

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE FOUNDATION



AHi
ANNUAL
REPORT
2008

Including AHI History 1974-2007



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ANNUAL REPORT 2008



INTRODUCTION

Dear Members and Friends:

It affords me great pleasure to present you with the 2008 AHI Annual Report that encapsulates AHI's plethora of policy-based initiatives that seek to advance the best interests of the United States on issues of importance to Greek-Americans.

In 2008, AHI issued 82 press releases detailing our numerous activities. These activities included:

- Our 33rd Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner to pay tribute to the major accomplishment of distinguished Greek Americans and friends of the Greek American community;
- Our 7th annual "Future of Hellenism in America" conference;
- Our 4th Annual Awards Dinner in Athens;
- Our annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" on Capitol Hill;
- Two very successful Business Network events featuring Stelios Haji-Ioannou of the easygroup of companies in New York and Mr. John Calamos of Calamos Investments, in Philadelphia;
- Our annual trip to Greece and Cyprus; and
- Our numerous public policy "Noon Forums."

At AHI, the majority of our efforts focus on advancing U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus as in the best interests of the U.S., and to supporting the Greek American community. To this effect, we have engaged policy makers in the administration and Congress through numerous action alerts, letters, testimony, and through face-to-face meetings with more than 70 Congressional staff persons over the course of the past year.

In addition, we hosted a timely seminar to commemorate the 34-year-long tragedy of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey titled, "**Cyprus 34 Years Later: What Is Needed for a Solution.**" The seminar featured policy experts and members of Congress, all of who provided their insight and perspective on the Cyprus issue.

Our "Noon Forum" series continues to address policy, historic and cultural themes to educate the community and promote awareness of issues of concern and interest to Greek Americans. Topics covered in 2008 included Cyprus settlement efforts, FYROM, stability in the Balkans, Imbros and Tenedos, Greece's role in the Balkans, OXI Day, and much, much more.

A special presentation was also hosted by AHI on Capitol Hill to commemorate the Smyrna Catastrophe of 1922 with featured guest speaker Giles Milton presenting his recently published book—*Paradise Lost, Smyrna 1922*.

In addition, we had a parade of visiting dignitaries—perhaps the most ever—from Greece call on us at Hellenic House. This included numerous ministers, deputy ministers, and scholars. A highlight visit was from General Dimitrios Grapsas, Chief of the Hellenic National Defense Staff, in early September.

Moreover, AHI leaders had a number of important meetings with State Department officials, including Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John D. Negroponte at the State Department. Separate meetings at Hellenic House were held with the new U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus, Frank C. Urbancic, and the new U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission to Athens, Deborah McCarthy.

On a sad note, AHI felt the sorrow brought on by the passing of leaders and experts near and dear to us, including former President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and AHIF Senior Fellow Professor Charles Moskos.

2009: New Opportunities, Challenges in Quest to Impact Policy

AHI members and friends can expect more than a carbon copy of 2008 as we plan and execute our activities for 2009.

Looking forward, 2009 promises to be a unique year. We are always looking for new ways to improve service to our membership base, to better address our core agenda, and to constantly cultivate new opportunities to positively influence both the Greek American community, and U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus.

However, in 2009, the foreign policy challenges will continue to intensify as the 34-year illegal occupation of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey continues. In addition, Turkey's violations in the Aegean have increased, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate's religious mission continues to be severely restricted by Turkish authorities. Furthermore, the FYROM issue will take on an added urgency in 2009 as that country's aspirations to join NATO and the EU will continue.

Also, with a new Administration, there are many new challenges. AHI will be engaging a whole new set of foreign policy players in Washington, reaching out to educate them on our issues.

As executive director, I am deeply grateful and appreciative of the members, officers and staff for their dedication, all of who worked to make 2008 another memorable year. Alongside AHI's own activities in Washington, our strength relies on the many significant contributions and support of our members. We also look to you to communicate your suggestions, share your knowledge, and provide your insights to us so that we can continue to fulfill the needs of our most valuable asset—our members.

Thank you.
Warmest regards,

Nick Larigakis, *Executive Director*

Public Policy



THE 2008 GREEK AMERICAN POLICY STATEMENTS

On February 26, AHI President Gene Rossides issued the *2008 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 2008 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 2008 were prepared by AHI and endorsed by: the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), the Cyprus 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 United Hellenic Federation of California, the Chios Societies of America, Inc., the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), and AHI. The organizations endorsing these statements represent leading Hellenic American membership-based organizations with members in all fifty states.

GREECE-TURKEY RELATIONS

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 interest 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

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, AHI organized a public policy on Cyprus featuring leading Think-Tank organizations and members of Congress. Moreover, AHI’s commitment to the Cyprus issue is reflected by its delegation trip to Cyprus in June 2008. Furthermore, as reunification talks resumed in 2008, AHI urged U.N. officials to firmly restrict the Turkish government’s engagement in the process.

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. Furthermore, AHI continued its advocacy for the American-Owned Property in Cyprus Claims Act 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 work

towards a resolution of this long-standing issue. For example, AHI leaders placed significant emphasis on the Cyprus issue during a meeting with Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, and hosted U.S. Ambassador-designate to Cyprus Frank C. Urbancic at Hellenic House.

MACEDONIAN INITIATIVES

Throughout 2008, 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 a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice focused on the administration’s failure to properly address the issue and the submission of written testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations opposing U.S. aid to FYROM. Also, AHI sent letters to the campaigns of the U.S. presidential candidates to ascertain their positions on the FYROM issue as well as other Hellenic issues.

A January 22 action alert urged AHI members to contact their members of Congress to co-sponsor H.Res.356/S.Res.300 regarding FYROM’s use of materials that violate provisions of a U.N.-brokered Interim Agreement between FYROM and Greece. A letter to the editor from AHI was published in *The Washington Times*, and AHI joined with several other Greek-American organizations to place an advocacy ad, also in *The Washington Times*.

AHI also specifically addressed the FYROM name issue in its yearly *Greek American Policy Statements*.

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 *2008 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.”

In 2008, AHI continued its efforts to raise awareness of religious restrictions in Turkey on numerous occasions. For example, AHI asked its members to contact members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urging the senators to raise questions about Turkey’s religious restrictions during the confirmation hearing of Ambassador-designate to Turkey James Jeffrey. Furthermore, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis ensured that this issue was part of the dialogue during a Capitol Hill forum held by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus Task Force. Finally, AHI sent a letter to Mr. Michael

Cromartie, chair, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, citing examples within the 2008 International Religious Freedom Report that demonstrate Turkey’s minimal progress in this area.

LETTERS, STATEMENTS AND ACTION ALERTS



AHI sent numerous letters to President George W. Bush, administration officials, and members of Congress throughout 2008, including presidential candidates. 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:

2008 Letters:

- **January 4:** AHI sent a letter to President George W. Bush regarding his January 8 meeting with Turkish President Abdullah Gul. The letter aimed to raise awareness of issues affecting U.S. interests in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.
- **January 31:** A letter is sent to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice focused on the administration’s failure to properly address the name issue regarding FYROM as it relates to U.S. interests.
- **March 27:** AHI releases a letter sent to Dr. Cristian Samper, acting secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, regarding the lecture, “A Glimpse into Macedonia, Past and Present,” and urged the Smithsonian to cancel the lecture due to historical inaccuracies it presented.
- **April 2:** Letter to Mr. Michael Cromartie, chair, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, cited examples within the 2008 International Religious Freedom Report illustrating Turkey’s minimal progress in this area.
- **August 18:** AHI sent letter to President Bush which compared Russia’s August invasion of Georgia to Turkey’s invasion of Cyprus in 1974. The letter urged President Bush to call for the immediate removal of Turkish troops and settlers from Cyprus in accordance with the rule of law.
- **September 15:** AHI sent letters to the campaigns of U.S. presidential candidates Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama, presenting them with a series of policy statements regarding issues of importance to the Greek American community.
- **November 11:** Letter sent to the Chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces, Gene Taylor (D-MS), regarding two OSPREY mine hunter ships. Original legislation included Greece one country of many to receive two of these ships. But regrettably, the final legislation did not include the authorization to transfer the vessels to Greece. No other naval vessel transfers to the other countries included in the original legislation were excluded; only Greece.

2008 Statements:

- **January 29:** AHI expressed deep sorrow on the passing of Archbishop of Athens and All Greece Christodoulos.
- **June 2:** AHI expressed deep sorrow on the passing of Professor Charles Moskos, and AHIF Senior Fellow of Greek American Studies.
- **July 25:** AHI announced that the Supreme President of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), Mr. Ike Gulas, endorsed AHI's 2008 Greek American Policy Statements. AHI congratulated Supreme President Gulas on his re-election.
- **October 7:** AHI urged United Nations officials monitoring Cyprus reunifications talks to firmly restrict the Turkish government's engagement in the process. In the same statement, AHI released a set of principles to guide the talks.
- **December 12:** AHI mourned the passing of former President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos.

2008 Action Alerts:

- **January 22:** To increase co-sponsorship of H.Res.356/S.Res.300, regarding FYROM's use of materials that violate provisions of the U.N.-brokered Interim Agreement between FYROM and Greece.
- **September 22:** To request AHI supporters contact members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee regarding the confirmation hearing for new U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, James F. Jeffrey, and asking senators to submit questions that urge a critical review of U.S. policy to Turkey.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Congress Honors Greek Independence Day

Congress unanimously passed H.Res.1024 and S.Res.476 to honor Greek Independence Day during the week of March 10. The two resolutions acknowledged Greece's alliance with the U.S. in every major war, and its contributions to its neighbors and the world.

AHI Testimony Submitted to House Subcommittee

On March 20, 2008, Nick Larigakis submitted testimony on behalf of AHI to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Related Programs. In the interests of the United States, AHI testimony opposed:

- \$15 million in military assistance the Bush administration requested for Turkey;
- \$23.3 million the administration has requested for FYROM;
- Reduction in the aid levels for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus from \$6.4 million in FY2008 down to \$4.5 million for FY2009; and
- Elimination of funding for the VOA Greek Service.

In the interests of the United States, AHI's testimony also supported \$11 million for Cyprus as long as it is tied exclusively to bicomunal projects of the island as mandated by

U.S. law, which states that U.S. funds support only "measures aimed at reunification."

AHI New England Chapter Hosts "Grassroots Lobbying 101"

On April 17, AHI's New England Chapter hosted Nick Larigakis who presented a seminar titled, "Grassroots Lobbying 101." The seminar concentrated on how to effectively approach and inform U.S. legislators of issues important to the Greek American community. Following the seminar, Mr. Larigakis spoke at Alpha Omega Council meeting.

AHI Meets with Pennsylvania Congressman Sestak



(l-r) Nick Larigakis, Stavroula Kotrotsios, Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) and Paul Kotrotsios.

Nick Larigakis and longtime AHI member and Paul Kotrotsios met with Rep. Joe Sestak at the congressman's district office in Media, Pa., on April 20. Kotrotsios arranged the meeting where the congressman was briefed on issues of concern to the Greek American community. Rep. Sestak indicated his support for AHI's position on the FYROM name issue.

AHI Meets with Former No. 2 at State Department Negroponte

On September 4, AHI leadership met with then U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte at the Department of State. The one hour meeting covered all aspects of AHI's policy agenda with a major emphasis on the Cyprus issue. Specifically, AHI urged the U.S. government to pressure Turkey to see through the following: immediate removal of all Turkish troops from Cyprus, prompt return to Turkey of more than 160,000 illegal Turkish settlers in Cyprus, the Turkish government's safeguarding the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the re-



AHI's meeting with Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte.

opening of the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology, and the return of church properties that were illegally seized. Moreover, AHI advocated for the U.S.'s support for Greece on the FYROM name issue, the recognition of the maritime boundary in the Aegean Sea as established by international treaties, and support to stop Turkish violations against Greece's airspace and territorial integrity. AHI Founder/President Gene Rossides, General Counsel Nicholas G. Karambelas, and Executive Director Nick Larigakis represented AHI.

General News

Ambassadors' Briefing

On March 15, AHI hosted a breakfast briefing at the Capital Hilton as part of the 33rd 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.

U.S.-Russian Relations and the Balkans

On April 15, AHI hosted a Noon Forum on "Improving U.S.-Russian Relations: A Key to Balkan Stability" presented by Doug Bandow, Robert A. Taft Fellow, American Conservative Defense Alliance.

AHI Co-Sponsors Venizelos Lecture at Wilson Center

AHI, in cooperation with the Woodrow Wilson Center, co-sponsored Greek Parliament Member Evangelos Venizelos' guest lecture at the Wilson Center on April 20. The lecture was titled, "Is the U.S. Already an EU Member?"

The Fate of the Greeks of Imbros and Tenedos



(l-r) Ambassador Alexandros Mallias, Professor Van Coufoudakis, and Nick Larigakis.

On May 7, AHI hosted a Noon Forum on "International Law and Minority Protection: The Fate of the Greeks of Imbros and Tenedos" by Professor Van Coufoudakis, Rector Emeritus, Intercollege in Nicosia, Cyprus; and Dean Emeritus, School of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University.

College Year in Athens: 45 Years and Running

AHI hosted Alexis Phylactopoulos, president, College Year in Athens (CYA) program, at a Noon Forum on May 28. He discussed "College Year in Athens: 45 Years in the Service of U.S.-Greek Cultural Relations."



(l-r) CYA Chairman Chris Todd, Gene Rossides, CYA President Alexis Phylactopoulos, Jim Marketos, Nick Larigakis.

AHI Support of AHEP Academy

For a second year in a row, AHI worked with AHEP Academy to coordinate an all-day program on June 24. AHI helped introduce 15 Greek-American high school students to Washington's diplomatic and policy-making world. This included briefings at the Embassies of Greece and Cyprus, and a dinner where U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Zack Space (D-OH) addressed the students. AHEP Academy is sponsored by the Order of AHEPA.

AHI Draws Attention to Ongoing Religious Restrictions by Turkey

In AHI's latest effort to raise awareness about Turkey's continuing restrictions of religious freedom against the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its ongoing destruction of religious heritage in occupied areas of Cyprus, AHI representatives attended a Capitol Hill forum sponsored by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus Task Force on International Religious Freedom. The forum titled, "Religious Freedom in Turkey: With a New Government in Power Has Anything Changed for Religious Believers?" was held July 8. During a Q&A session with 50 congressional staff persons and advocates, Nick Larigakis raised awareness of Turkey's unlawful treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the desecration and looting of more than 500 Orthodox churches in Turkish-occupied Cyprus.

AHI Honors U.S. Rep. Zack Space of Ohio

AHI presented U.S. Representative Zack Space (D-OH) with the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award in recognition of his outstanding commitment to public service and his work to strengthen U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. AHI presented the award on July 16, in conjunction



(l-r) Nick Larigakis, Jim Marketos, Rep. Zack Space, Gene Rossides and Dr. John Brademas.

with its policy forum on Cyprus issue. Rep. Space accepted the award on behalf of his grandfather, a Greek immigrant who realized the American Dream and continues to inspire the congressman today.

1922 Smyrna Catastrophe Commemorated



(l-r) Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Giles Milton, Nick Larigakis.

On September 24, AHI hosted a Capitol Hill event in cooperation with *Greek America* magazine and its publisher, Greg Pappas, to commemorate the Smyrna catastrophe of 1922. The event featured guest speaker Giles Milton, author of the book *Paradise Lost, Smyrna 1922*. The book revolves around the tragic ethnic cleansing of the Greek and Armenian populations in Smyrna and culminates with events that lead to the destruction of the city. Milton is a journalist and *New York Times* best-selling author. Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairs Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) offered remarks.

AHI Commemorates OXI Day Anniversary



Gregory C. Pappas holding a letter from the Allied Supreme Commander of the Mediterranean theater to his grandmother thanking her for the role she played in helping allied forces during WWII.

On October 28, 2008, AHI hosted a Noon Forum at Hellenic House commemorating the 68th anniversary of OXI Day, featuring guest speaker Gregory C. Pappas, publisher of *Greek America* magazine. The topic of the presentation was “OXI Day and the Importance of Preserving Our History and Legacy.” A highlight of his presentation was an exhibit displaying a collection of propaganda posters from the Greek War Relief Association. The posters are a part of the bigger traveling exhibition entitled “Defenders of Democracy: The US Response to Greece’s Role in World War II.”

HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS

Greek Secretary General Dimitrios Katsoudas

On January 16, Dimitrios Katsoudas, Secretary General for European Affairs, Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Hellenic House for a meeting with Gene Rossides and Nick Larigakis. The meeting centered on the FYROM name issue.



(l-r) AHI President Gene Rossides, Secretary General for European Affairs Dimitrios Katsoudas, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis and Ambassador Alexandros Mallias.

Ambassador Alexandros Mallias, Defense Attaché Col. Ilias Leontaris, and Second Secretary of the Greek Embassy Panagiotis Giotopoulos accompanied Mr. Katsoudas.

Greek Deputy Minister of Development



(l-r) Nick Larigakis, Nikolaos Tritaris, Stavros Kalafatis, Gene Rossides, Karlos Gadis, and James Marketos.

On March 5, Greek Deputy Minister of Development Stavros Kalafatis visited AHI and discussed Greece’s interest to pursue energy and alternative energy resources, and the role the country can play in the region in this sector. DCM Karolos Gadis and Director of the Development Minister’s Office Nikolaos Tritaris accompanied Deputy Minister Kalafatis. James Marketos, Gene Rossidis, and Nick Larigakis represented AHI.

Greek Development Minister Leads Delegation to AHI

A delegation led by Greek Minister of Development Christos Folias visited Hellenic House on March 24. The delegation in-



(l-r) Nick Karambelas, Ambassador of Greece Alexandros Mallias, Nick Larigakis, Vasiliki Tsaganos, Development Minister Christos Folias, Gene Rossides, Maria Papathanassiou, Maria Stamoulas, Spiro Rizopoulos and Aki Bayz at Hellenic House, March 24, 2008.

cluded Spiridon Rizopoulos and Nikolaos Lerios, advisors to the minister; and Sotiris Folias, the minister's son. Ambassador Alexandros Mallias accompanied the delegation. The timely topic of the energy sector and Greece's regional role in the sector were discussed.

Greek Deputy Minister of Agriculture



(l-r) James Marketos, Nick Karambelas, Deputy Chief of Mission to the Greek Embassy Karolos Gadis, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Konstantinos Kiltidis and Nick Larigakis.

The effort to prevent wide-spread forest fires in Greece was the topic of discussion when Greek Deputy Minister of Agriculture Konstantinos Kiltidis visited AHI with Greek Embassy DCM Karolos Gadis on April 10.

Parliament Member Evangelos Venizelos Briefs AHI

Member of Hellenic Parliament Evangelos Venizelos visited Hellenic House to meet with AHI leadership on April 21. Mr. Venizelos briefed the leadership on FYROM, Western Thrace, Cyprus, the Aegean, and the importance of promoting Greek issues to the Greek American community. Greek Embassy DCM Karolos Gadis and Political Officer Christina Simantiraki accompanied Mr. Venizelos.

U.S. Ambassador-Designate Frank Urbancic



(l-r) Nick Karambelas, Nick Larigakis, Gene Rossides, Ambassador Designate Urbancic, Terry Netos and James Marketos.

On July 8, U.S. Ambassador-Designate to Cyprus, Frank C. Urbancic, met with AHI leadership and staff at Hellenic House to discuss U.S. relations with Cyprus. AHI emphasized the importance of an equitable and viable solution to the Cyprus problem for the U.S. AHI Chairman James Marketos, President Gene Rossides, General Counsel Nick Karambelas, Executive Director Nick Larigakis, and staff met with Mr. Urbancic. Cyprus Desk Officer Terry Netos accompanied the ambassador-designate.

New Deputy Chief of Mission to Athens Welcomed



(l-r) Nick Karambelas, Gene Rossides, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Deborah A. McCarthy, Nick Larigakis, Jim Marketos.

The Department of State's new Deputy Chief of Mission to Athens, Deborah McCarthy, visited AHI on July 21 for a meeting with AHI's leadership and staff. AHI presented its position on the FYROM name issue, the Aegean Sea boundary dispute with Turkey, U.S.-Turkey relations, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Visa Waiver Program, and Cyprus issue. James Marketos, Gene Rossides, Nick Karambelas, Nick Larigakis, and staff attended the meeting.

Greece's Deputy Minister of Economy & Finance



(l-r) Nick Larigakis, Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance Antonis Bezas, Gene Rossides.

Hellenic House hosted a visit from Greece's Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance Antonis Bezas on September 15. U.S. relations with Greece were discussed. Mr. Bezas met with Gene Rossides and Nick Larigakis.

Greece's Chief of the General Staff Dimitrios Grapsas

The salient topic of Greece's importance as the U.S.'s key strategic, political, and economic ally in Southeast Europe and Eastern Mediterranean was discussed when General Dimitrios Grapsas, chief, Hellenic National Defense General Staff, visited Hellenic House on September 16. Brig. Gen. Alexandros Tsigaras, director, General Staff's Defense Policy Division; Col. Dimitrios Thomaidis, Ambassador Alexandros Mallias, and the Greek Embassy's Defense Attaché, Col. Ilias Leontaris, accompanied Gen. Grapsas. James Marketos, Gene Rossides, Nick Karambelas, Nick Larigakis, and staff attended the meeting.



(l-r) Nick Larigakis, General Dimitrios Grapsas, Gene Rossides, Ambassador of Greece Alexandros Mallias, Nick Karambelas, James Marketos.

Greek Deputy Minister of Defense



Nick Larigakis and Gene Rossides present Deputy Minister Plakiotakis with a framed picture of the White House.

On October 22, Deputy Minister of Greece's National Defense Ioannis Plakiotakis visited Hellenic House for an in-depth meeting on topics including: strengthening U.S. relations with Greece, Greece's role in the Middle East, Turkish violations of Hellenic air space, and the continued presence of Turkish troops in Cyprus. Following the meeting, AHI hosted a luncheon in honor of Deputy Minister Plakiotakis and his delegation.

New U.S. Ambassador to Turkey James Jeffrey

On November 17, the new American Ambassador to Turkey, James Jeffrey, visited Hellenic House. The primary topic of discussion focused on the Ecumenical Patriarchate and religious freedom in Turkey. Other agenda items included: U.S. relations with Greece and Turkey, the Cyprus issue, the Aegean Sea boundary dispute, and property law in Turkey. Turkish Desk Officer Denise Marsh and Senior Greek Desk Officer Adam Scarlatelli accompanied Ambassador Jeffrey. AHI Chairman James Marketos, Founder/President Gene Rossides, Legal Counsel Nicholas Karambelas, and Executive Director Nick Larigakis greeted and met with the ambassador.

CONFERENCES

AHI Forum on Cyprus 34 Years Later

On July 16, AHI hosted a timely forum in Washington titled, "Cyprus 34 Years Later: What Is Needed for a Solution?"



(l-r) Rep. Zack Space, John Brademas, Doug Bandow, Ted Galen Carpenter and Gene Rossides.

The forum featured experts including, Dr. Ted Galen Carpenter, vice president for foreign policy and defense studies, CATO Institute; Doug Bandow, Robert A. Taft fellow, American Conservative Defense Alliance; and Gene Rossides, founder/president, AHI. President Emeritus of New York University and Former Congressman Dr. John Brademas moderated the panel discussion. The audience also heard remarks from His Excellency Andreas Kakouris, ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S., and U.S. Representatives Zack Space (D-OH) and John Sarbanes (D-MD). Space and Sarbanes called for the removal of Turkish troops and settlers, and commended AHI for its contributions to keeping Cyprus at the forefront of issues in Washington. Excerpts of speakers' remarks can be found at <www.aheworld.org>.

The Future of Hellenism in America

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation hosted its Seventh Annual Conference on the **Future of Hellenism in America** on November 22. AHI held the conference in Boston, and in cooperation with the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, The Behrakis Foundation, and co-sponsored by the Hellenic American National Council and *The Hellenic Voice*.



Michael S. Dukakis.

Each year the conference organizers make a stop in a different U.S. city to spread ideas and gather input from the local Greek American community on the various challenges facing Hel-



Christine Kondoleon giving a tour of the George & Margo Behrakis Wing of Greek and Roman Art and Art of the Ancient World for the conference speakers at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.



Roundtable Panel: Rev. Nicholas Triantafyllou, Alexander Kitroeff, George D. Behrakis, and Van Coufoudakis.

lenism 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 tour of the George & Margo Behrakis Wing of Greek and Roman Art and Art of the Ancient World at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Following the tour, Mr. and Mrs. Behrakis hosted a dinner for the speakers at the museum. 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 covered the following topics:

- Greek Institutional Diversity and the Challenges Ahead.
- The Future of Greek American Organizations.
- The Image of Hellenism: Hellenic Culture, the Media, Sports, and the Next Generation.
- The Importance of Being Active in the Political Process.
- The Image of Hellenism: Religious Identity.
- Greek Education in America.
- A Perspective from Young Greek Americans.
- Round Table Discussion with Audience.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation thanks the following conference benefactors: Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, The Behrakis Foundation, Nicholas J. Bouras, Summit, N.J.; Nicholas Chimicles, Devon, PA; James and Nike Lagos, Springfield, OH; Jim Pedas, Washington, DC; Ted Pedas, Washington, DC; Gene Rossides, Washington, DC; and Ted G. Spyropoulos, Chicago, IL.

For a summary of the conference proceedings, please visit the 2008 Press Release section of <www.aheworld.org>.

AWARDS DINNERS

33rd Anniversary Awards Dinner

On March 15, 2008, AHI honored distinguished Greek Americans and philhellenes at its 33rd Anniversary Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards Dinner, held in Washington, D.C. This year's honorees included:

- Anna Lea, president, The Society for the Preservation of the Greek Heritage (SPGH).
- U.S. Representative Zack Space, 18th Congressional District of Ohio (D).
- Anthony S. Papadimitriou, president, Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation.
- Melina Kanakaredes, critically acclaimed, award-winning actress.
- His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, receiving the first ever AHI Religious Freedom Award.



(l-r) Melina Kanakaredes, Archbishop Demetrios, Anna Lea and Anthony Papadimitriou.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was John Metaxas, who is an Attorney at Law for Allegaert Berger & Vogel and Anchor/Reporter at WCBS and WCBS-TV. AHI President/Founder Gene Rossides welcomed the evening's guests, dedicating the dinner to the late George Paraskevaides, one of AHI's leading benefactors, with a moment of silence. Mr. Rossides also recognized former Congressman John Brademas, who was responsible for successfully leading the rule of law arms embargo legislation against Turkey 33 years ago in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The weekend's events also included a reception and dinner at the Greek Embassy on March 14. The dinner was hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Alexandros Mallias in honor of AHI for its significant contributions to strengthening U.S.-Greece relations.

Fourth Annual AHI-Athens Awards Dinner

On June 11, the Fourth Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards Dinner was held at the Grande Bretagne Hotel. The event honored world-renowned composer Vangelis and presented him with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award for his "exceptional artistic achievements" as a pioneer in electronic music and for his lifelong dedication to the promotion of Hellenism through the arts. Also, Kitty Kyriacopoulos, honorary chairman of S&B Industrial Minerals S.A., was honored for her excellence in business and philanthropy, and promotion of



Kitty Kyriacopoulos (center) receives the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award from Ted Spyropoulos (left) and Gene Rossides (right).



Vangelis (on right) receives the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award from Gene Rossides (left) and Ted Spyropoulos (center).

Hellenism. 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

Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day



(l-r) Nick Larigakis, Rep. Ileana Ross-Lehtinen, Deputy Minister Konstantinos Kiltidis, Ambassador Alexandros Mallias, Rep. Hilda Solis, John Sarbanes.

On April 9, AHI hosted its annual Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day on Capitol Hill to celebrate the 187th Anniversary of Greek Independence and the common democratic ideals held by Greece and the U.S. The event was held in cooperation with the Congressional Hellenic Caucus's co-sponsors, Representatives Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). More than 200 people were in attendance, which featured Greece's Deputy Minister of Agri-

culture, Mr. Konstantinos Kiltidis, as special guest speaker.

Members of Congress attending the reception and addressing the audience included (in order of appearance): Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA), Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA), Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Rep. Diane Watson (D-CA), Rep. Zack Space (D-OH), Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI), and Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA).

Fifth Annual AHI Benefit Golf Tournament



Golfers at AHI's Fifth Annual Tournament.

On October 17, AHI hosted its Fifth Annual AHI Benefit Golf Tournament at the Greendale Golf Course in Alexandria, Va. Christine Brennan, award-winning journalist and USA TODAY sports columnist, was featured as the event's "Celebrity Golfer" for the third year in a row. The winning team in the scramble format competition consisted of Patrick Bransford, Ray Vanags, Barry Hargreaves, and Jamie Dilla. Longest Drive went to Thomas Pellicane and the Closest to the Pin went to Nan Piao. Proceeds from the tournament each year help to fund AHI's broad range of activities.

VISITS TO GREECE AND CYPRUS

June 3-12

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.

On June 3-6, meetings in Nicosia were held with: President Demetris Christofias, Chairman of Cyprus' House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs Averof Neophytou, U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Ronald Schlicher, Archbishop Chrysostomos II, Deputy Mayor of Nicosia Stelios Ieronymides, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Antonis Paschalides, President of the Cyprus House of Representatives Marios Garoyian, and various political party leaders and former foreign ministry officials.

The delegation was in Athens the week of June 9 and held a series of meetings with the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Theodoros Kassimis, Director of the A2 Cyprus Directorate Dimitris Giannakakis, Director of the A7 Directorate for North America



The AHI delegation met with President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias. (l-r) Gus Andy, Nick Larigakis, Takey Crist, President Christofias, Kostas Alexakis, James Balodimas.



(l-r) Ilias Malevitis, Steve Veletsis, Nick Larigakis, Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Theodoros Kassimis, Kostas Alexakis, Gus Andy.

Grigorios Vassilokonstantakis, Director of the A3 Directorate for Southeastern Europe Countries Eleftherios Aggelopoulos, and Director of the A4 Directorate for Relations with Turkey Georgios Kaklikis. Moreover, the delegation received audiences with U.S. Ambassador Daniel Speckhard, President of Hellenic Parliament Demetris Sioufas, and Minister of Culture Michalis Liapis, among others. The AHI-Athens Chapter hosted its Fourth Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner on June 11 at the Grande Bretagne Hotel.

Delegation Participants: In Cyprus, the delegation included AHI Advisory Committee Member Kostas Alexakis, longtime AHI members Gus Andy, Dr. James Balodimas, Dr. Takey Crist, and AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis. In Athens, Messrs. Alexakis, Andy, and were joined by AHI member Steve Veletsis and AHI President/Founder Gene Rossides.

November 27-December 6

On November 27, Mr. Larigakis began his annual end-of-the-year trip to Greece and Cyprus, where he met with government officials, business leaders, and media outlets to discuss the organization's goals and objectives, and focused on engendering new areas of mutual cooperation and development between Greek and Cypriot leaders and the Greek American community. Mr. Larigakis kept a busy schedule, for example, attending 12 meetings on a single day in Athens (December 1).

A highlight visit was held at the Greek Parliament with the Chairman of the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad, Nikos Tsiartsionis. The meeting took place in the committee room. Also, during this visit, Mr. Larigakis was interviewed by the Greek Parliament TV, the equivalent to C-SPAN on Capitol Hill. Moreover, Mr. Larigakis also visited with the U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Daniel Speckhard, at the U.S. Embassy. A visit was also made to the American College of



(l-r) Deputy Defense Minister, Ioannis Plakiotakis, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Konstantinos Kiltidis, President of AHI Athens Chapter, Ilias Malevitis, and Vice President AHI Athens Chapter, George Economou.



(l-r) Ilias Malevitis, Nick Larigakis, Doug Bandow, Athanasios (Tom) Ellis, and Dimitris Dimas.

Greece where Mr. Larigakis met with Nicholas Jiavaras, the Executive Vice President.

On December 3, AHI, in cooperation with the AHI Athens Chapter, hosted a panel presentation and reception at the Grande Bretagne Hotel. The topic presented was *The New U.S. Administration: The Impact on U.S. Relations with Greece*. The panel presenters included Doug Bandow, Taft Fellow, American Conservative Defense Alliance and former Special Assistant to President Ronald Reagan; Dimitris Dimas, Washington Editor, *Eleftherotypia* newspaper; Athanasios (Tom) Ellis, Washington Bureau Chief, *Kathimerini* newspaper and Antenna TV. Mr. Larigakis moderated the panel discussion. More than 130 AHI members and friends attended.

MEDIA RELATIONS

In 2008, AHI issued a total of 82 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:

- *New York Times* (April 3): "Shame on Greece: Messing with Macedonia," by Nick Larigakis.

- *The Washington Times* (May 21): “Greece is no bully,” by Nick Larigakis, which was published in response to a column titled, “A new to reckon with.”
- *The Washington Times* (August 3): “Turkey’s role in Cyprus,” by Nick Larigakis, which was published in response to Bruce Fein’s commentary titled, “Needing an excuse for success.”

AHI Op-Eds, Commentaries and Media Placement

Nearly 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*, *The Greek Star* 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.

Moreover, on February 15, AHI joined with other Greek American organizations in placing a one-page advocacy ad in *The Washington Times* that featured an open letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice regarding FYROM. The letter coincided with a meeting with Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis.

Finally, Executive Director Nick Larigakis received media placement in domestic and international media outlets. For example, Larigakis was quoted in the *Newark Star Ledger*, July 20 edition, praising Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) for his position on the FYROM name issue. In addition, during his December overseas trip, Larigakis provided an in-depth interview to the Cyprus News Agency on a scope of topics ranging from the Cyprus issue and the bearing of the presidential election on that issue to FYROM to U.S. relations with Turkey.

LEADERSHIP AND AWARDS

The Argonauts Association Honors Larigakis

On March 1, 2008, the Argonauts Association of Magnesia honored Executive Director Nick Larigakis at its 14th Annual Dinner Dance in New York. Larigakis was born in Volos, and his hometown is the town of Glossa on the island of Skopelos, both of which are part of Magnesia, Greece. He was recognized for bringing honor to the Prefecture of Magnesia through his efforts to elevate Hellenism in America and the national issues of Greece.



Nick Larigakis being presented with his award by the Argonaut leadership while his family looks on to the right.

AHI Welcomes New Staff

In September, AHI proudly welcomed two new staff members: Vasilios Kotsatos and C. Franciscos Economides. Mr. Economides is the new director of media relations, and Mr. Kotsatos took the position of administrative assistant.

THE AHI BUSINESS NETWORK

AHI hosted several business networking events in 2008 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 King of “Easy” Tells His Story to AHI

On January 7, the AHI Business Network featured Greek-Cypriot “serial” entrepreneur Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, founder of easy-Jet PLC, Europe’s largest low cost airline, which he started at the age of 28. The event was held in cooperation with AHI’s New York Chapter at the Harvard Club in New York. Haji-Ioannou spoke to the audience about his life and career experiences, which led to his being knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.



Stelios Haji- Ioannou.

Calamos Speaks in Philly

John Calamos, Sr., chairman, chief executive officer, and chief investment officer of Calamos Investments, was the featured speaker at an AHI networking event held April 19 in Philadelphia. In his remarks, Calamos described the path that his career has taken from the early years to his involvement with the business community. He also provided an overview of the market conditions at the time. The event was chaired by Nicholas Chimicles. Welcoming remarks were offered by Dr. Constantine Papadakis, president, Drexel University.



John Calamos speaks at AHI event in Philadelphia.

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.

AHI History: 1974-2007

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, 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 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 count on a daily basis and provided the information to key



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.

supporters in the House and Senate. It was an historic success that should never be forgotten. It proved what could and can be done when we are in the right and

“...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*

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 remark-

able 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 charter similar to AHI's. While both AHI and AHIPAC are authorized to lobby, AHIPAC was formed to concentrate on lobbying.



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

AHIPAC is the only Greek American organization registered with the U.S. Congress under the Lobbying Act.

The **American Hellenic Institute Foundation, Inc. (AHIF)**, established in 1975, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt edu-



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.

cational 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.

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

Through the years, AHI has grown into one of the key Greek American membership organizations. Following, you will find descriptions of some of the programs and publications that 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



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

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."



Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congressman Michael Bilirakis are presented with an AHI award following a breakfast briefing in 2006. (l-r) James Marketos, Sen. Sarbanes, Congressman Bilirakis, Gene Rossides, Nick Larigakis.

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. 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 approved in past years 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, 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 candidates in the House and Senate. In 2006, AHI drafted and distributed the *2006 Questionnaire for Congressional Candidates* to those running in the 2006 mid-term Congressional elections to score their positions on issues important to the Greek American community. In 2007 and 2008, AHI issued a questionnaire to U.S. presidential candidates.

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Each year, AHI hosts its major fundraising event—the Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards



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



Award-winning actress Olympia Dukakis was honored by AHI in 1996.

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



1994 Award Recipient Yanni.



Award recipient John P. Calamos (r) at the Annual Dinner in 2007 with George Stamas.

musician Yanni; award-winning actresses Olympia Dukakis and Melina Kanakaredes; 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; self-made investment guru John P. Calamos, Sr; Fox Filmed Entertainment Chairman James N. Gianopoulos; AOL Vice Chairman Ted Leonsis; Senators Paul Sarbanes and Olympia Snowe; Vice President of the U.S. Joseph Biden; and Congressman Michael Bilirakis, to name just a few.

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.



(l-r) HANC President Ted G. Spyropoulos, former Greek President Kostis Stephanopoulos, AHI President Gene Rossides, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, and Phillip Morakis at the First Annual AHI-Athens Awards Dinner in 2005.

Since 2005, AHI also hosts the AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards annually in Athens at the Grande Bretagne Hotel. This event spotlights the organization and the community's leaders during AHI's annual delegation trip to Greece and Cyprus.

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.



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

porting 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.



(l-r) Congressman Zack Space, Professor Van Coufoudakis, Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, Endy Zemenides and Gene Rossides at the 2007 Hellenism Conference in Chicago.

AHI HONORS AND AWARDS

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 sup-



Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) at center with the Return to Origins Folk Dance Troupe during the Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day in 2006.

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.

CONGRESSIONAL SALUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Annually in late March, AHI welcomes the community, U.S. Congressional leaders and their staff to celebrate the organization's Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day on Capitol Hill. This event commemorates Greece's independence from the Ottoman Empire and the shared democratic ideals held by the U.S. and Greece. The event is held in cooperation with the Congressional Hellenic Caucus's co-sponsors, featuring members of the House of Representatives and Senate who pay tribute to the United



Hellenic Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) in 2007.

States' longstanding friendship with Greece.

CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT LEADERSHIP TEAM (CCLT)

AHI has organized a CCLT program which aims to have at least one grassroots contact in over 400 of the 435 congressional districts and with 98 of the 100 U.S. senators.

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

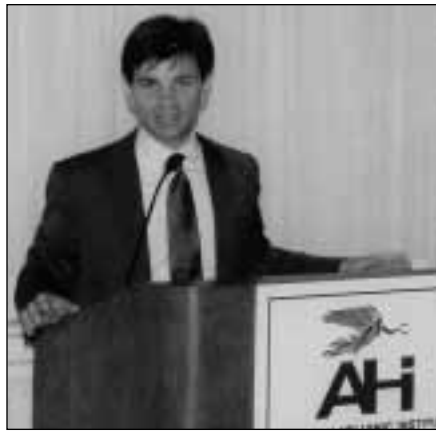


(l-r) Rita Cosby of Fox, Alexis Christoforou of CBS MarketWatch, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis, Dorie Klissas of NBC and John Metaxas of CNBC at a New York Business Network event in 2003.



AHI Business Network events have included topics such as "Investing in Greek Real Estate," presented by Dr. Konstantinos Zacharopoulos in 2006.

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



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

businessmen and professionals together to exchange 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

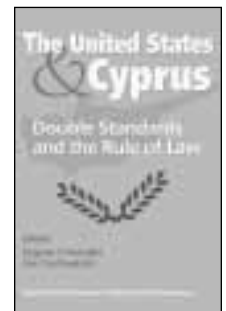
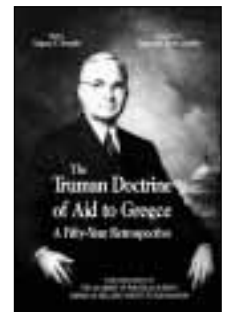
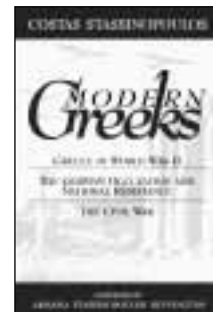


Eleni Gage with her father, Nicholas Gage, and AHI staff after her book presentation.

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.

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 Ex-



ecutive 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 in 2006 with former Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance Christos Folias (on left) and AHI's Gene Rossides.

COOPERATION WITH GREEK AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS



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

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 Washington with the Congress and the Executive Branch on issues concerning the U.S., Greece and Cyprus.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



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

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. The interns participate in a variety of activities such as monitoring legisla-

tion and congressional hearings, acting as liaisons with Congressional offices, and conducting research on issues for Con-

gressional 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, D.C., just a few blocks away from the White House, became the new per-



manent headquarters of AHI and its affiliates on October 1, 1994. Mr. Spyropoulos 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."

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