

**AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE**

**AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE FOUNDATION**



**AHi**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**  
**2007**

**Including AHI History 1974-2006**

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# INTRODUCTION

## *Executive Director's Report*



Dear Members and Friends:

The year 2007 marked my twentieth anniversary with the American Hellenic Institute (AHI). It's hard to believe how quickly these years have passed, but one thing is for certain—each year has been filled with wonderful memories, numerous achievements, some disappointments, and definitely one fully-packed schedule after another. Along with all of the good, the bad, and the just plain busy, I have been truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful organization—one that has made such an important impact on U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus, and that works diligently in the defense of the rule of law, democracy, religious freedom and human rights. As I reflect back on the year 2007 in particular, it was once again very active, filled with numerous challenges, but also with accomplishments and opportunities. Demonstrating the fast-paced and full schedule, AHI issued a total of 84 press releases which detailed our numerous and diverse activities, as well as important events and decisions concerning U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus.

AHI felt the sorrow and pain that was brought on by the unprecedented wildfires that ravaged Greece this past summer. To provide relief, we launched a fundraising drive on October 2 to help reforest the affected land with all donations to be contributed to the Plant Your Roots in Greece Foundation. The AHI Advisory Committee launched the effort by contributing \$10,000. If you would like to contribute to this endeavor, it is still not too late and we encourage you to do so.

While this tragedy hit so close to home, we were indeed fortunate to celebrate the achievements of our community as well. Some of our major events included: our 32nd annual awards gala dinner; our sixth annual "Future of Hellenism in the America" conference; our annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" on Capitol Hill; our annual trip to Greece and Cyprus; and our numerous briefings and presentations.

Aside from these events, the majority of our efforts focused on advancing U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus in the best

interests of the U.S., and on supporting the Greek American community. We have engaged policymakers in the administration and Congress through action alerts, letters, and through ongoing face-to-face meetings with members of Congress and their staff over the course of the year.

Among our activities on the Hill, in July we hosted a briefing for Congressional staffers to mark 33 years following the tragic invasion of Cyprus by Turkey. In cooperation with the Pan-Macedonian Association, AHI also co-hosted a conference in June titled "A Search for a Roadmap to Peace in the Balkans." Through both of these events, we brought together expert panelists to discuss important policy challenges in order to raise awareness within the policymaking community and to incite action for change.

Our Noon Forum series continues to address policy, history and cultural themes to educate the public and promote greater understanding of Greek and Greek American issues. Topics covered in 2007 included Cyprus settlement efforts, the Asia Minor Catastrophe, Greek politics, and energy in southeast Europe, to name just a few.

Each year, AHI's Business Network taps into the Greek American community's tremendous professional expertise and successes. In 2007, AHI hosted a number of informative seminars and networking events to showcase the deep well of knowledge that we have within our own ranks, and to provide a venue for professional development. Business Network events this year included seminars on investment opportunities in the U.S. and in Greece, and a networking breakfast featuring two representatives from the Toronto Blue Jays, who also both happen to be Greek American.

AHI has also prioritized passing on the torch to the young people of our community by providing them with opportunities to network with established Greek American professionals, and to also form closer bonds with our Hellenic culture. In this goal, we collaborated on two events to help mentor the next generation of Greek Americans. Along with the local AHEPA Chapter, AHI co-sponsored a career fair in January at St. Katherine in Falls Church, VA for high school youth that featured prominent com-

munity leaders to offer career insights. In June, we assisted the AHEPAcademy in a day-long event in Washington for a group of select high school students to introduce them to the Nation's Capital and its diplomatic and policymaking side. AHI helped to arrange briefings at the Greek and Cypriot Embassies, the latter of which featured Cyprus Ambassador Andreas Kakouris as host. The students also visited AHI for a reception and briefing on the organization's activities, followed by a dinner at the Capital Hilton where Congressmen Zack Space (D-OH) and Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) addressed the group.

In 2008, the foreign policy challenges will continue to intensify as the U.S. supports the inclusion of FYROM into NATO and the illegal Turkish occupation of Cyprus now reaches its 34th year. In addition, Turkey's violations in the Aegean continue, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate's religious mission continues to be severely restricted by Turkish authorities. We plan to expand the reach of our programming and will continue to fight for the issues that are so dear to all of us: the rule of law, support for American values and principles, a free Cyprus, protection and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a peaceful Aegean, opportunities for Greek Americans, and the defense of Hellenism wherever it may be challenged. Your continued support enables us to pursue these important goals and objectives.

As executive director, I would like to thank our members, officers and staff for their dedication in making 2007 another memorable year. Alongside AHI's own activities in Washington, our strength relies on the many significant contributions and the support of 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.

Warmest regards,

Nicholas Larigakis, *Executive Director*

# Public Policy



## THE 2007 GREEK AMERICAN POLICY STATEMENTS

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On April 18, AHI President Gene Rossides issued the *2007 Greek American Policy Statements*. The *Policy Statements* outline positions on the issues of concern to Greek Americans based on what is in the best interests of the U.S. Issues addressed in 2007 included U.S.-Greece relations, the Cyprus issue, the Aegean Sea boundary, the name controversy related to the Former Yugoslav Republic of “Macedonia” (FYROM), Turkey’s suppression of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, making Greece eligible for the U.S. Visa Waiver program, the Greek minority in Albania, and recognition of the Armenian Genocide, to name a few.

The annual *Policy Statements* highlight the significant changes taking place in the political, security and economic landscape of Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. Distributed to around 20 high-ranking U.S. government officials, they stress the strategic importance of Greece and Cyprus as regional partners of the U.S. As vigorous, prosperous and stable democracies, these countries are a source of regional leadership and they also offer the U.S. an opportunity to advance its national interests in the region.

The *Policy Statements* for 2007 were prepared by AHI and endorsed by: the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), the Cyprus Federation of America, the Panepirotic Federation of America, the Pan-Macedonian Association of America, the Pan Cretan Association of America, the Pan-Pontian Federation of U.S.A. and Canada, the American Hellenic Council of California, the Chios Societies of America, Inc. and AHI.

## GREECE-TURKEY RELATIONS

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Each year, AHI closely monitors Greece-Turkey relations. AHI supports the policy that a normalization of relations between the two countries should be encouraged, firmly

based on international law and a reversal of aggression. AHI also believes that it is in the best interests of the U.S. to support stable relations between these two countries by actively and consistently promoting the rule of law.

In particular, AHI notes the following areas as the fundamental causes of problems between Greece and Turkey:

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

Greece has been a vocal supporter of Turkey’s European Union (EU) ambitions, with the goal of fostering long-term peace and stability in the region through its neighbor’s accession. AHI congratulates Greece for its ongoing efforts at promoting this goal in the region through its outreach to Turkey. Turkey must now meet its obligations and adhere to international agreements and the rule of law.

## THE CYPRUS PROBLEM

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One of AHI’s primary objectives is to keep the Cyprus problem at the forefront of the policy debate. In this effort, AHI hosted several events and meetings throughout the year in which Cyprus was the topic of discussion. For instance, the Cyprus problem was a point of focus for four Noon Forums throughout the year, and also a key theme during AHI’s delegation trip to Cyprus in June 2007.

Additionally, AHI continued to push for greater public and governmental awareness of the issue through numerous letters to the editors of prominent publications, letters to government officials, through the publishing of op-eds, and the dissemination of action alerts. The American-Owned Property in Cyprus Claims Act was reintroduced in both the House and the Senate. If enacted, this legislation would enable U.S. citizens who own property in Turkish-occupied Cyprus to seek financial remedies with either the current inhabitants of their land or with the Turkish government.

Also fundamental to AHI’s involvement in this issue were meetings held with U.S. government officials and their staff, as well as with government representatives from Greece and Cyprus throughout the year. These meetings are an important vehicle for forging closer cooperation, fostering greater understanding, and stimulating new ideas as all parties to work towards resolution of this long-standing issue.

## MACEDONIAN INITIATIVES

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Throughout 2007, AHI embarked on a number of different initiatives to raise awareness of and help put an end to the misappropriation of the name “Macedonia” by the Former Yugoslav Republic of “Macedonia” (FYROM). These initiatives included letters to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees addressing this issue, as well as a

statement protesting the misidentification of FYROM's leader as "President of the Republic of Macedonia" during the 62nd U.N. General Assembly.

A May 3 action alert urged AHI members to contact their representatives to co-sponsor H.Res.356 regarding FYROM's use of materials that violate provisions of a U.N.-brokered Interim Agreement between FYROM and Greece. Letters to the editor from AHI and AHI members were also published in issues of *The Washington Times*, and AHI hosted two Noon Forums as well as a conference, in cooperation with the Pan-Macedonian Association, to highlight the FYROM name issue and also provide recommendations for stability in the Balkans.

AHI also specifically addressed the FYROM name issue in its yearly *Greek American Policy Statements*, calling on the U.S. "in its own self-interest, to strongly support a name for this former Yugoslav republic that does not include the word 'Macedonia.' Since antiquity, the name Macedonia has referred to a geographical region, not to a nationality."

## THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

AHI reiterated its unequivocal stance on what the U.S. government should be doing with regards to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey in the *2007 Greek American Policy Statements*. In this document, AHI urges the U.S. government to use its influence with the Turkish government to safeguard the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its personnel, and its property, and to reopen the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology. AHI underscores that, "Under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the President is obligated to oppose violations of religious freedom in any country whose government 'engages in or tolerates violations of religious freedom and promote the right to religious freedom in that country'. The Act further obligates the President to take one or more of 15 enumerated actions with respect to any such country."

On January 25, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis was invited to meet with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) regarding his eye-witness account of the mistreatment of American citizens and Greek Orthodox Christians of Turkey by that country's officials during the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Istanbul to meet with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in late 2006. The invitation from the USCIRF stemmed from Mr. Larigakis' letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice of December 18, 2006, whereby he addressed this issue.

Also as a result of this letter to Secretary Rice, on April 27, Mr. Larigakis received a letter from Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns. In Burns' response, he expressed regret for the difficulties experienced by the group, and he pointed out that U.S. Consular staff took immediate measures to help resolve any further difficulties as they arose. Burns also reiterated U.S. support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's rights, pointing out that American authorities continue to urge Turkey to allow the Patriarchate to operate freely, and encourage measures such as reopening the Halki Theological Seminary and protecting its property rights.

## LETTERS, STATEMENTS AND ACTION ALERTS



AHI sent numerous letters to President George W. Bush, administration officials, members of Congress and other officials throughout 2007. AHI also issued a number of public statements setting forth positions on current events and policy decisions important to the organization's membership, while action alerts notified members and friends how they can respond to these issues. Listed below is an overview of these many communications:

### 2007 Letters:

- **April 18**—Letters were sent to 20 government officials, including President George Bush, Vice President Richard Cheney, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, presenting the *2007 Greek American Policy Statements*.
- **May 30**—A letter to House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees addressed U.S. interests in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, Greece as a strategic ally, assistance for Cyprus, FYROM, and protesting the elimination of VOA's Greek Desk Service. AHI also opposed \$18 million requested by the administration for Turkey.
- **October 3**—Representative Tom Lantos, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, was urged to support the Armenian Genocide legislation, H. Res. 106.

### 2007 Statements:

- **January 16**—AHI issued a statement strongly condemning the missile attack on the U.S. Embassy in Athens on January 12.
- **October 2**—AHI expressed its condolences to the victims of the tragic wildfires that hit Greece in August-September 2007. To help address the longer-term environmental issue that poses a tremendous threat to both the people and ecology of Greece, AHI also launched a fundraising effort targeted specifically at reforestation, with all proceeds to be contributed to the Plant Your Roots in Greece Foundation.
- **October 3**—When FYROM's leader was introduced as "President of the Republic of Macedonia" at the 62nd U.N. General Assembly on September 25, an AHI statement protested the incorrect reference to FYROM as "Macedonia."
- **October 11**—AHI congratulated Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) for introducing H. Res. 405 supporting the implementation of a United Nations-brokered agreement toward the reunification of Cyprus, which was unanimously passed.
- **October 30**—AHI issued a joint statement with the Armenian National Committee (ANCA), to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee protesting S. Res. 358 regarding U.S.-Turkey relations, highlighting a number of Turkey's destabilizing actions in the region.

## 2007 Action Alerts:

- **March 14**—To increase co-sponsorship of “The American-Owned Property in Cyprus Claims Act” H.R. 1456, introduced by Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ).
- **May 3**—To urge Congressional co-sponsorship of H.Res.356 regarding FYROM’s use of materials that violate provisions of the U.N.-brokered Interim Agreement between FYROM and Greece.
- **May 4**—To support H.Res.373, which asks Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- **June 25**—To support H.R. 2526, which designates Greece as a program country for the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. Currently, Greece is the only original EU country who is also part of Schengen (allowing freedom of movement between EU countries) for which its citizens are required to hold a visa to enter the U.S.
- **July 17**—To request that AHI supporters contact their representatives to take part in a five-minute speech in U.S. Congress on the occasion of Turkey’s illegal invasion of Cyprus 33 years ago.
- **September 24**—To publicize the following Congressional legislation: H.Con.Res.1999 regarding Turkey’s claims of sovereignty over islands and islets in the Aegean Sea which legally belong to Greece, and H.Res.627 and H.Res.620 to support the removal of Turkish occupation troops from the Republic of Cyprus.

## LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

### American-Owned Property in Cyprus Claims Act Reintroduced

On February 27, Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) reintroduced the “American-Owned Property in Cyprus Claims Act” (S.695), joined by fellow original co-sponsor Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ). The House version H.Res.1456, was introduced on March 9 by Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ). This legislation 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.

### Grassroots Outreach to Greek American Community

Throughout 2007, Mr. Larigakis traveled across the U.S. spreading the mission of AHI and seeking support from the grassroots community for legislation that has been introduced in Congress regarding issues of concern to the Greek American community. These issues cover Cyprus, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, FYROM, and the U.S. Visa Waiver Program for Greece.

On May 14, Mr. Larigakis began a West Coast trip to Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco where he met with community leaders and activists, as well as editorial writer Bruce Ramsey of the *Seattle Times* and U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott’s (D-WA) district director. Then on June 15, Mr. Larigakis traveled east to Greensboro, N.C. at the invitation of AHI

member and President of the Evrytarian Association, Kostas Kozakos, to attend the 63rd Annual Convention of the Evrytarian Association of America “To Velouchi” where he had the opportunity to address the conference General Assembly. The following week, Mr. Larigakis assisted the Pan Macedonian Association to organize a one-day seminar in Washington as part of their annual convention gathering in Baltimore. Then on June 28, he traveled to Springfield, MA to attend the 40th Convention of the PanCretan Association of America.

In wrapping up his tour, Mr. Larigakis said, “It is imperative that we continue to educate and seek the support of the Greek American grass roots community in order to be more effective in gathering support for our issues on Capitol Hill.”

### AHI Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

On May 23, AHI’s “Questionnaire for 2008 Presidential Candidates” was submitted to eight Democratic candidates, ten Republican candidates and three other unannounced Republican candidates. The questionnaire aimed to determine the candidates’ positions on the various issues of concern to Americans of Hellenic descent. Democratic candidate Bill Richardson was the first candidate to respond to the questionnaire, also issuing a statement pointing out that “the continued illegal occupation of Cyprus by Turkey adversely affects stability in the region and violates basic human rights.” Democratic candidate Dennis Kucinich also submitted his questionnaire responses to AHI.

## General News

### AHI Releases DVD on WWII's Greek American Operational Groups



In 2007, AHIF released a DVD titled "The Greek American Operational Groups" to pay tribute to a select group of Greek Americans whose mission was to make the German withdrawal from Greece in 1944 as costly as possible. The U.S.'s first experiment with clandestine commando warfare took place in World War II. Under a secret Office of Strategic Services (OSS) plan, small groups of specially trained U.S. Army infantrymen of various ethnic backgrounds were infiltrated into occupied Europe to assist local partisan groups in resisting the Nazis. They succeeded far beyond expectations, but the records of their secret service were sealed for forty years, and their story is largely unknown. This short video on DVD brings the bravery of these Greek American heroes to light in anticipation of a full-length documentary. A downloadable order form is available on AHI's Web site at <[http://ahiworld.org/pdfs/dvd\\_order\\_form\\_r4lo.pdf](http://ahiworld.org/pdfs/dvd_order_form_r4lo.pdf)>, or by contacting AHI headquarters at (202) 785-8430.



Dr. Achilles Adamantiades.

### Energy in Southeast Europe

On February 20, Dr. Achilles Adamantiades, an expert consultant focusing on energy and the environment, discussed the resource endowment, energy networks and the road ahead in Southeast Europe.

### New Book on Cyprus Featured

Professor Van Coufoudakis presented his new book, *Cyprus: A Contemporary Problem in Historical Perspective*, on February 22.



Dr. Van Coufoudakis.

### Ambassadors' Briefing

On March 10, AHI hosted a breakfast briefing at the Capital Hilton as part of the 32nd AHI Annual Awards Dinner weekend activities.

The event featured Ambassador of Greece Alexandros Mallias and Ambassador of Cyprus Andreas Kakouris, during which they gave a briefing on current events related to U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus.



(l-r) Ambassador Andreas Kakouris, Nick Larigakis and Ambassador Alexandros Mallias at the AHI Breakfast and Presentation.

### De-Balkanizing the Balkans

On March 15, AHI hosted a Noon Forum on "Debalkanizing the Balkans: Is There a Role for Greece?" presented by Professor Theodore Couloumbis, senior visiting scholar for the Onassis Foundation (USA) and a policy scholar with the Southeast Europe Project of the Woodrow Wilson Center.



Prof. Theodore Couloumbis.

### Post-Olympic Greece

In a presentation on "Greece: The Post-Olympics Era" on April 20, Greek Secretary General of Information Panos Livadas offered an overview of progress made in Greece since the Olympics in the areas of the national economy,



Secretary General Panos Livadas (center) presents a gift to AHI President Gene Rossides (right) and AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis (left).

the shipping and maritime industry, as a financial and business center in the Balkans, in tourism, and in the banking sector.

### Progress on Cyprus Settlement Efforts

Cypriot Ambassador Andreas Kakouris discussed "Cyprus: Latest Efforts in Pursuit of a Settlement" at an AHI luncheon and briefing on Capitol Hill on May 10. The ambassador's remarks covered the current situation in Cyprus, including efforts for a Cyprus settlement within the European Union and relations with the U.S.



Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou.

### Battle of Crete Remembered

On May 25, AHI commemorated the 66th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, featuring guest speaker Dr. Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou.

### 33-Year Cyprus Occupation Commemorated

The 33-year anniversary of the Cyprus problem was commemorated on Capitol Hill at an afternoon briefing on July 24. Commander Peter G. Stamatopoulos, Supply Corps, U.S. Navy, and Mr. Rossides spoke on "Cyprus: An Important Partner for U.S. Strategic Interests in the Region."

### Asia Minor Catastrophe Remembered

On October 5, AHI hosted a Noon Forum featuring Dr. Constantine G. Hatzidimitriou of St. John's University to speak on "America, Greece and the Asia Minor Catastrophe: Then and Now."

### The Tragedy of Greek Politics

Professor Vassilis Lambropoulos, C.P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek at the University of Michigan, presented a lecture titled "The Tragedy of Greek Politics: 50 Years Since Nikos Kazantzakis' Death," on October 11.



Vassilis Lambropoulos.

## Perspectives from Famagusta

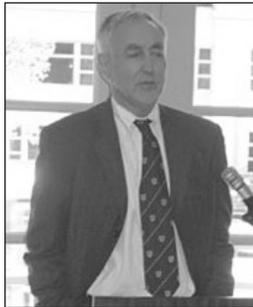
AHI welcomed as its October 22 speaker Alexis Galanos, mayor of Famagusta and former president of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus. He discussed the recent campaign undertaken by the citizens of Famagusta for the legitimate inhabitants to return to Famagusta, and underscored that the town could become a workshop of cooperation and economic growth between the two communities, which would be a bright example of what can be done in Cyprus.



*Alexis Galanos.*



*Cretan Delegation Visits AHI.*



*Richard Lee Jackson.*

## Educational Reform in Greece

On November 6, AHI's Noon Forum on "Educational Reform and Prospects for Private, Non-Profit Higher Education Under the New Greek Government" was presented by Richard Lee Jackson, president of Anatolia College and the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) in Greece.



*Ted Galen Carpenter.*

## The Troubled U.S. Relationship with Turkey

On November 13, Ted Galen Carpenter, vice president for Defense and Foreign Policy Studies at the CATO Institute, gave a presentation titled "Collision Course: The Troubled U.S. Relationship with Turkey."



*Doug Bandow.*

## U.S. Policy on FYROM, the Balkans

AHI's Noon Forum on "Washington's Policy Toward FYROM and the Balkans: Institutionalizing Instability," on November 19 was presented by Doug Bandow, Robert A. Taft Fellow, American Conservative Defense Alliance.

## HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS

### Delegation from Crete

On May 1, a delegation from the island of Crete visited AHI headquarters, led by Serafeim Tsokas, General Secretary of the Region of Crete. He was accompanied by Giorgios Papadakis, representing the Prefect of Rethymnon, and Grigoris Archontakis, representing the Prefect of Chania.

The delegation was escorted to Hellenic House by AHI member and local PanCretan Association member Ted Manoussakis, where the group was briefed on AHI's many activities and initiatives.

## Patriarch of Jerusalem



*(l-r) Ambassador Patrick Theros, Alex Aliferis, Vickie Tsombanos, His Beatitude Theophilos III, Georgia Economou and Nick Larigakis.*

On November 6, His Beatitude Theophilos III Patriarch of Jerusalem visited AHI headquarters on an impromptu courtesy visit. His Beatitude was on his first trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with various government officials, confirming that he enjoys worldwide recognition as the Patriarch of Jerusalem despite the continued refusal of the Israeli Government to recognize his election and its continued interference with the management of the Patriarchate. Accompanying His Beatitude Theophilos III was AHI member Ambassador Patrick Theros who is the Representative of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem in Washington.

## New U.S. Ambassador to Greece

On November 8, the new U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Daniel V. Speckhard, visited Hellenic House to meet with AHI leadership and staff. The discussion centered on issues of mutual interest regarding U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. Ambassador Speckhard said that he will keep interactive communications with AHI regarding these and other policy issues and that he looks forward to working with AHI during his tenure in Athens.



(l-r) AHI Chairman James Marketos, Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard, AHI President Gene Rossides and AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis.

## CONFERENCES

### AHI and AHEPA Host Joint Career Fair

High school and college-aged youth of the greater Washington metropolitan area participated in the Hellenic American Career Fair held on January 6 at the St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church community center in Falls Church, Virginia. The event was sponsored by the Order of AHEPA Peter N. Derzis Chapter 438 in cooperation with AHI and featured some of the area's most prominent Hellenic and philhellenic business leaders, corporate representatives and professionals who came together to provide attendees vital career insights and information. The program included career coaching from professional recruiters, 22 corporations and professionals with booths, and a series of seminars on a range of different industries.



Christine Brennan of USA Today speaks with students at the career fair.

### "A Roadmap to Peace in the Balkans"

On June 27, the Pan-Macedonian Association, Inc., in cooperation with AHI, hosted a conference titled "A Search for a Roadmap to Peace in the Balkans" in Washington. Expert panelists included: Dr. Potitsa Grigorakou (moderator), Professor Pierre Lerich of the Centre d'Archeologie pour l'Orient, AHI President Gene Rossides (moderator), Ted Galen Carpenter, vice president for Defense and Foreign Policy Studies at the CATO Institute, Gregory R. Copley, president of the International Strategic Studies Association, and Dr. George Papavizas, a writer. A speech was also read on behalf of Dr. Osmund Boppearachhici of the Centre d'Archeologie, E.N.S. in Paris, France who could not attend.



(l-r) Congressman Zack Space, Professor Van Coufoudakis, Alexi Giannoulis, Endy Zemenides and Gene Rossides at the Future of Hellenism Conference.



Dan Georgakas (right) presenting the Modern Greek Studies Association's (MGSA) Recognition of Excellence Award to Harry Mark Petrakis (left) at the Future of Hellenism Conference.

### The Future of Hellenism in America

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation hosted its Sixth Annual Conference on the Future of Hellenism in America on November 10, this year in Chicago. Held in cooperation with the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation and the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (S.A.E.) U.S.A. Region, each year the conference organizers make a stop in a different U.S. city in order to spread ideas and gather input from the local Greek American community on the various challenges facing Hellenism in America. The conference featured prominent speakers from the fields of education, law, academia and the private sector who identified key challenges facing the Greek American community today, as well as opportunities for progress.

To kick-off the weekend's activities and welcome guests, a reception was hosted by *Greek America Magazine* on Friday evening at the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center in the heart of Chicago's historic Greektown. Conference attendees returned the next morning for an outstanding line-up of expert panelists, keynote speakers, and a closing roundtable discussion with the audience. The conference sessions covered the following topics:

- The Now and Future of Greek America
- The Future of Greek American Organizations
- The Importance of Being Active in the Political Process
- The Changing Face of Greek Americans
- The Image of Hellenism: Hellenic Culture, Religious Identity, and the Media
- Greek Education in America
- A Perspective from Young Greek Americans

Also a highlight of the conference was the presentation of the Modern Greek Studies Association's (MGSA) Recognition of Excellence Award by Dan Georgakas to celebrated Greek American novelist and short story writer Harry Mark Petrakis.

The conference was sponsored by The Behrakis Foundation, and co-sponsored by the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), the Foundation for Hellenic Studies, the PanCretan Association of America and by *Greek America Magazine*. Other key supporters included John P. Calamos, Sr., conference chairman and chairman and CEO of Calamos Investments, as well as Ted G. Spyropoulos, president of T.G.S. Petroleum and president of SAE/USA's Regional Coordinating Council.

Benefactors who helped make the AHIF's conference possible included: Jimmy and Eleni Bousis (Northbrook, Illinois), Aristide D. Caratzas (Athens, Greece), James and Nike Lagos (Springfield, Ohio), Tom and Tina Lagos (Springfield, Ohio), Jim Pedas (Washington, D.C.), Ted Pedas (Washington, D.C.), Gene Rossides (Washington, D.C.), and Emmanuel E. Velivasakis (New York, New York).

## AWARDS DINNERS

### 32nd Anniversary Awards Dinner

On March 10, AHI honored a distinguished set of Greek Americans and philhellenes at its 32nd Anniversary Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards Dinner, held in Washington, D.C. This year's honorees included:

- Christopher Hitchens, renowned public affairs journalist
- U.S. Representative Thaddeus G. McCotter, 11th Congressional District of Michigan
- Margo Catsimatidis, president of MCV Advertising and co-publisher of *The Hellenic Times*
- Plato Cacheris, nationally prominent attorney and partner at Trout Cacheris, LLP
- John P. Calamos, Sr., chairman, CEO and CIO of Calamos Investment Funds



The recipients of the Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards (l-r) John P. Calamos, Sr., Christopher Hitchens, Margo Catsimatidis and Plato Cacheris at the AHI Annual Dinner (Representative Thaddeus G. McCotter not pictured).

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Vicki Lividakis, who is an anchor and reporter for KRON Channel 4 News in San Francisco. AHI President Gene Rossides addressed the audience, and recognized AHI founding member George Spyropoulos, who was instrumental in establishing the current AHI headquarters building. He also introduced a video clip of a documentary on Cyprus in which the AHI Foundation is collaborating with Veras Communications to produce and air on PBS channels nationwide. In addition to the awards ceremony, guests were also treated to a special video tribute to Greek American veterans of World War II, featuring the secret Greek American Operational Groups (OGs), presented by AHI Chairman James L. Marketos, Esq.

The weekend's events also included a reception and dinner at the Greek Embassy on Friday, March 9. The dinner was hosted by Ambassador Alexandros Mallias and his wife in honor of AHI for its significant contributions to strengthening U.S.-Greece relations.

### Third Annual AHI-Athens Awards Dinner

On June 13, the Third Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards Dinner was held at the Grande Bretagne Hotel. This year, AHI honored Anna Synodinou-Marinaki with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award for her "exceptional artistic achievements and tireless promotion of culture in the ancient Hellenic tradition of public service." Lazaros D. Efraimoglou, president of



Anna Synodinou-Marinaki (center) being presented with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award by Theodore Spyropoulos (left), Coordinator and Alternate President for SAE (World Council of Hellenes Abroad) and Gene Rossides (right).



Lazaros D. Efraimoglou (center), President, Foundation of the Hellenic World being presented with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award by Theodore Spyropoulos (left) and Gene Rossides (right).

the Foundation of the Hellenic World, was also presented the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award for his “outstanding business achievements, public service and promotion of the Hellenic culture.” The dinner was attended by 300 people from all segments of Greek life, receiving significant press coverage by both print and broadcast media in Greece.

## EVENTS

### AHI Welcomes New Greek American Congressmen

Newly-elected Greek American members of U.S. Congress Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), John Sarbanes (D-MD) and Zack Space (D-OH) were welcomed to office by AHI at a dinner held in their honor on January 17 in Washington, D.C. The Congressmen gave an overview of some of their goals while in office. Over 120 persons attended the dinner to welcome the congressmen to their new posts.



(l-r) AHI Chairman James Marketos, AHI President Gene Rossides, Congressman John Sarbanes, Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Congressman Zack Space and AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis.

### Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day

On March 28, AHI hosted its annual Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day on Capitol Hill to celebrate the 186th Anniversary of Greek Independence and the common



(l-r) AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis, AHI President Gene Rossides, Minister George Alogoskoufis, Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Alexandros Mallias.



Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) with children from St. Katherine Greek School.

democratic ideals held by Greece and the U.S. The event was held in cooperation with the Congressional Hellenic Caucus’s co-sponsors, Representatives Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). Over 200 people were in attendance, which featured Greece’s Minister of Economy and Finance George Alogoskoufis as special guest speaker.

Members of Congress attending the reception and addressing the audience included (in order of appearance): Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC), Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Rep. Joe Wilson (D-SC), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Rep. Zack Space (D-OH), Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL), Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), and Rep. Diane Watson (D-CA).

### Fourth Annual AHI Benefit Golf Tournament

On October 19, AHI hosted its Fourth Annual AHI Benefit Golf Tournament at the Greendale Golf Course in Alexandria, Virginia. Christine Brennan, award-winning journalist and USA TODAY sports columnist, was featured as the event’s “Celebrity Golfer” for the second year in a row. The winning team in the scramble format competition consisted of George Sifakis, Dean Scontras, Harry Demetatis and Ambassador Andreas Kakouris. Proceeds from the tournament each year help to fund AHI’s broad range of activities.



First place winning team: (l-r) Harry Demetatis, George Sifakis and Dean Scontras pictured with celebrity golfer Christine Brennan (at center) and Nick Larigakis (far right).

## VISITS TO GREECE AND CYPRUS

### June 4-15

In the first of two annual AHI trips overseas, the organization's leadership held substantive high-level talks with government officials and business leaders in Greece and Cyprus. Topics discussed included the Cyprus problem, U.S.-Greece relations, investment and business opportunities in Greece and Cyprus, and continued Greek airspace violations by Turkey. The AHI-Athens Chapter hosted its Third Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner on June 13 at the Grande Bretagne Hotel. The delegation also had the opportunity to visit the Foundation of the Hellenic World and its cultural center, and attended a reception at the U.S. Ambassador's residence commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Marshall Plan.

**Delegation Participants:** In Cyprus, the delegation included Mr. Rossides, AHI Advisory Committee members Kostas Alexakis, Nick Karambelas, and James Lagos, as well as AHI members Ambassador Clay Constantinou, Dr. Takey Crist, Argeri Lagos, Yanni Lagos, Thomas Lagos, Matina Lagos, Dr. Marios Panayides, Katerina Papathanassiou and Mr. Larigakis. In Athens, the AHI delegation included Messrs. Rossides, Alexakis, Karambelas, Crist, Larigakis, Thomas Lagos, James Lagos and Matina Lagos. They were joined by AHI



The AHI delegation with President of the Greek Parliament Anna Psarouda-Benaki (center).



(l-r) AHI Member James Lagos, Ambassador Clay Constantinou, AHI President Gene Rossides and President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos.

members Costas Alexandrides, Ph.D. and Dr. George Moutsatsos.

### November 26-29

On November 26, Mr. Larigakis began his annual end-of-the-year trip to Athens, where he met with Greek government officials and business leaders, discussed the organization's goals and objectives, and focused on engendering new areas of mutual cooperation and development between leaders in Greece and the Greek American community. Mr. Larigakis also met with the newly-arrived U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel Speckhard at the U.S. Embassy, and was interviewed on the ERT World program, "Here is Athens."

On November 28, AHI in cooperation with the AHI-Athens Chapter hosted a reception at the Grande Bretagne Hotel, where the special guests were members of a U.S. Congressional delegation, including Congressman Albio Sires (D-NJ), Congressman Dennis Moore (D-KS), Congressman John Carter (R-TX), Congressman Phil Gingrey (R-GA), joined also by Congressman Zack Space (D-OH). Over 180 friends and members of AHI attended the event to help conclude the trip.



(l-r) Deputy Foreign Ministers Theodoros Kassimis and Petros Doukas with Ambassador Speckhard at the AHI-Athens Chapter reception.



(l-r) Congressman Dennis Moore (D-KS), Congressman Albio Sires (D-NJ) and AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis at the AHI-Athens Chapter reception.

## MEDIA RELATIONS

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In 2007, AHI issued a total of 84 press releases, which received wide distribution by e-mail, fax and mail to American, Greek American, Greek and Cypriot press, the Administration, Congress, and AHI members and friends. AHI and its members also regularly wrote letters to the editors of major national and community newspapers, commenting on articles appearing in their publications, as well as numerous op-eds appearing in Greek American newspapers.

### Letters to the Editor

Throughout the year, a number of letters to the editor were written by AHI leadership and staff, some of which were published in major U.S. newspapers. These letters included:

- *The Washington Times* (February 28): “Remember the Armenians,” by Nick Larigakis
- *Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) Web Site* (May 21): AHI letter published responding to CFR Special Report No. 15 “Generating Momentum for a New Era in U.S.-Turkey Relations”
- *The Washington Times* (July 18): “The truth about Macedonia,” by AHI member Nina Gatzoulis
- *The Washington Times* (July 21): “Turkey and Europe,” by AHI member and Vice President of the American Hellenic Council Aris Anagnos

### AHI Op-Eds and Commentaries

Some 20 op-eds were written by Gene Rossides over the course of the year, appearing in numerous Greek American publications including *Greek News*, *Hellenic News of America*, *The Hellenic Voice*, and *The National Herald*. Topics ranged from the U.S. presidential elections, to U.S.-Turkey relations, to the Cyprus problem, to the Armenian Genocide.

Also a highlight among the media’s coverage of AHI and AHI issues was *The Washington Times*’ publication of an in-depth commentary on FYROM’s provocations and intransigence related to the Macedonia name issue. The commentary, written by Nick Larigakis, appeared in the October 7 issue of the daily under the title “A Macedonia misnomer?”

## LEADERSHIP AND AWARDS

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### Vryonis Appointed AHIF Senior Fellow

On July 16, AHIF appointed Professor Spyros Vryonis, Jr. as Senior Fellow for Hellenism and for Greek and Turkish Studies. Professor Vryonis is professor emeritus of history at the University of California, former Alexander S. Onassis professor of Hellenic Culture and Civilization and director of the Alexander S. Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies, and former director of the Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism, among other academic activities.

### Celebrating 20 Years at AHI

August 1 marked AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis’ 20-year anniversary with the organization. Of his long-term

work with AHI and what the organization exemplifies, Mr. Larigakis said, “I truly feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful organization and to be associated with so many incredible and dedicated individuals,” noting especially the ongoing work and dedication of AHI founder Gene Rossides.

### Rossides Elected to Academy of Athens

On October 30, AHI President Gene Rossides was elected a Visiting Member of the Academy of Athens in the field of legal science, branch of ethics and political science at a formal reception and ceremony at the Academy.

### Larigakis Receives HNA Award

On November 11, Nick Larigakis was given the Hellenic News of America (HNA) Award at a gala celebrating the newspaper’s 20th anniversary. The award is presented to Greek American’s who have distinguished themselves in their fields and in their community.

### Hellenic National Defense General Staff Awards AHI Leaders

At a special ceremony at the Greek Embassy on November 19, AHI Chairman James L. Marketos, AHIF Chairman Gene Rossides and AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis were honored by the Hellenic National Defense General Staff for AHI’s role in bringing long-overdue attention to the Greek American Operational Groups (OGs), secret teams of U.S. Army infantrymen who performed extra-hazardous duty behind Nazi lines in World War II Greece, through a documentary film produced by AHIF highlighting their heroism during World War II.

## THE AHI BUSINESS NETWORK

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AHI hosted several business networking events in 2007 aiming to promote business associations among AHI members and friends. Participants had the opportunity to listen to informative presentations given by expert speakers, while networking with other attendees. These informative sessions included:

### The U.S. Economy in 2007

On February 1, the AHI Business Network hosted a seminar and luncheon in Washington on “The U.S. Economy in 2007: Where Are the Investment Opportunities?” in cooperation with Euclid Financial Group, Inc. The seminar, which was attended by more than 60 professionals, featured expert panelists who discussed topics such as: “The Market Outlook for 2007,” “Economic and Housing Outlook,” “Cyclical Investing and Sector Rotation and Investment Opportunities in Equities (Stocks) for the Year Ahead,” and “The Global Market for U.S. Debt.”



Steven Abrahams.



The panel at the seminar (l-r) Zacharias Kesses, Alex Laios, Nassos Nikolopoulos and Alexandros I. Papasteriopoulos.

## New Investment Opportunities in Greece

On March 30, the AHI Business Network, in cooperation with the Embassy of Greece and sponsored by PAKLaw Firm (Athens, Greece), presented a breakfast seminar on “New Investment Opportunities in Greece: Alternative Sources of Energy and Real Estate” in Washington, D.C. Topics covered by panelists included: “The New Framework of Energy Investments in Greece,” “Step by Step Real Estate Transactions,” and “Tourism Investments in Greece.”

## AHI Hosts Toronto Blue Jays

On September 26, AHI hosted representatives from the Toronto Blue Jays baseball club at a business networking breakfast to offer a behind the scenes look into the workings of a Major League baseball team. Panel speakers included George Poulis, head trainer for the team, and Alex Anthopoulos, vice president for Baseball Operations and assistant general manager. Both team representatives provided an overview of their roles in the club, as well as a glimpse into the influence of their Hellenic background on their personal and professional lives.



(l-r) Alex Anthopoulos, Nick Larigakis and George Poulis.

## AHI New England Chapter Inaugurated

The New England Chapter of AHI and the AHI Business Network held their inaugural meeting on December 5 in Boston

with AHI founder and president Gene Rossides as keynote speaker. George Chryssis, a long time AHI member and past honoree, was master of ceremonies and introduced several prominent attendees, including former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas Raptakis, Greece’s Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros Mallias, and Consul General of Greece Constantine Orphanides.

Tina Papadopoulou was also introduced as the New England Chapter President. Tina is the Assistant Director for Development of Anatolia College/The American College of Thessaloniki. She reinforced the action points that need to be taken with elected officials, as well as the business network that is being built around the country with AHI. Initial board members include Georgia D. Katsoulomitis, Jason A. Panos, and Mr. Apostolos Fertis.



(l-r) Sen. Leonidas Raptakis, Tina Papadopoulou, Consul General Constantine Orphanides, Gov. Michael Dukakis, Gene Rossides, Ambassador Alexandros Mallias, George Chryssis.

## AHIF INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AHIF offers several internship positions during the year. Designed for undergraduate and graduate students interested in U.S. politics, foreign policy and American government, the internship can serve as a great way to introduce and jump start their career in politics, journalism, lobbying, government, or the nonprofit sector.

On June 21, Greek Ambassador Alexandros Mallias and Mr. Rossides jointly announced an exchange program offering a series of graduate student internships at the Greek Embassy and at AHIF. In the summer of 2007 AHIF was fortunate to have four remarkable interns—Elena Papademetriou, Krista Jodoin, Alex LaBua, and Vasiliki Tsombanos—and was also instrumental in placing an intern—Chris Symeonides—at the Cyprus Embassy in Washington, D.C. Through the generous donations made by two AHIF members, we were able to provide AHIF interns with a stipend.

# AHI History: 1974-2006

The American Hellenic Institute, Inc. (AHI) 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 the United States Congress would not act to enforce U.S. laws following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus on July 20, 1974, AHI called on 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 and 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 community was active in support of the rule of law, Congress passed an arms embargo against Turkey. AHI coordinated the effort in the community, kept a vote



**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.

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 forgotten.

*“...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*

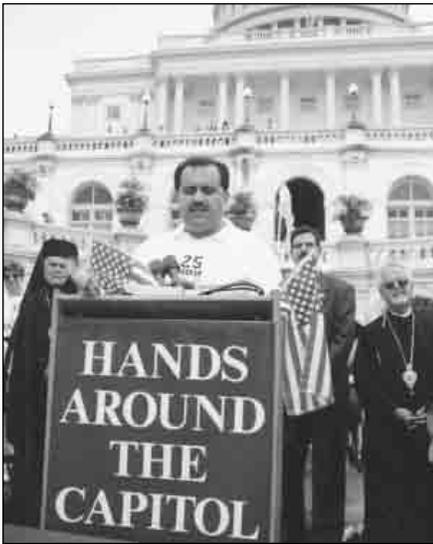
It proved what could and can be done when we are in the right and united on policy. Fundamental to the success was the fact that we stood for the rule of law in international affairs as in the best interests of the U.S.

Also in December 1974, AHI initiated the proposal for \$25 million 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 million 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. 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. (AHIPAC)** was established in early 1975 with a char-



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

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

The **AHI Business Network**, a division of AHI, was initiated in 1989 creating a national and international network 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.



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.

In 1995, the Foundation for Hellenic Studies was established in Washington,



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

D.C. under the auspices of AHIF and under the direction of Professor Van Coufoudakis, who is dean emeritus and professor emeritus at Indiana University—Purdue University in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The foundation's main objective is to provide support to qualified individuals, institutions, programs and projects advancing the study of Greece and Cyprus in the U.S.



Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congressman Michael Bilirakis are presented with an AHI award following a breakfast briefing. (l-r) James Marketos, Sen. Sarbanes, Congressman Bilirakis, Gene Rossides, Nick Larigakis.

Through the years, AHI has grown into one of the key Greek American membership 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 CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

AHI has testified annually on behalf of AHI, 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 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

AHI has periodically initiated legislation on the key issues of Cyprus, the Aegean, U.S. relations with Turkey, FYROM, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. AHI successfully ended grant aid to Turkey and helped to pass: (1) H.R. 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.

In 2004, Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) introduced the *American-Owned Property in Cyprus Claims Act, H.R. 5071*, which was initiated by AHI. If passed, this bill would enable U.S. citizens who own property in the Turkish occupied territory of Cyprus to seek financial remedies against either the current inhabitants of their property or with the Turkish government. And in 2006, Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) introduced the Senate version of the *American-Owned Property in Cyprus Claims Act* as S. 3520, along with her colleague Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ).

### **POLICY STATEMENTS**

The AHI initiated the annual *Greek American Policy Statements* on issues concerning U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. The *Policy Statements* are authored by AHI and have been reviewed, edited and approved in past years by the Order of the 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, Senate, and the Executive Branch, the *Policy Statements* present a unified Greek American position on the issues of concern to the community.

### **ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE AND SCORECARD**

AHI periodically issues a Candidate Questionnaire on issues of concern to Greek Americans, also asking them to answer policy questions. Also issued periodically are House and Senate Score Cards for Greek American issues which provide the voting records of the House and Senate members on issues regarding U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. In 1998 and 2000, the AHI Candidate Questionnaire was distributed to all can-

didates in the House and Senate. In 2006, AHI drafted and distributed the *2006 Questionnaire for Congressional Candidates* to those running in the 2006 midterm Congressional elections to score their positions on issues important to the Greek American community.

### **ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER**

Each year, AHI hosts its major fundraising 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; former CIA Director George Tenet; George Stephanopoulos, chief

Washington correspondent for ABC News, anchor of ABC's *This Week* and former senior advisor to President Clinton; Fox Filmed Entertainment Chairman James N. Gianopoulos; AOL Vice Chairman 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. Also honored in 2006 were two long-standing Greek American organizations: The National



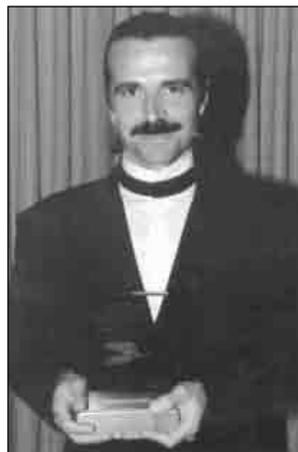
(l-r) Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. Euripides L. Evriviades, AHI Honoree and former CIA Director George Tenet, and Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. George Sawaides.



Award recipient Ted Leonsis at the Annual Dinner in 2000.



AHI Honoree George Stephanopoulos in 1993.



1994 Award Recipient Yanni.



(l-r) HANC President Ted G. Spyropoulos, President Stephanopoulos, AHI President Gene Rossides, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, and Phillip Morakis at the First Annual AHI-Athens Awards Dinner.

Philoptochos Society and the Daughters of Penelope.

Prominent members of the Greek American community from both the U.S. and abroad attend the gala each year, making it an important event through which guests can celebrate the successes and achievements of our community together. In 2004, AHI dedicated the gala dinner to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. A special segment during the evening paid tribute to three former Olympians by awarding them each with the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award.

## CONFERENCES

Over the years, AHI has organized over 50 conferences on legislative policy and how to lobby the Congress on U. S. foreign policy regarding Greece and Cyprus. In November 1999, AHI held its inaugural conferences in Nicosia and Athens. The conference was titled "U.S. Relations with Greece and Cyprus: The American Foreign Policy Process and the Role of 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 its first annual conference on "The Future of Hellenism in the United States" in 2002. The conference, which continues today, features an expert line-up of speakers from the community and travels to a different city each year.



AHI's Fourth Annual Conference on the Future of Hellenism in 2005: (L-r) Speaker John Metaxas and Stylianos S. Zawos, moderator.

## AHI HONORS AND AWARDS



President of Greece Konstantinos Stefanopoulos awards Gene Rossides with the Order of the Phoenix medal.

Through its many years of dedicated service to the Greek American community, AHI has been recognized for its achievements and efforts promoting strong U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus, and within the Greek American community. In 2004, Gene Rossides received the Commander of the Order of the Phoenix from Greek President Konstantinos Stefanopoulos for his commitment to supporting Greek national issues, largely through his work at AHI. And in 2006, AHI was honored with the Greek Letters Award by the Three Hierarchs Parish in Brooklyn, New York, on the occasion of Greek Letters Day.

## AHI CHAPTERS

AHI has embarked on a program to develop its chapters across the country to better facilitate the grassroots activities of the AHI and its affiliate organizations. This program includes 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 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 at 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
- Travel by Greek visiting scholars for lectures in the U.S.

## CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT LEADERSHIP TEAM (CCLT)

AHI 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 the bills in Congress. AHI members across the country have participated in letter writing and phone campaigns to their respective members of the House and Senate. AHI 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. AHI has kept the community

informed of actions in Washington and provided information and guidance on reaching their members of Congress.

## AHI BUSINESS NETWORK

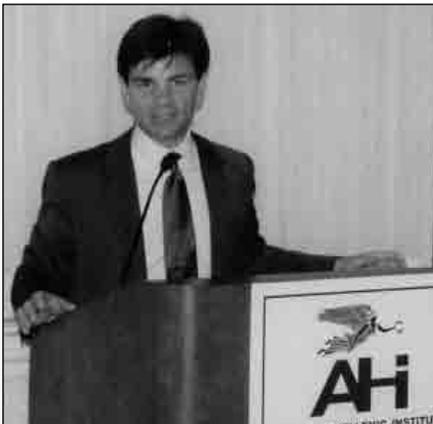
Since 1989, the AHI Business Network has hosted numerous luncheons, receptions and meetings throughout the U.S., Greece, Australia and Canada. The AHI Business Network has successfully brought Greek American businessmen and professionals together to exchange



(l-r) Rita Cosby of Fox, Alexis Christoforou of CBS MarketWatch, AHI Executive Director, Nick Larigakis, 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.

ideas, 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 titled "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 between the U.S. and Cyprus. The *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

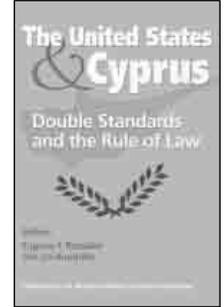
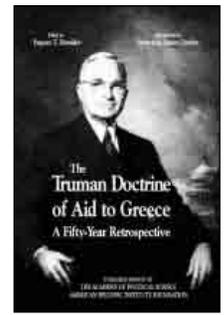
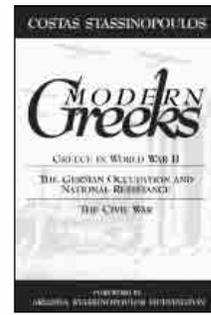
The American Hellenic Institute has hosted a series of Noon Forums, book signings and other events at Hellenic House for discussion of international issues relating to Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as historical and cultural themes. The AHI has also hosted a number of Capitol Hill Briefings to reach out to Hill staff and policymakers regarding U.S. relations with Greece, Cyprus and Turkey.



Eleni Gage with her father, Nicholas Gage, and AHI staff after her book presentation.

## PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

AHIF has developed an active publications 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 *Handbook 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 and 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 Cypriot government officials, university libraries, domestic and Greek media, and to our members.

## HOSTING VISITING DIGNITARIES

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.



Round table discussion at Hellenic House with Greek Minister of Economy George Alogoskoufis in 2005.

## COOPERATION WITH GREEK AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

AHI works in close cooperation with the Order of Ahepa, the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), the Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWC) and the various regional societies. In 1994, President of HANC Ted G. Spyropoulos announced that it designated AHI to coordinate lobbying efforts in Washing-

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,



poulos contributed \$227,000, or thirty percent of the cost of the building. In 2004, the remainder of Hellenic House's mortgage was paid off in full, signifying a new chapter for AHI characterized by new opportunities for growth and expansion of programs 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.



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

ton with the Congress and the Executive Branch on 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 monitoring legislation and congressional hearings, acting as liaisons with Congressional offices, and

Washington, D.C. just a few blocks away from the White House, became the new permanent headquarters of AHI and its affiliates on October 1, 1994. Mr. Spyro-



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

## American Hellenic Institute



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