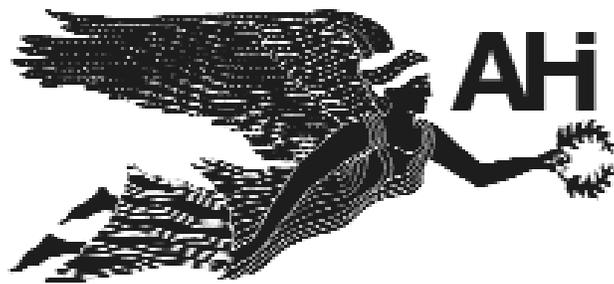


AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE FOUNDATION



# Annual Report 2004

INCLUDING AHI HISTORY 1974-2003

# Annual Report 2004



## INTRODUCTION

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) and its affiliate organizations are pleased to present the **2004 Annual Report**. AHI had a very active year in 2004. We vigorously pursued our public policy agenda and expanded our programs to strengthen relations between the U.S., Greece, and Cyprus and within the Greek American community. The year 2004 was the first year in which Hellenic House operated mortgage-free, signifying new opportunities for growth and expansion of programs for AHI in the future. In these efforts, we also launched our **Endowment Fund Campaign** to raise \$10 million over the course of the next five years in order to establish the financial permanency of the American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) and its affiliates.

The year 2004 also marked the triumphant and historic return of the Olympic Games to their birthplace—Greece. This was a proud time for the Greek American community and for Hellenes around the world. AHI was thrilled to be a part of promoting the Games here in the United States through a number of events that we hosted. I personally feel very proud of my own participation as a volunteer. It was a once in a lifetime experience that I will always treasure and will never forget.

We at AHI are also exceedingly proud

of our founder Gene Rossides' exceptional achievement as a recipient of the Commander of the Order of the Phoenix Award. Mr. Rossides was presented this medal by Greek President Constantinos Stephanopoulos in a special ceremony in September.

By establishing clear policy guidelines as set forth in our *2004 Greek American Policy Statements*, AHI worked with Congress and the Executive Branch on all matters of concern to the Greek American community. We continue to initiate and support major initiatives to bring a solution to the tragic Cyprus problem. We initiated the landmark American Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act (H.R.5071). If passed, the bill would enable U.S. citizens who own property in the Turkish occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus to seek financial remedies with either the current inhabitants of their land or with the Turkish government. AHI was also a major actor in monitoring and responding to the ongoing debate about the formally recognized name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). We will continue to push for a historically accurate and just conclusion to this debate.

At Hellenic House, our noon public policy forum program provoked thought and brought additional exposure to Cyprus, and promoted Greece as a stable, democratic and reliable ally for the U.S. in this region.

In 2004, we also engaged the media through widely distributed press releases and a vigorous letter writing campaign. AHI representatives were interviewed for numerous radio and television programs both in the U.S. and abroad.

This past year, AHI leadership visited Greece and Cyprus for the important task of reinvigorating contacts with government, business, academic and media counterparts. We engaged in substantive

discussions with these individuals to conceive of areas in which we can pool our efforts for advanced cooperation on issues of mutual concern.

Working to strengthen the Greek American community, AHI held the annual conference on "The Future of Hellenism in the United States" for the third year in a row. We at AHI recognize the critical importance of hosting such a venue for discussion of the challenges we face in preserving and promoting our Hellenic heritage. We look forward to our fourth annual conference in 2005, again featuring expert speakers to shed light on the successes, challenges and crises currently confronting the Greek American community.

The major events of 2004 were the Athens 2004 Olympics in Greece, and Cyprus' accession to the European Union (EU). Greece proved to the world its ability to host a first-rate international sporting and cultural event that brought back into play the true meaning and ideals of the Olympic Games. And following referenda in which Greek Cypriots rejected an undemocratic and financially unviable settlement plan, Cyprus became a full member of the EU on May 1, 2004. AHI extends its congratulations to the government officials and people of both Greece and Cyprus for their respective triumphs.

As executive director, I would like to thank our members, officers and staff for their dedication in making 2004 a successful year. Alongside AHI's own activities in Washington, our strength relies on the many significant contributions and support of our members. In 2005, we plan to increase the quantity and scope of programs that we offer our members. We also look to you to communicate your suggestions and your news to us so that we can continue to fulfill the needs of our most valuable asset—our members.

—Nicholas Larigakis, Executive Director

**Visit our  
Web site**

at

**[www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org)**

for full text of items

referenced in

this year's

**Annual Report.**

# Special Highlights

## ENDOWMENT FUND CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) announced on November 29, 2004 the launching of the AHIF Endowment Fund Campaign to raise \$10 million in five years. To help start the endowment fund, AHI President Gene Rossides made the first pledge of \$1 million, stressing the importance of establishing the financial permanency of AHIF and its affiliates, and of building income for operating purposes. Endowment fund contributors are able to name their own fund and to give advice as to the allocation of endowment fund income.

Additional information on establishing an endowment fund with AHIF is available at <http://www.aheworld.org/announcements/endowment.html>.

## AHI FOUNDER HONORED

On September 23, 2004, AHI President Gene Rossides was presented with the Commander of the Order of the Phoenix award by the President of the Hellenic Republic Constantinos Stephanopoulos. During a special ceremony held in the Presidential Palace in Athens, Mr. Rossides and 16 other distinguished guests were honored for their efforts concerning Greece in the areas of politics, literature and art.

Mr. Rossides was honored for his commitment to his Greek and Cypriot heritage, and for his promotion of Greece's national issues over the past several decades. Providing a very fitting summary of Mr. Rossides' tremendous achievements, AHI Chairman James Marketos stated, "For more than 30 years, Gene Rossides has been the conscience of U.S. public policy in relation to Greece, Cyprus, and their regional neighbors."



President of Greece Constantinos Stephanopoulos awards Gene Rossides with the Order of the Phoenix medal.



(l-r) Gene Rossides (holding award) pictured with President Stephanopoulos and AHI Athens Chapter President Elias Malevitis.

# Public Policy 2004

## THE 2004 GREEK AMERICAN POLICY STATEMENTS

In February 2004, AHI released its *2004 Greek American Policy Statements*. The *Policy Statements* set forth the positions on issues of concern to Greek Americans based on what is in the best interests of the U.S. Also highlighted are the significant changes taking place in the political, security and economic landscape in southeast Europe and the eastern Mediterranean region, stressing the strategic importance of Greece and Cyprus as stable, prosperous and democratic regional partners of the United States. The *Policy Statements* call on the U.S. government to remain active in seeking a Cyprus settlement, to push for a resolution of the Aegean Sea boundary dispute between Greece and Turkey, and to stop applying a double standard to Turkey regarding the rule of law and human rights.

This year's statements were prepared by AHI and reviewed and endorsed by key Greek American membership organizations, including: the Order of AHEPA; the Hellenic American

National Council (HANC); the American Hellenic Council of California; the Cyprus Federation of America; the Evrytarian Association of America; the Panepirotic Federation of America; the Pan-Macedonian Association of America; and the Pan-Cretan Association of America.

## 2004 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

In the lead-up to the 2004 U.S. Presidential Elections, AHI drafted a survey to gauge Greek American voter preferences on five main issues of concern to the community. These issues included: Cyprus; the Ecumenical Patriarchate; Albania; the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and recognition of the Anatolian genocide. Survey results were released prior to the elections by the Hellenic Communications Survey (HCS).

To gauge the positions of presidential candidates George W. Bush and John Kerry regarding these and other key Greek American issues, the AHI contacted both camps with letters requesting their opinions in these areas.

Subsequently, on October 8, 2004 AHI issued an action alert to thank John Kerry and John Edwards for responding



to AHI with their positions on Greek American issues, but noted shortcomings in their response. The alert also expressed disappointment at not having received a response as of that date from the Bush/Cheney campaign. Members and friends were then urged to contact presidential and congressional candidates with the *2004 Questionnaire to Presidential and Congressional Candidates* for their perspectives on issues critical to the Greek American community.

Then in an October 15, 2004 action alert, the Bush/Cheney reelection campaign was thanked for their statement on Greek American issues, but also noted shortcomings in their position statements. AHI members and friends were again called on to contact candidates with the *2004 Questionnaire*. The sum of these initiatives communicated Greek American voter preferences to Presidential and Congressional candidates during a critical election year.

## **GREECE—TURKEY RELATIONS**

AHI actively followed developments between Greece and Turkey with great interest throughout the year. AHI has consistently argued that a normalization of relations between the two countries should take place on the basis of international law and reversal of aggression. Stable relations will foster strong U.S. interests in regional peace and prosperity.

AHI notes that the fundamental causes of the problems between Greece and Turkey remain unchanged. These are:

- Turkey's unilateral claims against sovereign Greek territory in the Aegean in violation of international law and its refusal to refer its unilateral claims to binding international arbitration;
- Turkey's aggression against Cyprus and its continuing illegal occupation of 37.3 percent of Cyprus; and
- Turkey's continuing violations of Greece's air space.

At its summit meeting on December 16-17, 2004 in Brussels, the European Union (EU) decided to begin accession talks with Turkey on October 3, 2005. With the goal of engendering long-term peace and stability in the region,

Greece has been an active and vocal supporter of Turkey's EU candidacy. AHI congratulates Greece for its positive role in this process. The time has now come for Turkey to fulfill its undertakings.

## **THE CYPRUS PROBLEM**



Keeping the Cyprus problem in the forefront of the policy debate is one of AHI's primary objectives. The year 2004 marked the 30th anniversary of the Cyprus problem. In efforts to obtain a resolution to this long-standing conflict, referenda on the Annan settlement plan for Cyprus took place on the island on April 24, 2004 with Greek Cypriots rejecting the plan because of serious shortcomings. Thus on May 1, 2004, Cyprus became a full-fledged member of the EU as a divided and occupied nation.

AHI supported the "no" vote, citing the Annan plan's unworkable, undemocratic and financially unviable provisions. AHI strongly believes that the U.S. has a moral obligation as well as a national security interest to see that this illegal occupation of Cyprus comes to an end.

AHI closely monitored these developments throughout the year, issuing statements and writing op-eds to raise awareness of the issue through the media. A number of noon forums were also hosted to provide a public arena for analysis and discussion of issues related to Cyprus (see "Policy Forums" section). In follow-up to the April 2004 referenda, AHI sponsored a seminar in May titled "Cyprus—The Road Ahead and U.S. Interests" to provide recommendations on U.S. policy approaches in light of the failed Annan Plan and Cyprus's full membership in the European Union.

## **GREECE'S GROWING INTERNATIONAL STATURE**

Following its successful term in the rotating presidency of the European Union (EU) during the challenging time period of January-June 2003, Greece continued to build its international stature in 2004. It gained extremely positive visibility throughout the world as a result of hosting a highly praised Olympic Games. And on October 15, 2004, Greece was elected almost unanimously by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2005-2006.

In addition to statements released by AHI to recognize Greece's progress and good work on these fronts, the organization's leadership continued to meet throughout the year both in the U.S. and in Greece with Greek government officials, business leaders, academics, and members of the media. Through these meetings, AHI contributed to the ongoing dialogue on methods to promote Greece's international stature.

AHI also worked consistently throughout the year to highlight Greece as a stable and democratic ally of the U.S. through letters to U.S. government officials and through its ongoing outreach to the community at large. AHI strongly believes that establishing a **special relationship** with Greece will allow the U.S. to capitalize on Greece's unique assets, thereby increasing

the prospects for achieving our long-term goals of political stability, economic progress and democracy in Southeastern Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

## **ATHENS 2004 OLYMPIC SUCCESS**

---



*Nick Larigakis with world-renowned gymnast Nadia Comeneci.*

In 2004, the world witnessed a historic homecoming as the Games of the XVIII Olympiad returned to their birthplace, Greece, on August 13-29, 2004. While Greece was at times unfairly criticized by the international media during the run-up to the Games for lagging behind in preparations, the country's success was undeniable. Following the conclusion of this event, the Athens Olympics were widely hailed as one of the most successful in history in terms of organization, an effective transportation system, and its \$1.5 billion security network.

In recognition of Greece's highly praised efforts and results in staging a hugely successful Olympics, the U.S. Senate passed S.Res.427, which was authored by Senator Paul S. Sarbanes of Maryland. The resolution congratulates the citizens of Greece, the Olympic Organizing Committee, all the athletes, and all others participating in the Games.



*Nick Larigakis with Athens 2004 President Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki at the conclusion of gymnast Dimosthenis Tabakos' Gold Medal victory.*

Finally, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis contributed directly to the Olympics as one of the more than 45,000 volunteers who helped make the Olympics a resounding success. Mr. Larigakis served as a protocol venue attendant where he assisted with International Olympic Committee (IOC) relations and protocol at the Olympic Indoor Hall.

## **MACEDONIAN INITIATIVES**

---

On November 4, 2005, the State Department announced the U.S.'s formal recognition of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) as the "Republic of Macedonia." The reversal in official U.S. policy came only days after a letter to AHI from the State Department, dated October 29, 2004, confirmed that the U.S. "formally recognizes the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by that name."

In efforts to push the Bush Administration to revise this policy, AHI issued a statement on November 4, 2004 in which President Bush was called on "to immediately reconsider this misinformed and ill-advised policy" and "to withdraw recognition of FYROM as Macedonia as in the best interests of the U.S."

AHI also contacted Congressman Rob Andrews' (D-NJ) office to discuss actions that could be initiated from the House of Representatives regarding the FYROM decision. As a result of this discussion, Rep. Andrews responded with a letter to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell to express his concern on the matter.

In other Congressional actions, H.Con.Res.530 was introduced by Rep. David E. Price (D-NC) with the close cooperation of Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL). The resolution "Encourag[es] the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Greece to continue negotiations to determine a mutually acceptable official name for the FYROM," and requests that the State Department return to its long-standing policy of referring to FYROM as such.

And on November 5, 2005 AHI President Gene Rossides sent a letter to President Bush calling the change in recognition status "an act of disgraceful proportions towards our staunch ally and supporter in the Balkans, Greece, and is harmful to U.S. interests in the Balkans." Mr. Rossides urged the President to reconsider its policy and for the State Department to withdraw its recognition of FYROM as "Macedonia."

AHI issued two action alerts regarding this issue. One alert urged AHI members and friends to contact President Bush, the State Department, and their representatives in Congress to protest the recognition of FYROM as the "Republic of Macedonia." The second action alert called on members of Congress to support Representative Andrews' Omnibus Appropriations Bill amendment on FYROM.

## **LETTERS AND STATEMENTS**

---

AHI sent numerous letters to President George W. Bush, Administration officials, Members of Congress and other officials throughout 2004. AHI also issued a number of public statements responding to current events and



policy decisions which affected areas of concern to the organization's members. Letters and statements included:

- **January 22**—Letter to American Jewish Council President Jack Rosen sent by AHI General Counsel Gene Rossides and ANCA Chairman Kenneth V. Hachikian expresses disappointment for granting the American Jewish Congress Bravery Award to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.
- **January 23**—Letter to President Bush in view of Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan's January 28th visit to the White House. The letter addresses certain issues important to U.S. interests in the Southeastern Mediterranean.
- **February 19**—Joint letter to President Bush on behalf of the major Greek American membership organizations to call for serious changes in the Annan Plan as in the best interests of the U.S.
- **March 23**—Statement by Nick Larigakis thanking and applauding efforts of Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) to voice their concerns about the viability of the Annan Plan for Cyprus in their March 19 letters to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.
- **April 7**—Letter to President Bush expresses disappointment regarding his public references to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as "Macedonia."
- **April 8**—Letter to President of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos to congratulate him for his "strong leadership" and his "call for a 'resounding NO' on the April 24 referendum on the Annan Plan for Cyprus.
- **April 19**—Joint letter to President Bush by leading Armenian, Kurdish and Greek American organizations stating that the fifth and final version of the Annan Plan is "still not in the best interests of the U.S." Flaws of the plan are enumerated.
- **April 22**—Gene Rossides issues a response to challenge the false and misleading statements made by the White House Press Secretary on April 21 regarding the Annan Plan for Cyprus.
- **April 26**—Following the Cyprus referenda on the Annan Plan, Gene Rossides issues a statement supporting the Greek Cypriot "no" vote.
- **May 17**—Joint letter to President Bush urges the "termination of the Turkey-Israel military cooperation understanding as not in the best interests of the U.S." Letter signatories include AHI, the American Kurdish Information Network, the Hellenic American National Council, and the American Hellenic Council of California.
- **June 18**—Letter to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell to dispute the undiplomatic criticism by U.S. officials against the Greek Cypriots for their rejection of the Annan Plan.
- **June 21**—Along similar lines to AHI's June 18 letter to Secretary of State Powell, AHI's letter to President Bush notes the flaws in the Annan Plan and outlines the cover-up of the State Department's role in Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus.
- **June 25**—Statement calls for an end to NATO's policy of appeasement and its double standard on the rule of law

with regards to Turkey.

- **July 20**—Statement issued to commemorate the tragic 30-year anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of the sovereign country of Cyprus.
- **July 22**—Letter to President Bush requests that he issue a statement outlining his position on key issues of concern to the Greek American community in the run up to the November Presidential Elections.
- **July 26**—Statement denounces the State Department's publication of inaccurate and misleading data regarding the significant Greek community in Albania. The statement calls for a revision of these incorrect figures.
- **August 2**—Letter to Democratic Presidential candidate Senator John Kerry outlining AHI's position on issues of concern to the Greek American community. The letter requests that the Senator detail his position on the enumerated issues.
- **November 4**—Statement issued denounces the State Department's recognition of FYROM as "Macedonia" as a disgraceful act towards Greece and harmful to U.S. interests in the Balkans. AHI called on President Bush to immediately reconsider this misinformed policy.
- **November 5**—AHI sends a letter to President Bush urging a reversal of the State Department's decision to recognize FYROM as the "Republic of Macedonia" and to call for renewed diplomatic negotiations on the name issue.
- **December 7**—AHI commends Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) for her initiative to request clarification from Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials regarding the purpose of their recent visit to the occupied part of Cyprus, and its implications to U.S. foreign and aviation policy in Cyprus. TSA officials were reportedly in the occupied zone to investigate the possibility of flights into the airports at Tymbou and Lefkoniko.
- **December 21**—Statement congratulates 18 members of Congress on their December 13th letter to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Secretary of Homeland Security Thomas J. Ridge asking for an explanation of TSA officials' activities in occupied Cyprus.
- **December 29**—Statement commends the European Union (EU) for imposing certain important conditions on Turkey before accession negotiations can begin, but also condemns the EU's failure to make immediate demands of Turkey.

## AHIPAC LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

---

### Submitting Testimony to House

On May 13, 2004, AHI President Gene Rossides presented testimony on behalf of AHI and the Hellenic American National Council (HANC) to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs. The testimony supported the \$13.5 million for Cyprus for bicomunal projects while it opposed the \$100 million allocated for Turkey. Additionally, the testimony addressed flaws in the Annan Plan for Cyprus and provided recommendations.

## Legislation Paves Way for Lawsuits Against Turkey

On September 14, 2004, Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) introduced the *American Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act, H.R. 5071*, which was initiated by AHI. If passed, the bill would enable U.S. citizens who own property in the Turkish occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus to seek financial remedies with either the current inhabitants of their land or with the Turkish government. Original co-sponsors of the legislation were also Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

## General News 2004

### POLICY FORUMS AND SEMINARS



Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. Euripides L. Evriviades.

#### Cyprus Briefing

AHI hosted a noon forum on **February 17, 2004** featuring the Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. Euripides L. Evriviades. Ambassador Evriviades briefed AHI members and guests on developments concerning the Cyprus issue.



U.S. Special Coordinator for Cyprus Ambassador Thomas G. Weston.

#### The Annan Plan Debated

AHI welcomed U.S. Special Coordinator for Cyprus Ambassador Thomas G. Weston for a noon forum on **February 26, 2004**. Ambassador Weston's discussion focused on the most recent developments on Cyprus, highlighting two key factors he believed would influence the outcome of the April 2004 referenda. These included: 1) the availability of financial resources for compensation to refugees; and 2) the degree to which the political leadership supported the settlement in a referendum.



Deputy Minister of Defense Vasilios Michaloliakos.

#### Greece: A Power for Stability and Peace

AHI's noon forum on **May 4, 2004** featured Greek Deputy Minister of Defense Vasilios Michaloliakos, who discussed Greece's role as a

power for stability and peace in a region afflicted with social tumult and political instability. Minister Michaloliakos highlighted the country's standing record of democracy, positive neighbor relations, and efforts to establish democratic structures in all Balkan nations. Also noted was Greece's good economic relations and commercial cooperation with all of her neighbors.

#### Cyprus—The Road Ahead



Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NY) speaking at Cyprus seminar.

On **May 19, 2004**, AHI presented a seminar titled "Cyprus—The Road Ahead and U.S. Interests" in Washington, DC. Panelists at the seminar, which was moderated by Lt. Col. Harry Dinella, commented on what interests the U.S. should pursue in Cyprus as it has achieved status as a full-fledged member of the European Union. The five panelists included: U.S. Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ); Gregory R. Copely, President of Global Information System, Inc., and Editor-in-Chief of *Defense & Foreign Affairs* Publishing Group; Dr. Ted Galen Carpenter, Vice President for Defense and Foreign Policy Studies at the CATO Institute; Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., founding partner of the law firm of Sfikas & Karambelas; and Gene Rossides, AHI President.

#### "OXI" Day Commemoration

On **October 28, 2004**, AHI marked the 64th Anniversary of "OXI" Day through a noon forum featuring a presentation by AHI President Gene Rossides. Mr. Rossides' discussion was titled "OXI Day and the Battle of Greece: The Importance of Greece to the United States Then and Today." He highlighted Greece's pivotal role in the ultimate victory of the Allied Forces in World War II. In conjunction with the "OXI" Day commemoration, AHI hosted a reception later that evening to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Hellenic House.

#### Cyprus: 30 Years Later

AHI hosted a Capitol Hill forum on **July 7, 2004** titled "Cyprus: 30 Years Later—An Assessment of the Annan Plan and Where Do We Go From Here." The event was held in cooperation with the Congressional Hellenic Caucus and its co-chairs, Representatives Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). Speakers included: Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ); Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ); Rep. Bilirakis; Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA); journalist and author Christopher Hitchens; President of Global Information Systems, Inc. Gregory Copely; and AHI President Gene Rossides.

## Executive Director Speaks at American and Drexel Universities

On **November 18 and 19, 2004**, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis spoke at two university group events. The first was a presentation at the American University in Washington, DC, sponsored by the university's business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi. There, he discussed business relations and U.S. policy with Greece and Cyprus. The second presentation, titled "Reflections on the Athens 2004 Olympic Games," took place at Drexel University in a panel discussion on the Olympic Games hosted by the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS

---

### Members of Hellenic Parliament



*(l-r) James Marketos, Members of Parliament Petros Efthymiou and Panos Kammenos, and Nick Larigakis.*

AHI leadership and staff met with Members of Hellenic Parliament Petros Efthymiou, former minister of education, and Panos Kammenos, head of the Greek Delegation to the OSCE PA, on **October 27, 2004** at Hellenic House. They were accompanied by Deputy Chief of Mission to the Greek Embassy Eleftherios Anghelopoulos and the Embassy's Political Counselor Despina Lourbacou. Messrs. Efthymiou and Kammenos were on a visit to the U.S. to observe the November 2nd U.S. Presidential Election proceedings. The meeting at AHI focused in part on the role of education in promoting Hellenism in the U.S. and on AHI's role in influencing U.S. policy on key issues of concern to the Greek American community.

### Ambassador Charles P. Ries

On **October 26, 2004**, the new U.S. Ambassador to Greece Charles P. Ries visited AHI for a one-hour meeting with leadership and staff. In addition to the Cyprus issue, attendees voiced their perspectives on the Aegean Sea boundary, Albania, the Macedonia name, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology. Ambassador Ries concluded by stating that he will keep interactive communications with AHI regarding these and other policy issues.



*(l-r) Gene Rossides, Nick Larigakis, Ambassador Charles Ries, Savas Savopoulos, Former Ambassador Robert V. Keeley and Greek Desk Officer Joe Paranti.*

### Deputy Foreign Minister Evripidis Stylianidis

On **September 27, 2004**, Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Evripidis Stylianidis, Special Advisor Georgios Pandremenos, and Ambassador George Vallantis, accompanied by the Deputy Chief of Mission to the Greek Embassy Eleftherios Anghelopoulos, visited Hellenic House to discuss U.S.-Greece business relations with AHI leadership. Meeting participants had the opportunity to review ways to intensify bilateral economic ties, and to engage the Greek American community in business ties with Greece.



*Deputy Foreign Minister Stylianidis with AHI President Gene Rossides.*

## AHI EVENTS

---

Throughout the year, AHI hosted a number of high-level events, open to the public, to pay tribute to the history and achievements of the Greek American community, and to commemorate important developments in the ongoing and positive relationship that the U.S. has with Greece and Cyprus.

## 29th Anniversary Awards Dinner

On March 13, 2004, the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) paid tribute to a distinguished group of individuals at its 29th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner, held at the Capital Hilton in



Honoree Helen Nicozisis (r) is presented her award by Mrs.Chimicles (l).



Honoree George J. Tenet, Director of the CIA, is presented his award by AHI founder Gene Rossides (l).



George C. Chryssis (l) is presented his award by Mr. Stavros Semanderes (r).



(l-r) Olympians Christa Dalakis, Irene Andili, and Charles Mooney.



The honorees and their spouses: (l-r) Mrs. Glakas-Tenet, Mr. Tenet, Mrs. Nicozisis, Mr. Nicozisis, Mrs. Chryssis, Mr. Chryssis.



Children from the local Greek community.



(l-r) Mr. and Mrs. Ted Pedas, Mr. and Mrs. George Tenet, and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pedas.



Breakfast seminar speakers on the Olympics: (l-r) Amb. George Savvaides, Greek Ambassador to the United States; James Marketos, Esq., Chairman of AHI, Prof. Alexander Kitroeff, Professor of History at Haverford College.

Washington, DC. Linked by their important career achievements and by their contributions to the Greek American community, the 2004 honorees included: **George C. Chryssis**, successful entrepreneur, philanthropist, poet and author; **Ambassador Thomas J. Miller**, former U.S. Ambassador to Greece; **Helen Nicozisis**, prominent church activist and philanthropist; and **George J. Tenet**, former Director of the CIA. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was television journalist **Andrea Stassou**.

The awards dinner was also dedicated to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, with a number of special highlights commemorating the historic event.

The Honorees were introduced by friends and associates with distinguished records in their own professional fields, while the event was attended by many prominent dignitaries, government officials and members of the Greek American community.

At the dinner, AHI also paid tribute to three Olympians for their commitment to excellence in athletic ideals and achievements with special Hellenic Heritage Achievement Awards. Award recipients were: **Irene Andili**, winner of the bronze medal in rhythmic gymnastics at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games; **Charles Michael Mooney**, world-champion boxer and silver medalist at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games; and **Christa Dalakis**, a Greek American member of the 2004 Greek Olympic Softball Team.

Part of the weekend's Olympics tribute was an art exhibition featuring the work of artist **Euripides "Rip" Kastaris** ("Kyklos Circle of Glory Tribute") and artist **Erika Spyropoulos** ("Olympic Gods-Olympic Idea"). AHI also organized a breakfast seminar on the topic of the Olympic Games, which was held on the morning of the Annual Dinner. The seminar featured three distinguished speakers: Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. **George Savvaides**; Dr. **Alexander Kitroeff**, Professor of History at Haverford College; and Mr. **Rip Kastaris**. Ambassador Savvaides discussed the importance of the return of the Olympics to their birthplace, while Dr. Kitroeff analyzed the Games' historical significance. Mr. Kastaris presented some of his Olympic artwork, focusing his comments on the influence that his Hellenic background has played throughout his life and in his work.

## CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF HELLENISM IN THE U.S.

On October 16, 2004, the American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) hosted its third annual conference on "The Future of Hellenism in the United States" in Washington, DC. The conference featured prominent speakers from the fields of education, law and the private sector who identified key challenges facing the Greek American community.

Delivering the luncheon keynote address was Ambassador Loucas Tsilas, Executive Director for the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, Inc. Conference panelists addressed the following topics:

- The role of the Greek American community
- Establishing Greek charter schools
- Educating Greek Americans in Greece



*Ambassador Lucas Tsilas, Executive Director of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, giving his speech during the luncheon.*

- Establishing Greek chairs at American universities
- The relevance of Hellenic heritage
- Young professionals actively promoting Hellenism
- Athens 2004 and its meaning for Hellenism in America
- The impact of interfaith marriage

In its third year, the annual conference serves as a forum through which participants and the Greek American community can continue to educate themselves on the important issues and challenges confronting them. It also provides a venue for critical analysis and realistic recommendations regarding the future needs of Greek Americans.

## First Annual AHI Benefit Golf Tournament



*AHI tournament participants enjoyed a day of golf in Alexandria.*

In conjunction with weekend activities surrounding the Future of Hellenism Conference, AHI hosted its First Annual Benefit Golf Tournament on October 17, 2004 at Greendale Golf Course in Alexandria, Virginia. Proceeds from the tournament went to support AHI's many activities. First place went to the team of George Tzaferos, George Lambardakis, Constantine Larigakis and Nick Larigakis.

## AHI VISITS TO GREECE, CYPRUS

**May 22-June 4, 2004**

AHI leaders visited Greece and Cyprus in the spring of 2004, making stops in Nicosia and Athens to hold substantive talks with government officials and business leaders in both countries. In Cyprus, the delegation was comprised of AHI Founder Gene Rossides, Executive Director Nick Larigakis, Advisory Committee members Kostas Alexakis, Thanos Bas-



*IN GREECE: The AHI team meets with President of Greece Constantine Stephanopoulos. (l-r) Vivian Basdekis, Nick Karambelas, Ilias Malevitis, Nick Larigakis, Thanos Basdekis, President Stephanopoulos, Gene Rossides, and Aleco Haralambides.*



*IN CYPRUS: The AHI delegation at the office of President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos (center, left). (Right row, back to front): Nick Karambelas, Kostas Alexakis, Dr. Takey Crist, Gene Rossides, Nick Larigakis and Gus Andy.*



*IN GREECE: Special guest and NBA player Dikembe Mutombo speaking at the Athens dinner.*

dekis and Nick Karambelas, AHI members Gus Andy and Dr. Takey Crist, AHI Cyprus Chapter President Dr. Van Coufoudakis, and AHI Media Relations Director Vivian H. Basdekis. In Athens, the delegation included Messrs. Rossides, Larigakis, Alexakis, Andy, Basdekis, Karambelas and Ms. Basdekis. They were joined by AHI Athens Chapter President Ilias Malevitis and AHI members Aleco Haralambides and Dr. Christine Warnke.

In Cyprus, the delegation met with a number of prominent officials, including: President Tassos Papadopoulos; Foreign Minister George Iacovou; Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus Christodoulos Christodoulou; U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Michael Klosson; Greek Ambassador to Cyprus Christos Panagopoulos; business leader and major AHI benefactor George Paraskevaides; former Cyprus Ambassador to the U.S. Erato Kozakou-Mar-



*IN GREECE: Defense Minister Spiliakos Spilotopoulos presents a gift to AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis. Also pictured (l-r) Gus Andy, Vivian Basdekis, Aleco Haralambides, Ilias Malevitis, Dr. Christine Warnke, Thanos Basdekis and Nick Karambelas.*



*IN GREECE: The AHI delegation visited the Foreign Ministry and met with Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis. (l-r) Ilias Malevitis, Thanos Basdekis, Gene Rossides, Petros Molyviatis, Nick Karambelas, Kostas Alexakis, Nick Larigakis, Aleco Haralambides and Vivian Basdekis.*



*IN CYPRUS: Gene Rossides (r) presents a gift to longtime friend and major AHI supporter George Paraskevaides (l).*

coullis; Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in Cyprus' House of Representatives Nicos Anastasiades; Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sotos Zackheos; Director of the Cyprus Press and Information Office Yiannakis Solomou; Government Spokesperson Kypros Chrysostomides; and Deputy Mayor of Nicosia Lia Tseriotis.

The delegation rounded out its visit to Greece and Cyprus in Athens, conducting meetings with: President of the Hellenic Republic Constantinos Stephanopoulos; Foreign Minister Pet-

ros Molyviatis; Defense Minister of U.S. Affairs Spiliakos Spiliotopoulos; U.S. Ambassador to Greece Thomas J. Miller; Ambassador Constantina Prifti; Alternate Minister of Culture Fani Palli-Petralia; Managing Director of the Cultural Olympiad Georgia Iliopoulou; Cyprus Desk Officer Anna Korka; and former PASOK Deputy Foreign Minister Andreas Loverdos.

Other activities of the AHI delegation in Athens included an AHI-sponsored dinner reception with guest speaker Kalliopi Bourdara, Deputy Mayor of Athens. Also attending the event was NBA player Dikembe Mutombo to discuss his philanthropic efforts and the Athens 2004 Olympics.

### November 29-December 4, 2004

AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis, accompanied by AHI Advisory Board member and legal counsel Nick Karambelas, completed his annual winter trip to Greece on November 29-December 4, 2004. Messrs. Larigakis and Karambelas met with many Greek government officials and business leaders and discussed the organization's goals and objectives. Meetings also focused on engendering new areas of mutual cooperation and development between leaders in Greece and the Greek American community.

On the occasion of the delegation trip, the AHI Athens Chapter hosted a reception on December 1, 2004 at the Grande Bretagne Hotel, where the special guest speaker was Kyriakos Mitsotakis, New Democracy Member of Parliament.

From the government and political spheres, meetings were

held with: Deputy Foreign Ministers Evripidis Stylianidis and Takis Skandalakis (separately); Ambassador Diana Zogari-anou-Prifti, the Director of the Foreign Ministry's Division on Greek American Relations; Ambassador Vassilis Pispinis, Director of the A4 Department for Turkish Affairs; Dimitrios Papandreou, Director for U.N. and International Organizations; Vasilios Costis, Counselor of Embassy at the A3 Division, Southeastern Europe; Dimitris Avramopoulos, Minister of Tourism; PASOK Member of Parliament Grigoris Niotis; and New Democracy Member of Parliament Philippos Tsalidis.

To discuss the issue of Greek language instruction in the U.S., Mr. Larigakis and Mr. Karambelas had meetings with Georgios Kalos, Deputy Minister of Education, and with Professor Theodosios Palaskas, Research Director at the Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research.

From the business sector, meetings were held with Dimitrios Miliakos, Governor of the Agricultural Bank of Greece, and with Costas S. Mitropoulos, President of KANTOR Management Consultants, SA. Mr. Larigakis also had the opportunity to meet with Annette Katravas, Project Coordinator for an innovative new non-governmental organization called Global Governance Group.

Throughout his week in Greece, Mr. Larigakis was interviewed three different times by the media. Two television interviews were conducted by ERT-SAT TV for broadcast in North America, and also by the Greek TV station ERT for broadcast in Greece. The third interview was published for the monthly political and economic magazine *Prime*.

The delegation's concluding appointment for the trip was with outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Greece Thomas J. Miller. The discussion focused on current issues affecting U.S.-Greek relations and the Greek American community.

### CONGRESSIONAL SALUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

On March 23, 2004, AHI hosted its annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" on Capitol Hill to celebrate the 183rd Anniversary of Greek Independence and the common democratic ideals held by Greece and the United States. The event was held in cooperation with the Congressional Hellenic Caucus's co-sponsors, Representative Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

Ambassador of Greece George Savvaides and Ambassador of Cyprus Euripides L. Evriviades offered their remarks regard-



(l-r) Nick Larigakis, AHI-Athens Chapter President Ilias Malevitis, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, members of the AHI-Athens Chapter Executive Committee George Economou and Katherine Papathanasiou.



Nick Larigakis (center) with his co-volunteers from the Athens Olympic Games who attended the AHI reception.



Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) with the "Return to Origins" Dance Group.



(l-r) Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Greek Ambassador George Sawaides, Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL).



(l-r) Cypriot Ambassador Euripides L. Evriavidis and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).



(l-r) AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis with Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

ing the impact of Greece's struggle for independence. Members of Congress attending the reception and addressing the audience included (in order of appearance): Rep. Shelley Berkeley (D-NV); Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY); Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD); Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-MD); Rep. Michael Bilirakis; Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ); and Rep. Steven Rothman (D-NJ). Also attending the reception were Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) and Rep. Gene Green (D-TX).

Each of the speakers emphasized their admiration for the Hellenic culture and for the valiant and inspir-

ing struggle for Greek independence, achieved nearly 200 years ago. They also expressed disappointment in the failure of U.N.-sponsored reunification talks, but reaffirmed their commitment to finding a just and permanent solution to the Cyprus problem based on UN resolutions and democratic principles.

## AHI MEDIA RELATIONS

In 2004, AHI issued 85 press releases, which received wide distribution by e-mail, fax and mail to the U.S., Greek American, Greek and Cypriot press, the Administration, Congress, and AHI members. AHI also regularly wrote letters to the editors of major national and community newspapers commenting on articles appearing in their publications, and AHI representatives appeared as interview guests for a variety of

national and international radio and television programs. A sample of the media coverage received by AHI included:

### **The National Herald**

A number of op-ed articles written by Gene Rossides were published throughout the year in *The National Herald*. These op-eds were published on the below listed dates under the following titles:

**January 7:** "Annan Plan Needs Serious Changes in the Interests of the U.S."

**February 14:** "Erdogan Visit—Double Standards and Appeasement"

**March 6:** "Cyprus and the Kissinger Cover-up"

**April 3:** "The Annan Plan and the Rule of Law"

**April 17:** "President Papadopoulos' 'Resounding NO' to the Annan Plan"

**October 16:** "Greece or Turkey: Who Is Best for U.S. Interests?"

**November 12:** "State Department Policy Regarding Greece—A Continuing Disaster"

**December 18:** "U.S. Double Standard for Turkey Damages U.S. Interests"

### **Voice of America NewsLine**

On April 23, 2004, Gene Rossides was interviewed on Voice of America's *NewsLine* television news program, hosted by David Borgida. On the eve of the Cyprus referenda, Mr. Rossides discussed the serious shortcomings of the Annan Plan and the likely outcome of the vote.

### **The Cyprus Weekly**

Gene Rossides was interviewed during his May trip to Cyprus by journalist Philippos Stylianou to discuss AHI's role in spearheading efforts to generate greater understanding in the U.S. about Cyprus and the inequities of the Annan Plan.

### **BBC Greek Service**

In an interview with the BBC's Greek Service, Gene Rossides discussed the U.S. presidential elections. The BBC Greek Service also interviewed Nick Larigakis at a later date to discuss AHI's Third Annual Conference on the Future of Hellenism in the U.S.

### **Macedonian Press Agency and VoiceOfGreece.gr**

Both media outlets interviewed Nick Larigakis regarding the Third Annual Conference on the Future of Hellenism in the U.S.

### **FLASH Radio**

Nick Larigakis was interviewed on October 26, 2004 by Greece's FLASH Radio, a news and talk station, regarding his perspective on the upcoming U.S. presidential elections.

### **NBC News WRC 4**

Prior to his departure for the Athens Olympics, Nick Larigakis was interviewed at AHI headquarters by Washington's local NBC News affiliate station, WRC 4. Reporter Jim Handly, who asked Mr. Larigakis to comment on his involvement in the

Games, conducted the interview which was aired on August 6, 2004. While in Athens, NBC 4 again interviewed Mr. Larigakis by phone for his impressions of the Games.

### **Hellenic Voice and Hellenic News of America**

A feature article by Nick Larigakis regarding his Olympics experience appeared in both the *Hellenic Voice* and the *Hellenic News of America* under the title "Winning Gold: One Volunteer's Magical Olympic Experience."

**Letters to the editor** were sent to a number of publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Washington Times* (published), *The National Herald* (published) and others.

## **THE AHI BUSINESS NETWORK**

AHI hosted a number of business networking events in 2004 in order to promote business associations among AHI members, their guests and other interested participants.



*Thanos Basdekis speaking at an AHI Business Network Luncheon.*

### **Proposals for Legal Reform Addressed**

A **February 19, 2004** AHI Business Network Luncheon featured AHI member Thanos Basdekis, who discussed various proposals for legal reform now dotting the political landscape in the U.S., and how those proposals, if passed, would impact the rights of victims and defendants. Mr. Basdekis is

an attorney with the law firm of Regan, Halperin & Long in Washington, DC.

### **Inheritance Law in Greece**

On **September 29, 2004**, AHI hosted a business network luncheon featuring Steven N. Kourtis as guest speaker. Mr. Kourtis, who is a partner at the law firm of Diakopoulos, Mylonogiannis & Kourtis in Athens, spoke on the topic of "Inheritance Law in Greece." Mr. Kourtis' presentation helped to clarify some of the legal obstacles encountered in property settlements in Greece.



*Steven N. Kourtis.*

### **The Voice of the Washington Redskins**

Larry Michael, Senior Vice President of Sports for Westwood One Inc. and the voice of the Washington Redskins, appeared as special guest speaker at AHI's business network luncheon on **October 29, 2004**. During his presentation, Mr. Michael discussed professional football from his perspective as a play-

by-play announcer for the Redskins. He also touched on the way in which his Hellenic background influenced his career and life, and offered career advice on time management and the field of broadcast journalism.

## **FUNDRAISING**



*At an AHI fundraising reception: (l-r) Greek Consul General of Boston Constantine Bikas, Stephanie Liakos, Thanasi Liakos, and Nick Larigakis.*

In addition to the AHI's Annual Dinner event, staff and members work throughout the year to generate funding for the ongoing efforts of the organization.

On October 7, 2004, AHI members Thanasi and Stephanie Liakos hosted a fundraising reception for AHI at their home in Nashua, New Hampshire. The event included among its guests Greek Consul General of Boston Constantine Bikas.

Hosted in conjunction with AHI's Conference on the Future of Hellenism was the First Annual AHI Benefit Golf Tournament on October 17, 2004 at the Greendale Golf Course in Alexandria, Virginia. The sum of these events, combined with the generous contributions of AHI members and benefactors, provide the essential financial impetus that helps power AHI's important activities throughout the year.



## **AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE**

1220 16th St NW

Washington, DC 20036

Tel 202-785-8430 • Fax 202-785-5178

Visit us on the Web: [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org)

# AHI History: 1974-2003

The American Hellenic Institute, Inc. was founded on August 1, 1974, following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus with the illegal use of American-supplied arms in violation of U.S. laws and agreements. The AHI initiated the rule of law issue in the Congress in the interests of the U.S., thus changing the face of American politics.

When Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and no one in Congress would act to enforce U.S. laws following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus on July 20, 1974, AHI called some of its friends in Congress. AHI wrote to them on August 28, 1974, setting forth Turkey's violations of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) and the Foreign Military Sales Act (FMSA) in its invasion of Cyprus with the illegal use of American supplied arms and equipment.

Our friends in Congress adopted our arguments and sent a letter to Secretary Kissinger on August 29, 1974. Thus, the rule of law issue was born. It should have been born the very day Turkey invaded Cyprus—July 20, 1974—and if it had been, there would have been no second aggression on August 14, 1974. Kissinger violated the FAA, the FMSA and his constitutional oath of office to faithfully carry out the laws of the land when he refused to declare Turkey “immediately ineligible” for further U.S. aid and sales as required by law.

After a dozen major votes in the Congress between September and December 1974, in which the entire Greek American community was active in support of the rule of law, Congress passed an arms embargo against Turkey. AHI coordinated the effort in the communi-



**Ribbon-Cutting:** Mr. George Spyropoulos, a long time supporter and friend of AHI officially opens the doors to Hellenic House on October 25, 1994, under the watchful eye of Greece's then Ambassador to the U.S., Loucas Tsilas.

ty, kept a vote count on a daily basis and provided the information to key supporters in the House and Senate. It was an historic success that should never be

“...one of the most effective lobbies in Washington today is that of Greek Americans...most effective has been the American Hellenic Institute Public Affairs Committee.”

—Time Magazine  
June, 1975

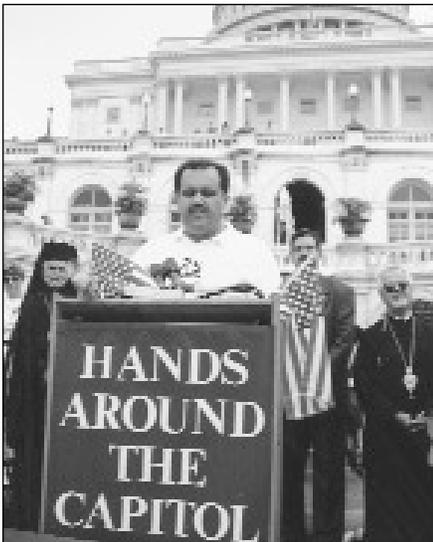
forgotten. It proved what could and can be done when we are in the right and united on policy. Fundamental to the success was the fact that we stood for the rule of law in international affairs as in the best interests of the U.S.

Also in December 1974, AHI initiated the proposal for \$25,000,000 in humanitarian aid for Cyprus, which was adopted by our friends in Congress. As a result of that initiative, supported annually by AHI, Cyprus has received over \$400,000,000 which has aided the island's remarkable economic recovery.

In the years since 1974, AHI has kept the spirit of the rule of law alive. The AHI and its affiliate organizations have championed the rule of law and American values in foreign policy as in the best interests of the U.S. This is especially true in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, a region critically important to American national interests.

AHI is a 501(c)(6) non-profit tax-exempt, independent public policy trade association. It provides an organization and program for strengthening relations between the U.S. and Greece, the U.S. and Cyprus and within the American Hellenic community.

The **American Hellenic Institute Public Affairs Committee, Inc., (AHI-PAC)**, was established in early 1975



Nick Larigakis speaking at the Hands Around the Capitol Rally marking the 25th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus.

with a charter similar to AHI's. While both AHI and AHIPAC are authorized to lobby, AHIPAC was formed to concentrate on lobbying. AHIPAC is the only Greek American organization registered with the U.S. Congress under the Lobbying Act.



AHI's first congressional trip to Greece, August 1993: Reps. Newt Gingrich, Gerald Solomon, Carolyn Maloney and Mike Bilirakis at the Prime Minister's office.

The AHI Business Network, a division of AHI, was initiated in 1989 creating a national and international focus for the Greek American business and professional community, and putting it to work helping other Greek Americans. Its purpose is to share business information and contacts. Its concept is people helping people by sharing experience, knowledge and ideas.

The **American Hellenic Institute Foundation, Inc. (AHIF)**, established in 1975, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt educational and research organization and is the first "think tank"



Highly-acclaimed Greek Cypriot film director Michael Cacoyannis (*Zorba the Greek*) receives Lifetime Achievement Award from AHI: (L-r) Gene Rossides, Nick Chimicles, Michael Cacoyannis (receiving award), James Lagos, George Veras, Andonios Neroulis.



Nick Larigakis delivers testimony before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations.

devoted exclusively to the study of the issues confronting the Greek American community.

In 1995, the Foundation For Hellenic Studies was established in Washington, DC under the auspices of AHIF and under the direction of Professor Van Coufoudakis, who also currently serves as Rector at Intercollege in Cyprus, and Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus at Indiana University-Purdue University (Fort Wayne, IN). Its main objective is to



Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) speaks at AHI Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day.

provide support to qualified individuals, institutions, programs and projects advancing the study of Greece and Cyprus in the U.S.

Through the years, AHI has grown into one of the key Greek American mem-

bership organizations. Below you will find descriptions of some of the programs and publications the AHI and its affiliates have developed over the years to strengthen relations between the U.S., Greece and Cyprus and within the Greek American community.

## TESTIMONY AND LETTERS TO THE CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

AHIPAC has testified annually on behalf of AHIPAC, the Hellenic American National Council, and other major

Greek American organizations before House and Senate committees on foreign aid proposals. The testimony and letters to Congress and to the Executive Branch highlight support of the rule of law regarding the Aegean, Cyprus, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek minority in Albania and opposition to the recognition of the Skopje regime under the name of "Macedonia."

## LEGISLATION

AHIPAC has periodically initiated legislation on the key issues of Cyprus, the Aegean, U.S. relations with Turkey, FYROM and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The AHI successfully ended grant aid to Turkey and helped to pass: (1) HR 4545, Visa Waiver for Greek citizens passed into law on March 25, 1999, (2) S 1607, a bill applying a code of conduct to U.S. arms supplies to non-democratic countries including Turkey, and (3) Section 2804 of the 1999 Appropriations Law, calling on Turkey to respect the

Ecumenical Patriarchate and reopen the Halki Theological School.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

The AHI initiated the annual *Greek American Policy Statements* on issues concerning U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus authored by AHI and reviewed, edited and approved in the past by the Order of AHEPA, the Hellenic American National Council, the Hellenic American Women's Council, the Cyprus Federation of America, the Panepirotic Federation of America, the Pan-Macedonian Association of America, and other organizations. Distributed to the members of the House and Senate, the *Greek American Policy Statements* present a unified Greek American position on the issues of concern to the community.

## ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE AND SCORECARD

AHIPAC periodically issues a Candidate Questionnaire on issues of concern to Greek Americans and to ask them to answer policy questions; and House and Senate Score Cards for Greek American Issues which provides the voting records of the House and Senate members on issues regarding U.S., Greece and Cyprus relations. In 1998 and 2000 the AHIPAC Candidate Questionnaire was distributed to all candidates in the House and Senate. In 2004, the Candidate Questionnaire was distributed to Presidential and Congressional candidates.

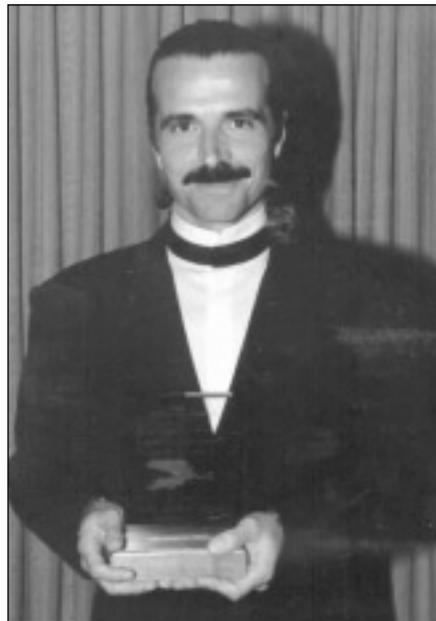


Gene Rossides, Chairman of the American Hellenic Institute Foundation with Senator Gordon Smith, former Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs.

## ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



Award recipient Ted Leonsis at the Annual Dinner in 2000.



1994 Award Recipient Yanni.

Each year, AHI hosts its major fund-raising event—the *Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner*. AHI takes tremendous pride in paying tribute to a distinguished group of individuals for their important career achievements and for their contributions to the Greek American community. Past honorees have included: world-renowned musician Yanni; prominent businessman and philanthropist George Behrakis; George Steph-



AHI Honoree George Stephanopoulos in 1993.

anopoulos, anchor of ABC's *This Week* and former senior advisor to President Clinton; Fox Filmed Entertainment Chairman James N. Gianopoulos; former E\*TRADE Chairman and CEO Christos M. Cotsakos; AOL chief Ted Leonsis; Senators Paul Sarbanes, Olympia Snowe, and Joseph Biden; Congressman Michael Bilirakis; and former U.S. Ambassadors to Greece Nicholas Burns and Thomas Miller, to name just a few.

Prominent members of our community from both the U.S. and abroad attend the gala event annually, making it a key event through which attendees can together celebrate the successes and achievements of our community.

## CONFERENCES

Over the years, AHI and AHIPAC have organized over 33 conferences on Legislative Policy and How to Lobby the Congress on U. S. foreign policy regarding Greece and Cyprus. In November 1999, the AHI held its inaugural conferences in Nicosia and Athens. The conference was entitled "U.S. Relations with Greece and Cyprus: The American Foreign Policy Process and the Role of



AHI's 2nd Annual Conference on the Future of Hellenism: (l-r): John Metaxas, James Marketos Esq., Dr. Dan Georgakas (at podium), Aristotelis Chronis Esq., and Manny Rouvelas Esq.

Greek Americans." The participants learned about the issues and how the foreign policy legislative process operates in the U.S. To analyze the state of the Greek American community, AHI launched in 2002 its first annual conference on "The Future of Hellenism in the United States," featuring an expert lineup of speakers from the community. This conference series continues today.

### AHI CHAPTERS

AHI has embarked on a program to develop its chapters across the country to better facilitate the several grassroots activities of the AHI and its affiliate organizations, the AHIPAC, the AHIF and the AHI Business Network, including meetings with and letters to elected officials, contacts with the media and academic community, and organizing newsworthy events.

### FOUNDATION FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

The Foundation For Hellenic Studies' (FHS) main objective is to provide support to qualified individuals, institutions, programs and projects advancing the study of Greece and Cyprus in the United States. Since its inception in 1995, the FHS has dispersed approximately \$161,000 in grants to over 50 individual individuals and programs.

These grants have helped to support the following projects:

- A joint post-doctoral fellowship in Hellenic Studies with Princeton University;

- Support for the restoration of Cypriot antiquities owned by the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida;
- Support of Modern Greek Studies programs in various U.S. universities;
- Support for the acquisition of library materials on Greece and Cyprus by university schools and other libraries;
- Subventions for the publication of books and academic journals with a Greek focus;
- Lectures on Greece and Cyprus;
- Support of conferences with Greek themes;
- Curriculum development grants;
- Support of legislative seminars presented by AHI;
- Ph.D. dissertation grants, for dissertations on topics involving Greece and Cyprus;
- Projects promoting Greece and Cyprus on the Internet;
- Small research grants for researchers studying Greece and Cyprus; and
- Travel by Greek visiting scholars for lectures in the U.S.

### CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT LEADERSHIP TEAM (CCLT)

AHIPAC has organized a CCLT program which to date has at least one grassroots contact in over 400 of the 435 congressional districts and with 98 of the 100 U.S. senators. The goal is to develop at least five contacts with each of the members of the House and Senate.

The CCLT has played a leading role in the success of bills in Congress re-

garding Greek American issues. AHIPAC members across the country have participated in letter writing and phone campaigns to their respective members of the House and Senate. AHIPAC has made a special effort to involve the numerous Greek American communities, who responded with petitions and letters to their elected officials in a strong show of support. AHIPAC has kept the community informed on actions in Washington and provided information and guidance on reaching their members of Congress.

### AHI BUSINESS NETWORK

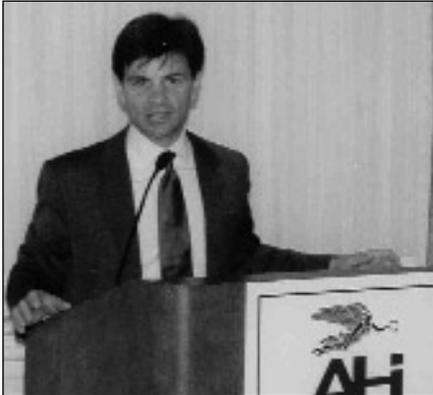
Since 1989, the AHI Business Network has hosted numerous luncheons, receptions and meetings throughout the U.S., Greece, Australia and Canada. The AHI Business Network has successfully brought Greek American businessmen and professionals together to exchange ideas,



(l-r) Rita Cosby of Fox, Alexis Christoforou of CBS MarketWatch, Nick Larigakis, AHI Executive Director, Dorie Klissas of NBC and John Metaxas of CNBC at a New York Business Network event in 2003.



(l-r) Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, Harry Pappas, Lexis Liviakis and Mrs. Alfieris at a 1998 AHI Business Network event.



George Stephanopoulos speaking at an AHI Business Network Luncheon in 2003.

share business information and extend contacts.

## TRADE CONFERENCES

AHI organized the first U.S.-Greece-Cyprus Trade Conference in 1975 and has held a total of 16 such conferences, including nine seminars between 1998 and 2000 entitled "Cyprus: An International Business, Shipping and Financial Center." A key part of AHI's program is to strengthen business ties between the U.S. and Greece and the U.S. and Cyprus. The annual AHI Membership Directory of members around the world indexed by profession and geographic location has been used as an everyday tool to generate greater interaction among our members and to stimulate participation in business networking.

## LECTURE SERIES

The American Hellenic Institute has hosted a series of noon policy forums at Hellenic House for discussion of international issues relating to Southeast

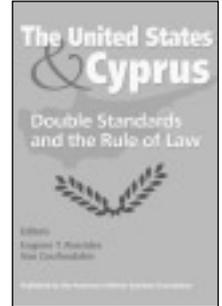
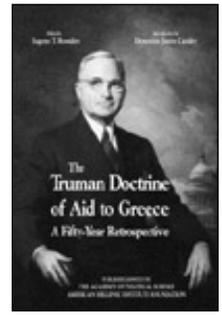
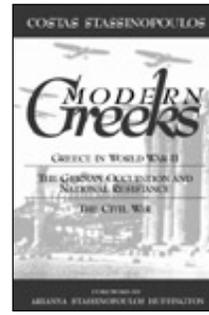
Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. The AHI has also hosted a number of Capitol Hill Briefings to reach out to Hill staff and policy-makers regarding U.S. relations with Greece, Cyprus and Turkey.



Ambassador Nicholas Burns.

## PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

AHIF has developed an active publication program. In 1998 AHIF published the well-received *Truman Doctrine of Aid to Greece: A Fifty-Year Retrospective* jointly with the prestigious Academy of Political Science (APS). Since 1974, fourteen books and pamphlets on U.S. foreign policy and trade issues with Greece, Cyprus and Turkey were published. Publications include the *Hand-*



Cypriot government officials, university libraries, domestic and Greek media, and to our members.

## HOSTING VISITING DIGNITARIES



President of Greek Parliament Apostolos Kaklamanis (center) discusses key issues with AHI leadership.

book on *United States Relations with Greece and Cyprus*, the *American Hellenic Who's Who*, *Doing Business in Greece*, *Modern Greeks* by Costas Stassinopoulos, *Greece's Pivotal Role in World War II and Its Importance to the U.S. Today*, *Blood & Tears: Greece 1940-1949* by George C. Papavizas, and *The United States & Cyprus: Double Standards and the Rule of Law*. These publications, available to the public, were distributed to the U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch, Greek and

AHI has hosted a number of receptions, luncheons, dinners and briefings for visiting dignitaries from throughout the United States, Greece and Cyprus in order to promote dialogue and cooperation between these countries.

## COOPERATION WITH GREEK AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

AHI/AHIPAC work in close cooperation with the Order of the AHEPA, the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), Hellenic American Women's



Gene Rossides (third from left) and Ted Spyropoulos (center), President of HANC, discuss matters with leaders of the Greek American community.

Council (HAWC) and the various regional societies. In 1994, Ted G. Spyropoulos, President of HANC, announced that his organization designated AHIPAC to coordinate lobbying efforts in Washington, DC with the Congress and the Executive Branch on national issues concerning the U.S., Greece and Cyprus.

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AHI offers several internship positions during the year. Interns have the opportunity to work in Washington and to experience first hand the excitement and practical understanding for how foreign policy is developed in this country. It is an experience that they cherish and appreciate. The interns participate in a variety of activities such as moni-



AHI interns meet with the Ambassador of Cyprus. (l-r) Max Havanis, Amb. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Adam Dice, Kristina Velys.

toring legislation and congressional hearings, acting as liaisons with Congressional offices, and conducting research on issues for Congressional testimony, for our *Handbook on U.S. Relations with Greece and Cyprus*, and for other critical areas.

### HELLENIC HOUSE

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. George Spyropoulos of Caracas, Venezuela, the Hellenic House, located in an historic building at 1220 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC just a few blocks away from the White House, became the new permanent headquarters of the AHI, the AHIPAC, the AHIF and the AHI Business Network on October 1, 1994. In 2004, the Hellenic House mortgage was paid off in full, signifying new opportunities for growth and expansion of programs for AHI in the future.

At the time of the donation of the building, Mr. Spyropoulos stated:



“As we all know, the Institute has grown over the years and has acquired more importance. That’s why I considered that it was time it had its own roof as a demonstration of permanency.... However, I do have to say that this roof is fragile and needs your cooperation in order to make it stronger.”

The importance of Hellenic House to our operations has exceeded our expectations.

## American Hellenic Institute



1220 16th Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 Phone: (202) 785-8430 or  
 (800) 424-9607  
 Fax: (202) 785-5178  
 e-mail: [info@aheworld.org](mailto:info@aheworld.org)  
 Web site: [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org)



(l-r) Adam Kutrumbos, Greek Ambassador to the U.S. George Sawaides, Sotirios Kospanos.