

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE  
AMERICAN HELLENIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE FOUNDATION



**Annual  
Report  
2000**

# Annual Report 2000

## INTRODUCTION

The American Hellenic Institute and its affiliate organizations are pleased to present the 2000 Annual Report. The AHI had a very active year in 2000. We vigorously pursued our public policy agenda and expanded are many programs to strengthen relations between the U.S., Greece and Cyprus and within the Greek American community.

By establishing clear policy guidelines as set forth in our 2000 Policy Statements, the AHI worked with Congress and the Executive Branch on all matters of concern to the Greek American community. We introduced legislation on the Aegean Sea, which passed as an amendment in the House of Representatives. We also supported other major initiatives seeking to bring a solution to the tragic Cyprus problem.

AHI, in cooperation with the Order of

AHEPA, held three very successful legislative policy conferences, creating within the Greek American community a forum for discussion of the main foreign policy problems in the Southeast European region and how the



community should respond. At Hellenic House we continued our noon public policy forums, inviting key Executive Branch and Congressional officials to offer their remarks on Cyprus, the Aegean and other issues. In 2000 we also engaged the media through a vigorous letter writing campaign. Many of

our letters were published in the op-ed pages of America's best newspapers.

This past year AHI held its inaugural delegation visit to Greece and Cyprus. The trip was a threshold event in expanding our efforts. The delegation engaged in substantive discussions with political, business and academic leaders in both countries and opened a dialogue for advanced cooperation on issues of mutual concern.

As Executive Director I would like to thank our members, officers and staff for their dedication in making 2000 a solid year. Alongside AHI's own activities in Washington, I never forget that our greatest strength is in our members. In 2001 we will put renewed emphasis on the potential for grass roots activism. We look forward to your continued involvement and input at the grass roots level so that we can make 2001 a great year.

—Nicholas Larigakis, *Executive Director*

## Public Policy 2000

### THE YEAR 2000 GREEK AMERICAN POLICY STATEMENTS

On February 9, 2000 the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) released the year 2000 Greek American Policy Statements prepared by AHI and reviewed and approved by the Order of AHEPA and its Cyprus and Hellenic Affairs Committee, the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), the Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWC) and the Cyprus Federation of America, the key membership organizations in the community. In each case the policies set forth were based on the question of what is in the best interests of the United States.

The Policy Statements highlighted the significant changes taking place in the political, security and economic landscape in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean region. They stressed the strategic importance of Greece and Cyprus as regional partners of the United States. As vigorous, prosperous and stable democracies, they are a source of regional political and economic leadership that offers the opportunity to make a decisive advance for U.S. national inter-



ests in the region. The statements contrasted the negative role played by Turkey, which continues to be the prime cause of many of the region's problems. This is in large part because of the Turkish military's constitutional control of foreign and national security policy, as well as its dominant influence over domestic and social policy.

## BRIEFING ON CAPITOL HILL



Nick Chimicles

On March 9, 2000 AHIPAC held a luncheon on Capitol Hill at which Chairman Nick Chimicles presented the Year 2000 Greek American Policy Statements and outlined AHIPAC's legislative priorities for the current session of Congress. Mr. Chimicles highlighted the "unprecedented opportunity" to advance U.S. interests in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean arising from the European Union decision in December 1999. The EU decision sets the stage for making progress on long-standing regional problems such as the Aegean and Cyprus. Mr. Chimicles stated that AHIPAC welcomed this development which reflected long-held AHIPAC positions.

Mr. Chimicles emphasized that Congress now has an important role to play. Peace and progress will not develop of their own accord. The U.S. needs to send a signal that it is actively engaged. Congress should be "more vigilant, not less vigilant; more interested, not less interested."

## GREECE - TURKEY RELATIONS



Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem (L) and his Greek counterpart George Papandreou smile while exchanging documents after the signing of agreements at the Foreign Ministry in Athens Feb. 4 2000.

AFPhoto

AHI followed developments between Greece and Turkey with great interest, including the series of substantive meetings between Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou and Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem. AHI has consistently argued that a normalization of relations between Greece and Turkey should take place on the basis of international law and reversal of aggression. Stable relations between Greece and Turkey will foster the strong U.S. interests in regional peace and prosperity. AHI notes that the fundamental causes of the problems between Greece and Turkey remain unchanged. These are:

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

The European Union agreed to accept Turkey as a candidate for accession under pre-conditions that require Turkey to resolve the Aegean and Cyprus problems before accession talks begin. AHI congratulates Greece for its positive role in this decision. Turkey accepted the EU's pre-conditions. The time has now come for Turkey to fulfill its undertakings.

## THE CYPRUS PROBLEM

Keeping the Cyprus problem in the forefront of the policy debate is one of AHI's key objectives. In March 2000, AHI released an updated 20-page guide entitled: "The Cyprus Problem: The Challenge for U.S. Foreign Policy." In 2000 the AHI closely monitored developments and issued statements as appropriate. On October 4 and December 20 we issued statements. Following are excerpts.

### October 4

"On October 4, 2000 the European Parliament voted (483 to 12 with 33 abstentions) to approve the resolution introduced by the Rapporteur of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defense Policy, Mr. Jacques Poos.

The resolution notes the capacity of the European Union to make a vital contribution to the security of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities within the framework of a peace settlement and the demilitarization of the island. It states that the EU can help resolve the problem of the controlled return of refugees and the repatriation of the settlers, and that it can make a dynamic contribution to the development of the northern part of Cyprus, once reunification has taken place. It also believes that the accession of Cyprus will strengthen stability in the eastern Mediterranean.

The resolution supports early accession for Cyprus on the understanding agreed at the December 1999 Helsinki summit that a solution to the Cyprus problem is not a precondition for accession...and deplores the lack of goodwill on the part of the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey. It urges the Turkish Cypriot community unconditionally to join the delegation of the legal government of Cyprus.

AHI welcomes this resolution, especially its reaffirmation that the accession of Cyprus to the EU is not conditional on the settlement of the Cyprus problem and its call for the settlement to be on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions."

### December 20

"The AmericanHellenicInstitute noted with regret a series of actions in recent weeks emanating from the Turkish Cypriots and Turkish occupation forces. These actions appear designed to raise tensions in Cyprus and to poison the atmosphere for the next roundofproximitytalksinJanuary2001.The actions include:

- The apparent abduction of a Greek Cypriot Mr. Panicos Tziakourmas by Turkish forces in the vicinity of the British sovereign base area;
- Illegal construction works by the Turkish occupation forces in the buffer zone village of Pyla;
- Illegal deployments by the Turkish occupation forces in the region of Strovilia; and.
- Threats by Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Rauf Denktash that he will not attend the next round of talks.

AHI strongly deplores these actions. In 2000 successive rounds of proximity talks under UN auspices, the Cyprus government of President Glafkos Clerides has shown a constructive and positive engagement in the negotiations process. The time has come for the Turkish Cypriot and Turkish side to put aside their intransigence and show the same spirit of goodwill.”

## **TURKEY: EU COMPLIANCE, ARMS SALES & HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **EU Compliance**

AHI initiated a periodic report on May 11, 2000 on Turkish compliance with the conditions established by the European Union in December 1999 in accepting Turkey as a candidate for accession. That report and the second compliance report in October set forth the facts on Turkey's non-compliance with the EU conditions. AHI believes that it is vitally important to focus attention on Turkey's compliance with these conditions. For this purpose and as an aid for policy-makers in the Executive Branch and Congress, AHI will issue quarterly reports of Turkey's compliance record based on events taking place during the period. The reports may be found on our Web site.

### **Arms Sales**



PHOTO DARRYL A. LAROSE

Turkey has selected the American defense contractor Bell-Textron to supply Turkey with 145 attack helicopters for an estimated \$4 billion. Bell-Textron and the Republic of Turkey expect to sign a contract and submit it to the U.S. government for the approval of an export license in 2001.

The AHI has pursued a vigorous campaign to stop the impending arms sale on the grounds that such a sale will have a destabilizing effect on the entire region, and particularly because of Turkey's horrendous human

rights abuses and past use of attack helicopter gunships against civilian Kurdish populations.

The AHI, along with the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), as well as human rights groups such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have vowed to fight approval of an export license.

The AHI sent numerous letters to government officials and members of Congress urging them to oppose the arms sale. News reports coming in that Turkey has once again taken up arms against its Kurdish minority in the Southeast is fueling a renewed urgency to stop the deal. Furthermore, according to the European Commission, Turkey has made no progress on its outstanding human rights problems, which many claim are among the world's worst. In Germany, ruling party SPD president Peter Struck voiced his government's commitment to block a \$7.1 billion tank deal because of Turkey's human rights problems.

Please visit the AHI's Web site at [www.ahi-world.org](http://www.ahi-world.org) and click on its "action alerts" for more information about this issue.

### **Human Rights**

In response to the 52-page country report on Turkey in the 1999 State Department Human Rights Report, released on February 25, 2000, AHI commented that this offers discouraging proof that Turkey has made no real progress on improving its dismal human rights record. The first paragraph highlights the pervasive and anti-democratic role of the military in Turkish governance, stating that "the military exercises substantial influence over government policy and actions."

Subsequent sections list a catalogue of violations of basic human rights, extra-judicial murders, torture, minority persecution, infringements of civil and press liberties, religious persecution, and transgressions on women's issues.

## **GREECE & TERRORISM**

In 2000 Greece was the object of some sustained criticism on the terrorism issue. While AHI understands the full seriousness of terrorism, particularly the November 17th group, AHI took steps to defend Greece's record, responding to errors, omissions and unsubstantiated charges against Greece. AHI sent letters on a regular basis to the Adminis-

tration, Congress and media. The AHI applauds the increased level of cooperation between American and Greek law enforcement in the wake of the memorandum recently signed by Greek Public Order Minister Michalis Chrysohoides and Attorney General Janet Reno.

## **LEGISLATIVE POLICY CONFERENCES**

In preparation for the 2000 presidential and congressional elections, AHI in conjunction with the Order of AHEPA sponsored three legislative conferences in Philadelphia, New York and Boston respectively, to provide information on issues of key interest to the Greek American community.

The conferences covered the following topics:

- Cyprus and American Foreign Policy.
- The E.U. Summit: Implications for U.S. Policy towards Greece, Cyprus and Turkey and the Challenges for the Greek American Community.
- Current Legislative Initiatives regarding Cyprus and the Aegean issues for the 2nd Session of the 106th Congress.
- Workshop on Lobbying.

### **Philadelphia Conference**



(L-r): Manny Stamatakis, George Dariotis, Dr. Constantine Papadakis, and Rep. Rob Andrews.

The Philadelphia conference was held on January 29, 2000. In his remarks at the luncheon, Drexel University President Constantine Papadakis stressed the need for the Greek American community to maintain a vigilant approach to U.S. policy toward Greece, Cyprus and Turkey. He congratulated AHI and AHEPA on the clarity and consistency of their positions.

Congressman Rob Andrews (D-NJ) presented remarks at the conference in which he: (1) congratulated the Greek government on the statesmanship shown at the December

1999 EU Helsinki summit; (2) called on the U.S. to “remember its friends such as Greece and Cyprus who had always fought on the U.S. side and who were taking risks for peace;” (3) criticized Turkey’s “shameful record” shown by its actions over Cyprus, its blockade of Armenia, its oppression of the Kurds, its human rights abuses of its own people, and its jailing of journalists; (4) described as “shameful” the U.S. record of ignoring Turkey’s violations of law and human rights abuses; and (5) said the time had come to recognize Turkey for what it was, namely a “military dictatorship.”

### New York Conference



(L-r): George Dariotis, Cong. Ben Gilman, Nick Larigakis, Dr. Takey Crist

The New York conference took place on February 12, 2000. In addition, to the topics listed above, Mr. Antonis H. Diamataris, Publisher and Editor of *The National Herald* gave a presentation on the Role of the Greek American Media.

Chairman Ben Gilman (R-NY) of the House International Relations Committee was the luncheon speaker. In his remarks he: (1) congratulated AHI and AHEPA for delivering a “wonderful array” of services and benefits to the Greek American community; (2) stressed the need for Greek Americans “not to be reluctant to focus congressional attention” on their issues; (3) strongly urged members of the community to contact their representatives on a personal basis; (4) agreed with the AHI proposal that the House International Relations Committee should hold hearings on U.S. policy toward Turkey; and (5) stressed the need to educate incoming new Members of Congress on Greek American interests.

### Boston Conference

The Boston conference was held on March 11, 2000 in co-operation with the AHI Boston Chapter and co-sponsored by the Foundation for Hellenic Studies. In addition to the topics listed above, Ms. Nancy Agris Savage, Editor,

*The Hellenic Chronicle* gave a presentation on the Role of the Greek American Media.

## LETTERS

The AHI sent numerous letters to President Clinton, Administration officials, members of Congress and other foreign policy officials. Major letters included:

- April 10 — Letter to President Clinton on U.S. Policy Toward Greece, Cyprus and Turkey.
- April 12 — Letter to Dr. Guenter Burghart, Ambassador of the European Commission delegation to the United States regarding the EU offer of candidate status to Turkey.
- April 27 — Letter to Representatives Sonny Callahan, Norm Dicks, Doug Bereuter and Robert Wexler regarding the Dear Colleague letter of April 14, on Turkey.
- June 27 — Letter to Senator Jesse Helms regarding the hearings on the Report of the National Commission on Terrorism.
- July 17 — Letter to Ambassador James Dobbins, Acting Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, regarding security at the Athens 2004 Olympics.
- July 19 — Letter to Ambassador Tom Weston, Special Coordinator for Cyprus, urging closer U.S. links with democratic opposition in occupied areas of Cyprus.
- September 15 — Letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Cyprus.
- October 20 — Letter to Rep. Ben Gilman on the testimony of Amb. Marc Grossman, Director General of the Foreign Service.
- December 18 — Letter to President Clinton on IMF aid and arms sales to Turkey.

## AHIPAC LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

### AHIPAC Introduces Legislation on Aegean Issues

On May 25, 2000 Representative Rob Andrews (D-NJ) introduced H.Con.Res.340, initiated by AHIPAC, “expressing the sense of the Congress regarding Turkey’s claims of sovereignty over islands and islets in the Aegean” along with nine other original co-sponsors. It incorporated language from Amendment 19 to H.R. 2415 introduced by Representative Andrews and passed by the House of Representatives by unanimous voice vote on July 21, 1999.

H.Con.Res.340 expresses the House of Representatives’ view that (1) the boundaries as

between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean have been established once and for all and that islands and islets on the Greek side, including the islets of Imia, are Greek sovereign territory; and (2) any party, including Turkey, objecting to these established boundaries should seek redress in the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

### AHIPAC Testimony to House and Senate

On April 13 and 14, 2000 respectively, Gene Rossides submitted testimony on the Administration’s foreign aid proposals to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs.

The statements set out means to promote the interests and values of the United States in the Southeast Europe and Eastern Mediterranean regions.

The statements: (1) supported the amount of \$15 million in humanitarian aid for Cyprus as “an important symbol of U.S. support for Cyprus and of the U.S. commitment to achieving a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem;” (2) urged Congress to pass H.Con.Res.340 regarding the maritime boundary between Greece and Turkey; and (3) highlighted the positive roles played by Greece and Cyprus in advancing U.S. regional interests.

Mr. Rossides’ statements were made on behalf of AHIPAC, the Hellenic American National Council, the Hellenic American Women’s Council, the Cyprus Federation of America, the Pan Laconian Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada, the Pan Cretan Association of America, and the Pan Karpathian Progressive Association.

## HELLENIC HOUSE PUBLIC POLICY FORUMS

### AHI Hosts Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus and State Department Cyprus Coordinator

On two occasions the American Hellenic Institute welcomed Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus Ambassador Al Moses and Special Cyprus Coordinator Ambassador Thomas Weston to Hellenic House. Following the visits, the Ambassadors were entertained to luncheon at the Washington Hilton where they gave briefings and answered round-table questions on the current status of the Cyprus settlement negotiations.



Special Cyprus Envoy Amb. Alfred Moses, flanked to his left by AHIPAC Chairman Nick Chimicles.

During the April 21st visit, the discussion covered a range of topics including the continuing commitment of the Clinton administration to achieving a Cyprus settlement based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation. In answer to a question about the Turkish Cypriot demand for 'confederation,' the position of the U.S. Government, publicly stated on numerous occasions, was expressly reiterated as a 'non-starter.'



(L-r) AHIPAC Chairman Nick Chimicles, Amb. Al Moses, AHEPA Supreme Pres. George Dariosis, Tom Weston, and AHI Chairman James Marketos.

The questions from persons attending the luncheon covered a broad range of issues relating to Cyprus. They highlighted a widespread concern among the Greek American community that the Clinton Administration has not kept its campaign pledges to the Greek American community regarding Cyprus and has not put sufficient pressure on Turkey to reach a Cyprus settlement in accordance with the rule of law.

In preparation for the fifth round of proximity talks that started in Geneva on November 1 the two Ambassadors returned to Hellenic House on October 24 to present a briefing on the current status and prospects for the talks. Following the discussion at Hellenic House, Ambassador Weston was entertained to a luncheon at the Washington Hilton, where he answered roundtable questions on the current status of the Cyprus settlement negotiations.



(L-r) Nick Chimicles, AHIPAC Chairman, George Chacalli, DCM, Embassy of Cyprus, Amb. Tom Weston, Alexis Christopoulos, Minister DCM, Embassy of Greece, and Nick Larigakis.

### AHI Noon Forum with Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD)



Senator Tim Johnson.

At the AHI Noon Forum held on June 14, 2000 Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) discussed the Senate agenda for the remaining session of the 106th Congress. He also reviewed U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. Senator Johnson was introduced by Mr. Manny Rouvelas, partner in Preston Gates Ellis and Rouvelas Meeds LLP.

Senator Johnson emphasized Greece's importance in the Eastern Mediterranean and Southeast Europe. Recalling his own visit to Greece in 1999, he stated that his main impression was that Greece was "on the cusp of achieving full economic prosperity and political maturity." A strong prosperous Greece was in the American interest.

### Athens Mayor Visits Hellenic House

On March 27, 2000 the American Hellenic Institute was pleased to welcome Athens Mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos as a visitor to Hellenic House.

Mayor Avramopoulos was visiting Washington for the purpose of signing a protocol of "friendship and cooperation" with Washington DC Mayor Anthony A. Williams and to conduct meetings with Administration and other officials. This protocol will complement similar arrangements that are already in place between Athens and Chicago, Los Angeles and Boston.

In his visit to Hellenic House, Mayor Avramopoulos outlined his concept of a "part-



Athens Mayor Dimitri Avramopoulos and Ambassador Alexander Philon greet AHI Founder Eugene Rossides outside of Hellenic House.

nership of cities" as a new institution in international relations. He highlighted Athens' unique status as the first city-state to lead this "city diplomacy," which was being carried out with the personal encouragement of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Mayor Avramopoulos outlined Athens' role as the host of

the 2004 Olympic Games.

On March 29, 2000 AHI co-hosted a presentation by Mayor Avromopoulos at the Directors Forum of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies.

## 2000 PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

### 2000 Presidential Campaign

As a service to AHI members and the Greek American community in general during the 2000 presidential campaign, AHIPAC sent letters to all presidential candidates seeking their responses to a questionnaire drawing on three central issues of (1) Greece's role as the key partner for advancing U.S. regional interests; (2) the search for a just resolution of the Cyprus problem in accordance with democratic principles and UN Security Council resolutions; and (3) Turkey's failure to abide by the rule of law and democratic norms, both in its relations with Greece and Cyprus, and in its domestic affairs regarding minority and human rights.

### 2000 Congressional Elections

The AHI also sent a questionnaire to Members of Congress and their challengers. The questionnaire asked six questions of the Candidates on issues of concern to the Greek American community. As a service to the community, the AHI has posted all the results it received on its Web site at [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org). AHI further urges its members and all Greek Americans to review the results to see how their Representatives answered as part of a grass roots information campaign.

### Greek Americans Re-elected to Congress with a Strong Mandate

The AHI congratulated the reelection of Senators Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and the reelection in the House of Representatives of Mike Bilirakis (R-9th FL), George Gekas (R-17th PA) and Shelley Berkley (D-1st NV).

In the closest national elections in over a hundred years, these five candidates were reelected by a solid majority of the electorate in their respective states and districts. Their popular reelections means that they will return to Washington with a strong mandate from their constituents. We wish them luck as they continue their good work for their constituents and for the country as a whole. The

American Hellenic Institute looks forward to engaging the legislators on the many issues of concern to the Greek American community in the 107th Congress.

## AHI GALA EVENTS

### 25th Annual Awards Dinner



Georgia Athanasopoulos (l) presenting Dr. Ted Lyras with the National Public Service Award.



Demetrios A. Boutris presenting the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award to Thalia Assuras.

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) honored five distinguished Greek Americans and two Members of Congress at a glittering ceremony held on March 4, 2000 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. on the occasion of AHI's 25th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards Dinner,

The dinner was attended by over 325 family, friends and supporters of the AHI from across the country. Special guests included Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera, Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), Greek Ambassador Alexander Philon, and Cypriot Chargé d'Affaires Andreas Kakouris. Mr. James Marketos, AHI Chairman, introduced Mr. John C. Metaxas, Anchor and correspondent of CNN Financial News, who served as Master of Ceremonies.

The recipients of the Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award for their outstanding careers in public service were Sena-



Panos Spiliakos (l) presenting Dr. Elias P. Gyftopoulos with the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award.



Cong. Donald M. Payne being presented with his National Public Service Award by close friends Savas C. Tsvicos and Anthi Poulos.



Ted Leonsis (l) receiving his Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award from his good friend George Stamas.

tor William V. Roth (R-DE) and Congressman Donald M. Payne (D-NJ).

Hellenic Heritage Achievement Awards were presented to Dr. Theodore Lyras, former Chief of General Surgery in the West Jersey Health System, Professor Elias P. Gyftopoulos, Professor Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ms. Thalia Assuras, Co-Anchor of CBS' Evening News, Saturday Edition, Mr. Nickolas Davatzes, President and CEO of A & E Television Networks, and Mr. Ted Leonsis, President, America On-Line Interactive Properties Group and Owner of the Washington Capitals NHL Hockey Club.

In their acceptance speeches, Senator Roth and Congressman Payne stressed that their



25th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Award Recipients. (L-r): John Metaxas (MC), Sen. William Roth, Jr. (R-DE), Dr. Elias Gyftopoulos, Cong. Donald Payne (D-NJ), Thalia Assuras, Nickolas Davatzes, Ted Leonsis, and Dr. Ted Lyras.



John Rigas (l) presenting his friend, Nickolas Davatzes, with the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award.



Sen. William Roth (Center) receiving his National Public Service Award from his friends Dr. Dean C. Lomis and Dr. Christine Warnke.

advocacy of issues regarding Greece and Cyprus was based on the fact that these issues “transcended parochial questions” and “reflected the fundamental American values of the rule of law, justice, human rights and resistance to aggression.”

The Honorees of Greek heritage placed great emphasis on the values of education, hard work, entrepreneurial vision and family support. They spoke of their Greek heritage and their faith. They accepted their awards with gratitude and humility, expressing the hope that they would be an inspiration to others. In the words of one honoree: “it is marvelous to be Greek.”

### AHI Honors Greek Composer Mikis Theodorakis at Dinner in New York City

On Saturday, June 10, 2000, the AHI honored legendary Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis with its Hellenic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award. The gala dinner, held at the Grand Hyatt in New York, drew over 200 distinguished guests and featured Ms. Thalia

and political activist. She went on to note the work of AHI in its pursuit of the same ideals of justice, democracy and the rule of law.

Maestro Peter Tiboris, who on Sunday, June 11 performed the U.S. premiere of Mikis Theodorakis’ opera *ELECTRA* at Carnegie Hall, also presented remarks on “*Classical Music Among World Hellenes: Myth or Reality. What is the Future?*”

Presenting the award to Mr. Theodorakis, Gene Rossides spoke of the composer who had become “a symbol of democracy and resistance to the 1967-1974 junta in Greece.”

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Theodorakis spoke of the many contributions of Greek Americans to Hellenism. He expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome he has received from so many in the Greek American community since entering the United States.

### AHI INAUGURAL DELEGATION VISIT TO GREECE AND CYPRUS

From November 26-December 8, 2000 an AHI delegation visited Greece and Cyprus. This was the inaugural trip and reflected AHI’s commitment to its core mission of deepening relations between the United States and Greece and Cyprus.

The delegation started its trip in Nicosia, Cyprus on November 26, and traveled to Thessaloniki and Athens. They held substantive talks with government officials, diplomats, academics, and businessmen. The delegation left Greece for the U.S. on December 9, concluding what AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis termed, “a highly informative and

Assuras, anchor of the CBS *Saturday Early Show*, as Master of Ceremonies.

Ms. Assuras opened the evening’s proceedings with a short biography of Mikis Theodorakis’ life, highlighting his work as a composer



(L-r) Eugene Rossides, Amb. Marcoullis and Peter J. Pappas present Mikis Theodorakis the AHI Hellenic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award.

successful series of meetings between our members and Greek and Cypriot leaders in the public and private sectors.”

The AHI delegation consisted of approximately twenty members and was led by AHI founder Gene Rossides, AHI-PAC Chairman Nick Chimicles, and AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis.

Among the many highlights of the whirlwind trip through Cyprus were the productive meetings with President Glafcos Clerides, Nicosia Mayor Lellos Demetriades, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Nicos Rolandis, American Ambassador Donald Bandler, Afxentis Afxentiou, Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, President of the Democratic Party and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign & European Affairs, Amb. Michalis Attalides, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vassos Lyssarides, President of the Social Democratic Movement, and Panayiotis Demetriou, President of the Democratic Rally Party, among others. In addition to the meetings, the Delegation was hosted to luncheons by the Central Bank of Cyprus and by the Cyprus Foreign Ministry. Also, two wonderful receptions were hosted in honor of the Delegation- by American Ambassador Donald Bandler at his residence and by long-time AHI member and benefactor George Paraskevaides of Joannou & Paraskevaides, at the Cyprus Hilton.

Arriving in Greece’s northern capital, Thessaloniki, AHI delegation members met with U.S. Consul General John Koenig, with whom they discussed a number of issues including Greek and U.S. Balkan reconstruction efforts and relations with FYROM.

Among the other highlights was an insightful meeting with Thessaloniki Mayor Vasilios

Papageorgopoulos, who expounded on the city’s economic future and position as a cultural capital of Europe. While in Thessaloniki AHI delegates Gene Rossides, Nick Larigakis, John Kozyris and Kostas Alexakis appeared on ERT 3 TV, a news program. On the program the members discussed the current state of U.S. relations with Greece, the Presidential elections and the future of U.S. policy in the Balkans. The program has a large audience

every Friday evening and is shown live throughout Greece.

The delegation rounded out its visit to Greece and Cyprus in Athens. The packed itinerary in Greece’s capital city included meetings with President Constantine Stephanopoulos, Foreign Minister George Papandreou, Deputy Foreign Minister Gregory Niotis, Olympic Committee President Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, President of the Greek Parliament, Apostolos Kaklamanis, Governor of the National Bank of Greece, Theodore Karatzas, U.S. Ambassador Nick Burns, and Athens Mayor Dimitri Avramopoulos.

On Monday, December 4, the AHI held a reception at the Athens Plaza hotel in honor of its Greek members. Among the guests at the reception were AHEPA Supreme President Johnny Economy and former Supreme President Steve Manta. Mr. Economy gave warm remarks on the close relationship between AHI and AHEPA. Both AHI and AHEPA reiterated their commitment to continue to work together in the future. Also offering greetings were AHIPAC Chairman Nick Chimicles and Ambassador Nick Burns. Ambassador and Mrs. Burns also held a wonderful reception at their residence for the visiting delegation. Over two hundred and fifty of the Athens establishment came and enjoyed the evening with the delegation.

In remarks at the reception, Ambassador Burns spoke highly of the AHI, stressing its importance in strengthening U.S.-Greek relations and its successes in “building bridges” between the two long-time allies.

One of the highlights for the delegates was the briefing from Mrs. Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, who gave the group a first-hand account on Greece’s preparations for the Athens 2004 Olympics. The questions and



*AHI delegates meet with Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou (Center) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*



*The AHI delegation and Athens Olympic Committee President Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki (Center).*



*The AHI delegates pose with Greek President Constantine Stefanopoulos after their productive meeting.*



(L to R) : AHEPA Supreme President and Mrs. Johnny Economy, former Supreme President Steve Manta and Gene Rossides.



Athens Mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos and the AHI delegation after presenting the Institute with the "medal of the City."



Gene Rossides presents Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides with a small gift.



AHI member and benefactor George Paraskevaides shares a moment with Gene Rossides.



Gene Rossides and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald Bandler in Nicosia.



Gene Rossides and Ambassador Nick Burns lay a wreath at the Monument of the Philhellenes.



AHI delegates Dr. Ted Lyras, Kostas Alexakis, Gene Rossides and Nick Larigakis share a laugh with Thessaloniki mayor Vasilios Papageorgopoulos (2nd from Right).

answers were candid.

Capping the successful trip to Athens was the ceremony hosted at City Hall by Athens Mayor Dimitri Avramopoulos. Approximately one hundred people attended the ceremony in which Mayor Avramopoulos bestowed on AHI the Medal of the City in recognition of its "efforts to strengthen U.S.-Greek relations and for the advancement of the national issues." AHI founder Gene Rossides accepted the award on behalf of the AHI and all its members.

## GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

To mark the occasion of the 179th Anniversary of Greek Independence on March 25, 2000, the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) in cooperation with the Congressional Hellenic Caucus hosted "A Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" in the Longworth House Office Building.

AHI Chairman James Marketos and Executive Director Nick Larigakis welcomed the guests on behalf of the AHI. Ambassador

Alexander Philon of the Hellenic Republic and Ambassador Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis of the Republic of Cyprus also delivered their personal greetings to the assembled audience.

After the greetings, the following members of Congress stepped to the podium to give brief remarks on the occasion of the anniversary: Senator Sarbanes (D-MD), Rep. Berkley (D-NV), Rep. Bilirakis (R-FL), Rep. Gekas (R-PA), Rep. Maloney (D-NY), Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Rep. Donald M. Payne (D-NJ), Steven Rothman (D-NJ), and Rep. Weygrand (D-RI).



Greek Ambassador Alexander Philon prepares to cut the cake with the "Return to Origins" Dance Troupe.

Each speaker highlighted the decisive contribution of Hellenism to Western civilization and praised the close U.S. relationship with Greece. There were a number of calls for U.S. recognition of Greece's sovereign territory in the Aegean and for the removal of Turkish troops from Cyprus.

The Greek American dance troupe, "Return to Origins," provided the emotional highlight of the evening. Dressed in traditional Greek costume, the troupe performed traditional Hellenic dances from the period of the revolution. This was an uplifting moment much savored by the Ambassadors, Senators, Representatives and 250 plus guests. The event was well attended by congressional staffers, representing over forty members' offices.

## AHI MEDIA RELATIONS

In 2000 AHI issued 64 press releases. These received wide distribution by e-mail, fax and mail to the U.S. and Greek American press, the Administration, Congress, and AHI members. In addition, AHI regularly wrote letters to the editors of major national newspapers commenting on articles appearing in their newspapers.

During 2000, AHI had letters published in the *New York Times*,

*Washington Post* and *Washington Times*. On May 22, 2000 *Time* magazine quoted AHI as the lead Greek American organization in the fight against the proposed \$4 billion sale of U.S. attack helicopters to Turkey.

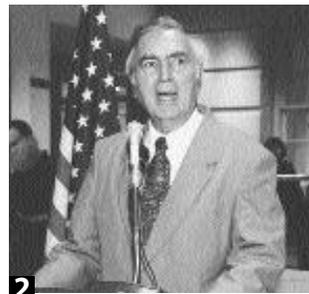
The AHI also continued its major campaign to highlight the grave deficiencies of U.S. policy toward Turkey. In a letter and accompanying memorandum to the U.S. print and electronic media, AHI described a pattern of systematic abuses underlying U.S. policy toward Turkey. Describing the abuses as one of the great underwritten stories of U.S. foreign policy,

the letter urged the media to give greater coverage to these issues, as they go to the heart of what the U.S. symbolizes.

### AHI Executive Director on Voice of America and Antenna TV

On May 3, 2000 the Voice of America Greek and Turkish services held a debate on "Greek-Turkish Rapprochement and Its Effect on Efforts for Regional Peace and Security." The debate was televised live and was simultaneously available on the Internet. In his remarks, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis welcomed the new atmosphere in relations between Greece and Turkey and stressed the support in the Greek American community for this development. Mr. Larigakis stated that the problems between Greece and Turkey had been going on for far too long and called for active U.S. involvement in the process.

On October 19, 2000 Mr. Larigakis took part in a round table discussion at Antenna TV. Entitled "Hellenes on Capitol Hill" this was part of a series profiling Greek American candidates for federal office in the forthcoming election. The discussion focused on the importance of the Greek American vote and the significance of the community's political involvement, the current status of Greek and Cypriot issues, the contributions of Greek American elected officials and the possible effect of the presidential



**Photo 1:** (L-r): Cypriot Amb. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Rep. Steve Rothman (D-NJ), and Amb. Alexander Philon **Photo 2:** Rep. George Gekas (R-PA) **Photo 3:** Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ) greets Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-MD); **Photo 4:** Rep. Mike Bilirakis (R-FL); **Photo 5:** Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY); **Photo 6:** Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC) **Photo 7:** AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis welcomes Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV).

election on foreign policy issues of special interest to the Greek American community. The discussion gave Mr. Larigakis the opportunity to highlight the role played by the Greek American community in the political life of the U.S.

During 2000, Mr. Larigakis conducted numerous radio and newspaper interviews with various Greek American media.

## **THE AHI BUSINESS NETWORK**

There were three luncheons of the AHI business network held at the Capital Hilton, Washington, DC. These luncheons are designed to promote business associations among AHI members, their guests and other interested participants.

### **January 19,2000**

On January 19, 2000 the AHI Business Network luncheon speaker was AHI member Mr. Aki Bayz, Associate in the International Project Development and Finance Group in the Washington D.C. office of Morrison and Foerster, LLP.

Mr. Bayz, an expert in the field of project finance, foreign investment and international trade matters, gave a fascinating and detailed overview of the availability of capital resources for international infrastructure projects entitled "Financing Sources for International Ventures."

### **February 16,2000**

On February 16, 2000 the AHI Business Network luncheon speaker was AHI Member Ms. Maria A. Stamoulas, a tax attorney with the law firm of Facer and Stamoulas, P.C. in Washington D.C, who spoke on the subject of "Tax Planning Opportunities for the Small Business Owner."

Ms. Stamoulas is an expert in the field of personal and corporate taxation, specializing in the field of transfer tax planning. Her talk concentrated on the subject of transfer tax as it affects individuals and corporations. Ms. Stamoulas provided a wealth of detail and practical advice on how individuals can shield their estates from transfer tax while protecting their lifetime income.

### **April 11,2000**

On April 11, 2000 the AHI Business Network luncheon speaker was Mr. Paul Glastris, Special Advisor to the President and senior Presidential Speechwriter. As Senior Presidential



*Paul Glastris*

Speechwriter, Mr. Glastris' duties led him to write on a wide variety of issues including education, crime, the budget, Medicare and foreign affairs.

In remarks entitled "Speechwriting: Past and Present," Mr. Glastris provided a fascinating insight into the process of presidential speechwriting, including preparation of major domestic speeches such as the State of the Union address and significant foreign policy addresses such as President Clinton's speech at the Intercontinental Hotel, Athens on November 20, 1999.

In his remarks, Mr. Glastris also traced the development of the art of speechwriting from ancient Athens in the 4th century BC through the founding of the United States.

### **AHI Holds Annual Seminars on "Cyprus: An International Business, Finance, and Shipping Center"**

In June, the AHI presented its annual seminars on *Cyprus: An International Business,*

*Financial and Shipping Center.* This year's seminars were held in two cities: Miami on June 23 and New York on June 28 and 29.

The seminars once again focused on the advantages of Cyprus as an offshore center for companies who want to conduct their regional affairs from a business friendly environment. This year's seminars did add emphasis to Cyprus' fast-growing banking and shipping industries.

Many of the world's leading multinationals have expressed their confidence in Cyprus as an ideal location in which to manage their regional affairs. These include Coca Cola Near East, Reuters, Siemens, NCR, Ericsson, R.J. Reynolds, Moody's, and Smithkline Beecham, to name but a few.

The Central Bank of Cyprus believes that American banks and financial institutions in general are not adequately informed of the business opportunities that exist in Cyprus. Both the seminars and the meetings gave the opportunity to inform officials of the business opportunities and advantages that exist in conducting their international operations through Cyprus.

## **AHI GENERAL NEWS**

### **AHI Founder Honored**

At its 34th Biennial Salute Dinner held at Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington DC, on March 20, 2000 the Order of AHEPA bestowed its 2000 Archbishop Iakovos Human Rights award on AHI General Counsel Gene Rossides.

The Archbishop Iakovos Human Rights award was established by then AHEPA Supreme President Dr. Spiro Macris to honor



*Speakers of the Cyprus Business Seminars.*



AHEPA Supreme Pres. George Dariotis and Vice President James Dimitriou present the award to Eugene T. Rossides.

those who dedicate themselves to the betterment of human and civil rights and religious freedoms for people suffering under tyranny and oppression. Mr. Rossides was cited for his "26 years of dedication to the rule of law and for founding the AHI and AHIPAC organizations, the objectives of which are to strengthen United States relations with Greece and Cyprus. For decades Mr. Rossides has worked to ensure the reunification of Cyprus and its people, the integrity of Greece's sovereign rights in the Aegean and the protection of the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Rossides dedicated his award to his mother who emigrated from Mani in southern Greece and to his father who came from Cyprus.

Also honored at the same ceremony were Mr. Ted Leonsis, President, America Online

Interactive Properties Group and Mr. George Tenet, Director of Central Intelligence.

On February 26, 2000 the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia presented Mr. Rossides with their Achievement Award for Services to Hellenism at a dinner held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Philadelphia. Making the presentation, Temple University President Dr. Peter Liacouras praised Mr. Rossides for his many years of service to Hellenism.

On May 6, 2000, Mr. Rossides was also honored with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor at a ceremony on Ellis Island with other recipients.

#### AHI Executive Director Visits Athens

From October 10-13, 2000, the U.S. Embassy in Athens, in association with AHEPA, hosted a series of events under the title "Celebration

of the U.S.-Greek Relationship." At the invitation of U.S. Ambassador Nick Burns, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis participated in the events.

Events in Athens included: a joint press conference featuring Ambassador Burns and AHEPA Supreme President Johnny Economy; briefings from Ambassador Burns and Embassy staff; reception with Mayor Avramopoulos; AHEPA reception at the Grande Bretagne Hotel; rededication of the Philhellenes Obelisk and "Plant Your Roots in Greece" tree planting ceremony. The highlight of the celebration was the unveiling of the statue of George C Marshall followed by an Embassy reception. Mr. Larigakis also took part in a VIP breakfast and dinner with Ambassador Burns.

## AHIF PUBLICATIONS

### Doing Business in Greece: A Legal and Practical Reference Service



In early 2000 the AHIF published the 1999 Update to the *Doing Business in Greece: A Legal and Practical Reference Service*. The update includes significant revisions to nine chapters. This important

business guide gathers in one handy location all the practical information essential for doing business in Greece. More than forty business, legal and academic leaders have contributed to the book's substantive chapters, case studies, and reference materials, making it the most comprehensive and useful resource available for anyone doing business or investing in Greece.

### A Handbook on U.S. Relations with Greece and Cyprus

The AHIF updated this outstanding loose-leaf hand to include the year 1999. This outstanding reference and action-oriented volume can be used by scholars and teachers, by students for research papers, and by our community representatives and congressional contacts, in their dealings with Members of Congress, their staff, Executive Branch officials and with the media.

As a service to its members the AHI mailed a complementary copy of the Handbook to every member in November and December 2000.



(L-r) AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis in Athens with U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Burns and Athens Mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos.

## HELLENIC HOUSE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

**April 1, 2000**

On Saturday, April 1, a *Hellenic House* fundraiser was held in Boca Raton, Florida. AHIPAC Chairman Nick Chimicles and his wife Kathleen graciously hosted the event at their beautiful home. They made a special effort to greet everyone personally and their buffet table was plentiful. The event was well attended and helped raise over \$9,000 towards eliminating the mortgage of *Hellenic House*, which currently stands at \$150,000.

Special guest at the fundraiser was Vice Admiral Michael P. Kalleres, USN (Ret.), Former President of Global Associates LTD, TSG. The AHI greatly appreciates Admiral Kalleres' support of this event and for taking the time from his busy schedule to attend with his wife to support our efforts.



(L-r) Nick and Kathleen Chimicles, "Cookie" and Michael Kalleres, Helen and Lou Nicozisis.

**June 25, 2000**



Sophia Marinos, Robert Picone and Tina Marinos Picone.

On June 25 approximately 100 Northern California friends of AHI attended a dinner fundraiser to support the AHI's headquarters: Hellenic House. The event was hosted by Jim and Kathy Marinos and Jim and Virginia Lagiss, who welcomed all the attendees to the reception that preceded the seated Greek dinner. The special guest was Dorie Klissas, the Emmy Award winning producer of NBC's Today Show, who captivated her audience with an interesting and entertaining view of her work with celebrity television anchors.



Virginia Lagiss and Dorie Klissas.

Dorie has an extensive list of credits. Her many achievements include reporting and producing stories for the nationally syndicated television show, "Business This Morning," the 1989 and 1990 Economic Summits, the 1985 Reagan/Gorbachev Geneva Summit and NBC's "Weekend Nightly News."

AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis gave a presentation on AHI's activities and on how its mission has developed in the twenty-five years since its inception. The gala event in Woodside produced approximately \$14,000 in donations that will go directly to paying the mortgage on Hellenic House, the AHI headquarters in Washington.

**November 4, 2000**

On November 4, 2000 AHIPAC Chairman Nick Chimicles and his wife, Kathleen Chimicles, graciously opened their home in Devon, Pennsylvania for a reception in support of

Hellenic House.

The Special Guest was Mr. John C Metaxas, Correspondent and Anchor, CNN Financial News. In his remarks Mr. Metaxas commented on current trends in the financial markets. He also praised the AHI's contribution to public policy issues of interest to Greek Americans. He highlighted AHI's

policy analyses as hard-hitting and accurate.

The event was an exceptionally gracious occasion. Approximately 100 guests attended.



The evening's special guest John Metaxas with Helen Nicozisis.



(L to r) Dr. & Mrs. George Tsetsekos with Nick and Kathleen Chimicles Friends of AHI enjoying the evening.



Young friends supporting the AHI and having a good time.

Cocktails and a buffet supper were provided along with live music. A total of \$21,000 was raised in support of Hellenic House.

## SUMMER INTERNS

Three AHI interns worked diligently for AHI this summer. They contributed to a number of projects such as the latest edition of the *Handbook on United States Relations with Greece and Cyprus*. They also worked on the 2000 election Congressional questionnaire and regularly attended congressional hearings and other Washington events.

Panorea Nikolopoulou was born in Athens. She has finished law school in Athens, a masters in international law in France and is working on a second Masters in international business law in London.

Mihalis Stephanides is from Louisville, Kentucky and is a senior at the University of Cyprus in Nicosia. He is majoring in political science and plans to pursue a graduate degree in international relations. His father is from Nicosia and his mother is from Tampa.

Matthew Fontaine is a sophomore at the University of Valparaiso in Indiana. He is majoring in political science and foreign relations. Despite the fact that he is not Greek, Hellenic issues have always fostered his sympathy and support. After graduation, Matthew plans to go to graduate school close to his native Arlington, Virginia.



AHI Summer Interns visiting the Cyprus Embassy (l-r) Matthew Fontaine, Mihalis Stephanides, Amb. Marcoullis, and Panorea Nikolopoulou.

# AHI History: 1974-1999

**T**he 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.

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

Our friends 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.

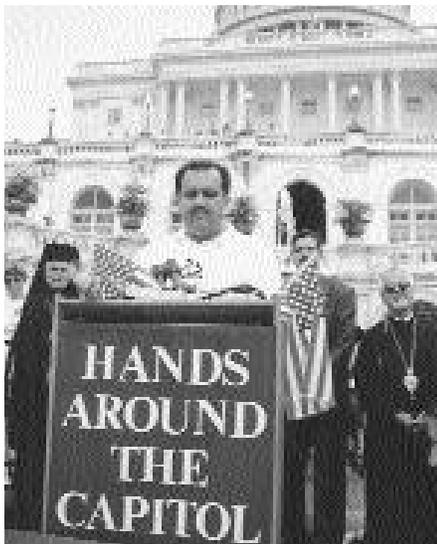
In the years since 1974, AHI has kept the spirit of the rule of law alive. The AHI and its affiliate organizations have championed the rule of law and American values in foreign

policy as in the best interests of the U.S. This is especially true in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, a region critically important to American national interests.

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

In 1995, the *Foundation For Hellenic Studies* was established in Washington, D.C. under the auspices of AHIF and the direction of Professor Van Coufoudakis, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University-Purdue University in Fort Wayne, IN. Its main objective is to provide support to qualified individuals, institutions, programs and projects advancing the study of Greece and Cyprus in the U.S.

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 THE CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

AHIPAC has testified annually on behalf of AHIPAC, the Hellenic American National Council, the Cyprus Federation of America, Inc., the Pan-Laconian Federation of U.S.A. and Canada, the Pan Cretan Association of American and the Pan-Karpathian Educational Progressive Association 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

AHIPAC has periodically initiated legislation on the key issues of Cyprus, the Aegean, U.S. relations with Turkey, FYROM, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Albania. The AHI successfully ended

grant aid to Turkey and helped to pass: (1) HR 4545, Visa Waiver for Greek citizens passed into law on March 25, 1999, (2) S 1607, a bill applying a code of conduct to U.S. arms supplies to non-democratic countries including Turkey, and (3) Section 2804 of the 1999 Appropriations Law, calling on Turkey to respect the Ecumenical Patriarchate and reopen the Halki Theological School.

### POLICY STATEMENTS



Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) giving the luncheon address at the AHIPAC San Diego Legislative Policy Conference.

The AHI initiated the annual Greek American Policy Statements on issues concerning U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus authored by AHI and reviewed, edited and approved 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, and other organizations. Distributed to the members of the House and Senate, the *Greek American Policy Statements* present a unified Greek American position on the issues of concern to the community.

## ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE AND SCORECARD

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

## CONFERENCES

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AHI Athens Conference Speakers: (l-r) Eugene T. Rossides, Jonathan Clarke, Costas Ioannou, AHI Athens chapter president, Amb. Nick Burns, Dr. Van Coufoudakis, Nick Larigakis, and James Marketos.



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

Over the years, AHI and AHIPAC have organized over 32 conferences on Legislative Policy and How to Lobby the Congress on U. S. foreign policy regarding Greece and Cyprus. In November 1999 the AHI held its inaugural conferences in Nicosia and Athens. The con-

ference was entitled "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.

## AHI CHAPTERS

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AHI has embarked on a program to develop its chapters across the country to better facilitate the several grassroots activities of the AHI and its affiliate organizations, the AHIPAC, the AHIF and the AHI Business Network, including meetings with and letters to elected

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

## CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT LEADERSHIP TEAM (CCLT)

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officials, contacts with the media and academic community, and organizing newsworthy events.

## FOUNDATION FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

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The Foundation For Hellenic Studies' main objective is to provide support to qualified individuals, institutions, programs and projects advancing the study of Greece and Cyprus in the United States. From October 1995 to June 1997 the FHS has dispersed approximately \$161,000 in grants to over 50 individual individuals and programs.

These grants have helped to support the following projects:

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

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

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

## AHI BUSINESS NETWORK



From 1998 Sacramento Business Network Event, (L-R) Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, Harry Pappas, Lexis Liviakis, Mrs. Alfieris.

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



From 1997 Pittsburgh AHBusiness Network event: Nick Larigakis and John Rigas, CEO and President of Adelphia Cable.

## TRADE CONFERENCES

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

tool to generate greater interaction among our members and to stimulate participation in business networking.

## LECTURE SERIES



Ambassador Nicholas Burns.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) has hosted a series of "noon policy forums" at Hellenic House for discussion of international issues relating to Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean

## PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM



AHIF has developed an active publication program. In 1998 AHIF published the well-received *Truman Doctrine of Aid to Greece: A Fifty-Year Retrospective* jointly published with the prestigious Academy of Political Science (APS). Since 1974 eleven 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* and the *Modern Greeks* by Costas Stassinopoulos. These publications, available to the public, were distributed to the U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch, university libraries and to our members. A new book, *Greece's Pivotal Role in World War II and its Importance to the U.S. Today*, goes to the printer this month!

## 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.



(L-R) Amb. Alexander Philon, Amb. Lysandros Migliarressis-Phocas and Dr. Van Coufoudakis, President, AHIF Foundation For Hellenic Studies.

## COOPERATION WITH GREEK AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

AHI/AHIPAC work in close cooperation with the Order of the AHEPA, the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), American Hellenic Women's Council (HAWC) and the area societies. In 1994 Ted G. Spyropoulos, President of HANC announced that it designated AHIPAC to coordinate lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. with the Congress and the Executive Branch on national issues concerning the U.S., Greece and Cyprus.

## MARKING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AHI

From October 8-11, 1999 the American Hellenic Institute celebrated its 25th Anniversary by holding a convention in

Washington, D.C. The Convention featured an active program of business, social and cultural events and attracted attendance from AHI members and their families from across the nation.



AHIPAC Chairman Nick Chimicles, Esq., Clarence "Bud" Brown, President of the U.S. Historical Society, and Mrs. Kathleen Chimicles.



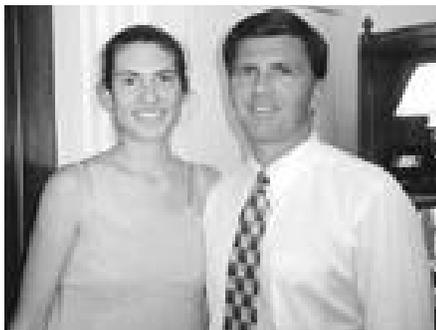
Prof. Charles Moskos autographing his book to Argeri and Yianni Lagos.



(l-r) Ambassador of Greece Alexander Philon and Nick Larigakis at the Greek Embassy reception.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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



Top: Christina Rocha with her Congressman, Robert Ehrlich, Jr. (R-MD); Above: Dena Fokas with her Congressman, Mark Sanford, Jr. (R-SC).

toring legislation and congressional hearings, liaison with congressional offices, research on issues for congressional testimony and for our Handbook on *U.S. Relations with Greece and Cyprus*.

## HELLENIC HOUSE

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. George Spyropoulos, on October 1, 1994 the Hellenic House, located in an historic building at 1220 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC, just a few blocks away from the While House, became the new permanent headquarters of the AHI, the AHIPAC, the AHIF and the AHI Business Network. Mr. Spyropoulos contributed \$227,000 or 30 percent of the cost of the building, which now has a \$90,000 mortgage.

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.



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