchal School of Theology and the Turkish government’s interference in the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s and Greek Orthodox community’s internal governance, among others. These are all actions that violate the founding principles and laws of the United States.”

Furthermore, at the direction of H.Res.1631, which passed the House of Representatives on September, 28, 2010, the commission investigated violations of religious freedom in Turkish-occupied Cyprus when it visited there in February 2011. Specifically, the report found three main issues in Turkish-occupied Cyprus: the inability of Orthodox Christians, other religious communities, and clergy to access and hold services at their places of worship and cemeteries in the north, particularly those in Turkish military bases and zones; the disrepair of churches and cemeteries and issues relating to the preservation of religious heritage, such as iconography, mosaics, and other religious symbols; and the lack of schools and opportunities for young people in the north, which has led to an exodus of Greek Cypriots and other religious minorities. “Clearly the commission found little discernible improvement in the treatment of religious minorities in Turkish-occupied Cyprus which further lends to a questionable report status for Turkey,” said Larigakis.

### **AHI Applauds TAP Selection; Demonstrates Greece’s Role as Energy Security Provider**

AHI applauds the selection of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) by the Shah Deniz Consortium of Azerbaijan. The pipeline, which will transport gas to the European market via the Southern Gas Corridor, will start in Greece.

“This is a major development and tremendous news for Greece,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “The pipeline will

provide a significant direct investment to Greece and generate meaningful job growth at a time when both are greatly needed. Equally important, the decision by the Shah Deniz Consortium demonstrates confidence in Greece's future and its role as an energy security provider. In addition, the pipeline will help to provide stability in the region, and energy security, which are in the best interests of the United States." According to the Greek government, TAP will provide an estimated \$2 billion in direct investment in Greece, 2,000 direct jobs, and an additional 10,000 jobs as a result of the selection. TAP will connect with the Trans Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP) near the Turkish-Greek border at Kipoi, cross Greece and Albania and the Adriatic Sea, before coming ashore in southern Italy.

### ***AHI Welcomes July Commentary Published by Hudson Institute***

AHI welcomes a commentary published July 3, 2013 by the Hudson Institute titled, "Will U.S. Choose the Right Side in the Eastern Mediterranean?" Seth Cropsey, a senior fellow at Hudson Institute, authored the commentary, which draws attention to the evolving three-way relationship between Greece, Israel and Cyprus and how the relationship provides an opportunity for the United States "to bolster its waning influence in the eastern Mediterranean Sea." The commentary also raises concern about the rise of fundamentalism in the eastern Mediterranean and Turkey's trend to a return of Ottoman-like imperialism under Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"We applaud the Hudson Institute for publishing Mr. Cropsey's commentary," said AHI President Nick Larigakis. "Mr. Cropsey raises compelling points about the merits of a quadrilateral relationship between the United States, Israel, Greece and Cyprus, especially what it could mean to NATO's southeastern flank and to energy interests in the eastern Mediterranean. Mr. Cropsey also keenly observes the United States and Turkey have become 'rival powers' in the Middle East and eastern Mediterranean; a development that President Obama has failed to recognize."

He added, "We encourage our audience to share Mr. Cropsey's commentary with colleagues, family and friends in the community as well as legislators."

## LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

### ***AHI to President Obama: Place Our Issues on Agenda with PM Erdogan***

On May 6, 2013 AHI released a letter it sent to President Barack Obama ahead of the president's May 16, 2013 meeting with Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The letter, authored by AHI President Nick Larigakis, presents a series of policy issues pertaining to the southeastern Mediterranean for President Obama to take into consideration in preparation for his meeting with Prime Minister Erdogan.

With the understanding that Syria, Iran, and the recent rapprochement between Turkey and Israel will all be high on the agenda of items to be discussed, AHI President Larigakis

wrote, "Nevertheless, it would be counterproductive not to discuss with Prime Minister Erdogan Turkey's provocative behavior in the southeastern Mediterranean that jeopardizes peace and stability in the region and is not in the best interests of the United States."

The letter presents the "litany of problems" Turkey perpetuates in the southeastern Mediterranean that prevent stability and damage U.S. interests, including: the continuing occupation of Cyprus, its intransigence in solving the Cyprus problem, its refusal to recognize the Republic of Cyprus, its veto to the accession of Cyprus to international organizations, its continuing threats to block Cyprus from exploring in its EEZ, its continuing violations of Greece's territorial waters and airspace in the Aegean Sea and continuing religious and human rights violations in Turkey.

"The issues and the recommendations for their successful resolution as presented in our letter are embodied within the fundamental principles of democracy, are founded on the rule of law, and are based on what is in the best interests of the United States," concluded Larigakis.

### ***AHI to President Obama: U.S. Should Engage in a "Special Relationship" with Greece***

AHI released a letter it sent on July 25 to President Barack Obama ahead of the president's August 8, 2013 meeting with Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Antonis Samaras. The letter, authored by AHI President Nick Larigakis, recommends the United States to engage in a "special relationship" with Greece and touts Greece's military contributions to NATO and U.S. missions as well as Greece's role as a stabilizing factor in the region despite enduring an economic crisis.

"The United States should have a 'special relationship' with Greece, recognizing its strategic location in southeastern Europe where the U.S. has important political, economic and military interests," AHI President Nick Larigakis wrote, citing the recent Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) agreement and the discovery of hydrocarbon reserves in the eastern Mediterranean reinforce this position. "Greece is an immensely valuable, proven, and reliable strategic ally for the United States especially because of key naval and air bases at Souda Bay, Crete. Simply put, Greece is a pivotal ally for the advancement of U.S. interests."

The letter also presents four potential United States government programs or initiatives that could assist Greece should the Greek government choose to engage in them in areas of tax and investment treaties, research and development agreement, and Export-Import bank financing.

## ACTION ALERTS

### ***April 30, 2013***

AHI Congressional Contact Team Leaders, members, and friends were urged to contact their U.S. Representatives to urge them to co-sponsor H.Res.187, condemning any attempt to use the current economic crisis as a means of imposing settlement on the people of Cyprus.

# AHI GENERAL NEWS

## AHI'S CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

Continued from page 1



House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (center) is flanked by (l-r): Cypriot Ambassador George Chacalli, U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Hellenic Caucus co-chair; AHI President Nick Larigakis, and U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, Hellenic Caucus co-chair.

“For 39 years, the people of Cyprus have endured an illegal occupation and massive violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by Turkey, an ally of the United States,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis. “The briefing provided us with

the viewpoints of Congress’s leading authorities on foreign affairs, our leaders of the Hellenic Caucus, and legislators who are deeply concerned about the Cyprus issue, including some fresh faces, which led to some very exciting ideas to advance the Cyprus agenda in Washington. We thank them for their insights on the issue and their support for Cyprus.”

The briefing, held in cooperation with the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, featured U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; U.S. Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; 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. Albio Sires (D-NJ), member, Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), U.S. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA), U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-NY), and U.S. Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA), as speakers.

Also making presentations were: Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. George Chacalli and Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos. AHI President Larigakis moderated the briefing.

## FIFTH ANNUAL AHIF FOREIGN POLICY TRIP

Continued from page 1



Students in an abandon and desecrated Greek Orthodox church in Turkish-occupied Cyprus.

of both countries. In Cyprus, the group visited the illegal Turkish-occupied area.

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



Student delegation being briefed by Mr. Xenophon Kallis, Head of Service on Missing Persons.



Student delegation with United States Ambassador to Greece, Ambassador Daniel Smith, at the Ambassador’s residence.

## AHI GENERAL NEWS



Students aboard the HS Salamis frigate.



Students tour the Hellenic Parliament building.

The nine students selected to participate were: Alexcia Chambers, The College of William and Mary; Alexandra Lilly, The University of Georgia; Angeline Apostolou, Dickinson College; Despina Vastakis, Georgia Institute of Technology; Elissa Bowling, Tufts University; George Gabriel, Pepperdine University; Panayiota Larigakis, American University; William Fasuliotis, The College of William and Mary; Yianni Constantine Karangelen, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

“AHI’s foreign policy trip was truly an incredible experience. Through meetings, discussions, and visits to different sites, I was exposed to every facet of Greek and Cypriot foreign policy. With such an impressive itinerary, we were able to meet with high-level officials of Cyprus and Greece, allowing us to ask serious questions and receive real answers. Each meeting helped

me to view the challenges facing Greece and Cyprus in a completely different way and has made me passionate about the issues. This passion will undoubtedly carry over to all of the work I do in the international relations field, and my hope is that I will be able to inform others in the same inspired way,” said participant Alexcia Chambers.



Meeting with His Beatitude Hieronymos II, Archbishop of Athens and All Greece.



Discussion with President Karolos Papoulias.

The program is open to Greek American and Cypriot American college students in good academic standing who are studying political science, international relations, history, and/or foreign affairs.

For a complete review of the program’s itinerary in Washington, Cyprus, and Greece, please view Press Release #53 at <http://www.aheworld.org/media-center/press-releases/2013.html>

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**Membership Information:**  
1-800-424-9607

**Contributing Editors:**  
Nick Larigakis  
Georgea Polizos

**American Hellenic Institute**  
1220 16th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: 202-785-8430 • 800-424-9607  
Fax: 202-785-5178 • E-mail: [info@aheworld.org](mailto:info@aheworld.org)  
Visit us on the Web at <http://www.aheworld.org>