

Annual Report

1998

Nineteen ninety-eight was a very active year in which we held two major conferences—**The United States and Cyprus: The Challenges For American Foreign Policy** and **The United States and Turkey: The Challenges For American Foreign Policy**.

We introduced and monitored legislation in the House and Senate; issued fifty-six substantive press releases; distributed the *AHIPAC 1998 Candidate Questionnaire* to all candidates in the House and Senate; wrote numerous letters to the Executive Branch and Congress; hosted nine Business Network receptions; held three public policy forums; hosted visiting dignitaries at the Hellenic House; and held the 23rd annual Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards dinner.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **HR 4545**—Visa Waiver for Greek citizens passed into law on March 25, 1998.
- **S 1067**—Applying a code of conduct to U.S. arms supplies to non-democratic countries including Turkey.
- **Section 2804 of 1999 Appropriations Law**—Calling upon Turkey to respect the Ecumenical Patriarchate and reopen the Halki Theological School was initiated by AHIPAC.

The *AHIPAC 1998 Candidate Questionnaire* was also distributed to all candidates in the House and Senate

TESTIMONY

AHI presented testimony in support of the Greek American policy statements before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations on March 31, 1998 and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations on April 30, 1998. The testimony advocated closer U.S. ties with Greece and Cyprus and highlighted Turkey's continuing violations of international law. AHI's testimony was presented on behalf of itself and the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWC) the Cyprus Federation of America, the Pan Laconian Federation of USA and Canada, the Pan Cretan Association of America and Pan Karpathian Educational Progressive Association.

AHI Media Relations

In 1998 AHI issued 56 press releases. These received a wide distribution to the U.S. and Greek American press, the Administration, Congress and AHI members. They highlighted AHI positions on issues relating to Greece, Cyprus and Turkey. They also provided news of major AHI developments and events. In addition, we regularly wrote letters to the editors of major national newspapers commenting on articles appearing in their newspapers.

In January, AHI also released a 16 page guide entitled: *"The Cyprus Problem: The Challenge for U.S. Foreign Policy,"* which sets out the basic facts and history of the Cyprus problem.

Speeches in Greece

In September 1998, Eugene T. Rossides, President, AHIF, gave three speeches in Greece. The topics were:

- "The Greek Lobby in America" at the Constantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy,
- "The Political Systems of the US and Greece: A Comparison" at the American College of Greece, and
- "The U.S., Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey: The Challenges for American Foreign Policy and the Greek American Community" at the Panteion Institute for International Relations."

Letters

Major letters included:

- **March 9:** to President Clinton setting out a detailed case for a more positive relationship with Greece and Cyprus and a critical review of U.S. policy toward Turkey.
- **May 6:** to President Clinton protesting statements by White House spokesman on S-300 air defense system and outlining AHI's position on Cyprus' sovereign right of self-defense.
- **June 22:** to President Clinton protesting U.S. pressure on Greek Prime Minister Simitis to favor admission of Turkey to the European Union.
- **July 10:** to Secretary of State Albright protesting U.S. criticism of the S-300 system.
- **July 16:** to Secretary of Defense Cohen on Pentagon

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO THE AHI LOBBY](#)

criticism of the S-300 system.

- **July 21:** to President Clinton protesting Turkish threats to take military action against Cyprus over S-300 issue.
- **July 27:** to President Clinton outlining the true issues at stake over Cyprus.
- **July 28:** to Assistant Secretary of State Marc Grossman protesting statements by Turkish President asserting territorial claims to Greek sovereign territory.
- **August 4:** to Secretary of State Albright highlighting European Court of Human Rights' decision against Turkey on property in Cyprus.
- **September 3:** to Secretary of State Albright on Turkish and Turkish Cypriot unacceptable demands over Cyprus.
- **October 14:** to President Clinton highlighting the double standard under which the U.S. fails to apply international law to Turkey.
- **November 11:** to Secretary of State Albright concerning Turkish threats to maritime traffic through the Bosphorous and Dardanelles.
- **November 21:** to three major American Jewish organizations protesting their support of Turkey as conflicting with American moral principles and the Holocaust lessons.

White House Meeting

On December 3, 1998 a group of Greek American leaders were invited through the efforts of Mr. Angelo Tsakopoulos to the White House for a discussion with Mr. Sandy Berger, the National Security Adviser, on Cyprus and Aegean issues. Following Mr. Berger's presentation, President Clinton joined the meeting for about 30 minutes. Nick Larigakis, executive director, represented AHI.

In many ways the Administration's purpose in organizing this meeting was transparent, specifically to give the impression to the Greek American community that its interests and objectives were a high priority in the White House. In this sense, it was a familiar attempt to 'buy us off' with a view to allowing the Administration's crudely pro-Turkish policy to continue. In accepting the Administration's invitation, we were aware of this intention and were on our guard against it.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Berger's remarks offered little new ground. The acknowledgment that arms sales will be conditional on human rights improvements was welcome, but we will be watching like hawks to ensure that the Administration makes good on these assurances. Otherwise, the President's remarks on Cyprus and Turkey were routine and therefore disappointing.

AHI Luncheons and Receptions

June 23, Washington, D.C.—Farewell dinner for Ambassador Loucas Tsilas and Mrs. Tsilas on the occasion of their departure from Washington. Sixty guests attended including the Ambassador of Cyprus Andros Nicolaides, Representative Mike Bilirakis (R-Florida), Special Cyprus



Eugene T. Rossides (right) presenting Ambassador Loucas Tsilas with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award.

Coordinator Ambassador Thomas Miller, and former Secretary for Veterans Affairs, Under Secretary of State and Illinois Congressman, Ed Derwinski. Gene Rossides presented Ambassador Tsilas with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award.

August 13, Washington, D.C.—Farewell luncheon for Ambassador Andros Nicolaides and Mrs. Ero Nicolaides on the occasion of their departure from Washington. Guests attending included the Ambassador of Greece Alexander Philon, Special Cyprus Coordinator Ambassador Thomas Miller, scholars and businessmen. Mr.



Amb. Nicolaidis being presented with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service award by (L) AHIPAC Chairman, Nicholas Chimicles, Esq., and HAWC President, Dora Hancock.

Nicholas Chimicles, Chairman of AHIPAC, and Mrs. Theodora Hancock, president of HAWC, presented Ambassador Nicolaidis with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award.

December 16, Hellenic House, Washington, DC—Over 75 people came to the Annual AHI Christmas Open House including Greek Ambassador Alexander Philon and Senator Paul Sarbanes.

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE FOUNDATION

AHIF Noon Forum series

In an effort to stimulate interest in Southeastern Europe and the Aegean, and in the hope of contributing to the search for solutions, the AHIF held a series of lectures at the Hellenic House, Washington, D.C., on topics of current interest.

October 6—Dimitris P. Santaxis Deputy Governor of the Agricultural Bank of Greece gave a presentation

CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO THE AHI LOBBY

on the European Monetary Union and the implications on financial services in the European Union, Greece and the Balkans.

October 29—Amb. Nicholas Burns, U.S. Ambassador to Greece spoke optimistically on improved relations between the U.S. and Greece.

December 2—James Moorhouse, member of the European Parliament and Ranking Member of the External Economic Relations Committee, gave a presentation on the enlargement of the European Union and the implications for Cyprus and Turkey.

The forums were attended by members of Washington's press, think-tank, academic and diplomatic community.



Ambassador Nicholas Burns.

AHIF/AHI Publications

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation published *The Truman Doctrine of Aid to Greece: A Fifty-Year Retrospective*. This volume is jointly published by the prestigious Academy of Political Science (APS) and AHIF. The book dramatizes Greece's historic "turning point" role in world history in the containment and defeat of communism.

In December 1998, the AHIF publication *Modern Greeks* by Costas Stassinopoulos (1997) was offered as an on-air-promotion by the Washington, D.C. PBS station, WETA during the airing of "The Greek Americans." The book helped raise over \$5,000 directly for WETA.

AHIF CONFERENCES



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

In 1998 two major conferences were held in Washington, DC. The conferences were chaired by Eugene T. Rossides, AHIF President, and program coordinators were Dr. Van Coufoudakis, Dean of Arts and Sciences School, at Indiana University-Purdue University in Fort Wayne, IN, and John O. Iatrides, Professor of International Relations at Southern Connecticut State University.

The United States and Cyprus: The Challenges for American Foreign Policy



Conference attendees

On June 10, 1998 the AHIF in cooperation with the Hellenic American National Council (HANC) and Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWC) presented a conference on Capitol Hill on **The United States and Cyprus: The Challenges for American Foreign Policy**.

Congressional speakers included **Senator Gordon Smith**, Chairman Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs, **Representative Ben Gilman**, Chairman House International Relations Committee, and **Senators Joe Biden (D-DE)** and **Paul Sarbanes (D-MD)**, and **Representatives Rob Andrews (D-NJ)**, **Michael Bilirakis (R-FL)**, **Ron Klink (D-PA)**, **Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)**, **Robert Menendez (D-NJ)**, **Michael Pappas (R-NJ)**, **Donald Payne (D-NJ)**, **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)** and **Brad Sherman (D-CA)**. The Administration was represented by **Ambassador Thomas Miller**, Special Coordinator for Cyprus. **HE Andros Nicolaides**, Ambassador of Cyprus delivered the keynote luncheon address. Greetings were given by **HE Loucas Tsilas**, Ambassador of Greece, and the **Honorable Eleftherios Veryvakis**, Chairman, the Greek Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs.

Private sector and academic speakers included **Ambassador Tom Boyatt**, President, Boyatt Woods Enterprises, who as the Cyprus Desk Officer in 1974 opposed then Secretary Henry Kissinger's policies toward Turkey and Cyprus, **Professor Van Coufoudakis**, **Professor Elizabeth Prodromou**, Princeton University and **Eugene T. Rossides**.

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO THE AHI LOBBY](#)

The United States and Turkey: The Challenges For American Foreign Policy



Ambassador Monteagle Stearns giving main luncheon address.

for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at Queens College, New York; **Ambassador Monteagle Stearns**, U.S. Ambassador to Greece from 1981-85; **Professor Constantine Hatzidimitriou**, St. John's University, New York, **Professor Marjorie Housepian Dobkin**, Professor of English emeritus, Barnard College and author of *Smyrna 1922: The Destruction of a City*; **Aram Hamparian**, Executive Director, Armenian National Committee of America; **Professor Hanna Freij**, University of Utah; **Neil Hicks**, Senior Program Coordinator, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights; **John Tirman**, Executive Director, the Winston Foundation for World Peace; **Dr. Van Coufoudakis**, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, Indiana; **Nick Karambelas**, Partner, Sfikas, Karambelas and Akaras, L.L.P.; **Dr. Ted Galen Carpenter**, Vice-President for Defense and Foreign Policy Studies, CATO Institute; **Alan Makovsky**, Senior Fellow, The Washington Institute for Middle East Studies; **Dr. Spero Vryonis**, Director, The Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism; **Andreas Andrianopoulos**, Fellow, the Woodrow Wilson Center; **Dr. Athanasios Platias**, Institute for International relations, Panteion University, Athens; **Dr. Marios Evriviades**, Institute of International Relations, Panteion University, Athens; **Dr. Christos Ioannides**, Chairman of the Faculty, The Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism; **Phillippos Savvides**, University of Utah; and **Eugene T. Rossides**.

On November 21, 1998, AHIF in cooperation with the Foundation for Hellenic Studies, the Hellenic American National Council, and the Hellenic American Women's Council held a conference in Washington, D.C. on the subject of **"The United States and Turkey: The Challenges For American Foreign Policy."**

Speakers included: **Professor Harry Psoniades**, Director of the Center



Ted Galen Carpenter, Vice President for Defense & Foreign Policy Studies at the Cato Institute.



(L-R) Cyprus Ambassador Dr. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Dora Bakoyianni and Ambassador of Greece Alexander Philon.

The conference attracted over 100 distinguished participants, including the Ambassadors of Greece and Cyprus. At the luncheon, **Ms. Dora Bakoyianni**, Member of the Greek Parliament, delivered a greeting in which she extended a hand of friendship from the people of Greece to the people of Turkey.

AHIF CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HELLENISM

The newly established **AHIF Center for the Study of Human Rights and Hellenism** will promote the study of the Greek people's struggle to survive and preserve Hellenic culture from the early modern period to the present. Within this broad spectrum, special attention will be paid to the twentieth century destruction and ethnic cleansing of Anatolian Hellenism; Greece's record of courage and sacrifice against totalitarianism and fascism during the World Wars; and the Cypriot struggle for freedom and justice. The Center will also examine the human rights situation in Turkey, Albania, and other countries and related issues such as the persecution of the Kurds, Armenians and others.



Prof. Constantine Hatzidimitriou

The Center is headed by **Professor Constantine Hatzidimitriou**, an adjunct professor at St. John's University in New York. He earned a Ph.D. in Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek history from Columbia University in 1988. He was a Gennadeion Fellow of the American School of

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO THE AHI LOBBY](#)

Classical Studies in Athens, Fulbright Representative for Northern Greece at the U.S. Consulate in Thessaloniki, and a faculty member at Anatolia College. He has published in a wide variety of scholarly publications and participated in numerous conferences in the fields of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. His forthcoming book, *American Documents and Eyewitness Accounts of the Turkish Destruction of Smyrna in 1922* will be published in 1999.

The Center's activities will complement the work carried out in this field by other non-governmental organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. The Center will undertake research, documenting genocides against Greek and other peoples, crimes against humanity, and human rights abuses in the region. It will produce publications and seek to identify the individuals responsible. It will also seek manuscripts for publication.

AHI BUSINESS NETWORK

The *1998 AHI Membership Directory* was published and distributed to all AHI members. It proved to be a very effective and valuable tool for its members to communicate and do business with each other.

Networking Events

Nineteen ninety-eight has witnessed a busy schedule with AHI Business Network receptions throughout the United States.

• **January 5 in Denver, CO**—The featured speaker was Congressman Dan Schaefer (R-CO). Leading the Host Committee was Event Chairperson, Emannuel Tsikoudakis, and President of the Pan Cretan Association of America.

• **January 19 in San Diego, CA**—Over 110 persons came to hear Congressman Randall "Duke" Cunningham. Serving as the Event Chairperson was the AHI-San Diego President George Karetas, President & CEO of Premier Food Services.



Congressman Randy Cunningham (R-CA) (1st row center) with the members of the Host Committee in San Diego.



Congressman Mike Pappas (R-NJ) (standing 4th from left) with the members of the Host Committee at the AHI Business Network event in Atlanta, GA.

• **February 2, Atlanta, GA**—On a wind swept rainy "nor' easter" type of night, over 70 persons came to hear Congressman Michael Pappas (R-NJ). Serving as the Event Chairperson in Atlanta was Alec Papadakis, Esq., Partner of the international law firm of Hurt, Sinisi & Papadakis.

• **April 6, Miami, FL**—Congressman Mike Pappas (R-NJ) was the featured speaker at a reception with over 70 people at the Biscayne Bay Marriott. The Event Chairperson was AHI member John Haralambides.

• **June 15, Bordentown, NJ**—Congressman Mike Pappas (R-NJ) was the featured speaker at a reception with over 90 persons at the famous Central New Jersey landmark eatery, Mastoris Diner Restaurant. The Event Chairperson was Soritos J. Vahaviolos, Ph. D., President & CEO of Physical Acoustics Corporation.

• **October 19, Los Angeles, CA**—Speaker Harry J. Pappas, President & CEO, Pappas Telecasting Companies. Over 100 persons attended the Los Angeles reception at the Los Angeles Downtown Marriott. Event Chairperson was the AHI-Los Angeles President, James Dimitriou, Ph.D.



(L-R) Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, Harry Pappas, Lexis Liviakis, Mrs. Alferis.

• **October 20, Sacramento, CA**—Speaker Harry J. Pappas, President & CEO, Pappas Telecasting Companies. Serving as the Event Chairperson was Chris Sioukas, AHI-Sacramento President and Vice President, JAS Developments, Inc.

• **November 9, Cincinnati, OH**—Guest speaker George Veras, President, Executive Producer of Veras Communications/Yianni Management. Over 70 persons attended the Cincinnati reception at the Radisson Hotel.

CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO THE AHI LOBBY



Cincinnati Business Network Host Committee (seated L-R) Dr. John Semertzides, Dr. Terry Triaforos, Kiki Christofield, George Veras. (Standing L-R) Louis Strike, Dr. Ted Vernardakis, Jim Lagos, George Kyrios, Dr. Mark Zigoris, Tom Lagos, Ted Christopoulos.

Serving as the Event Chairpersons were, AHI-Cincinnati President Kiki Christofield and AHI member Louis N. Strike, Managing Director and partner of Ballenger, Strike and Associates.

• **November 10, Chicago, IL**—Guest speaker George Veras, President, Executive Producer of Veras Communications/Yianni Management. Serving as the Event Chairperson was Jimmy S. Pappas from Deloitte & Touche LLP and the President of the AHI-Chicago Chapter.

AHI CONFERENCES

Cyprus: An International Business Center

In May, AHI presented three breakfast seminars on *Cyprus: An International Business Center*, sponsored by the Central Bank of Cyprus. The seminars were held in Los Angeles on May 11, San Francisco May 13, and Vancouver, Canada on May 15. The seminars focus was to address the advantages of Cyprus as an offshore center for companies who want to conduct their regional affairs in a business friendly environment.

AHI CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Feb. 28, AHI-Toledo, OH—Guest speaker Dr. Van Coufoudakis, Dean, Arts & Sciences, Indiana University-Purdue University, Ft. Wayne, IN. The dinner co-sponsored by the local AHEPA chapter attracted over 100 persons.

Nov. 8, AHI-Springfield, Ohio—Guest speaker Nick Larigakis, AHI Executive Director. The breakfast was sponsored by long-time AHI member James Lagos, President of the AHI-Springfield Chapter and his wife Nike Lagos.

Oct. 16, Salt Lake City, UT—Guest speaker Nick Larigakis. The reception was hosted at the community center of the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Nov. 7, Columbus, OH—Guest speaker Nick Larigakis. The reception was hosted at the law of William A. Nicolozakes, Kegler, Brown Hill & Ritter.

HELLENIC HOUSE

Mr. George Spyropoulos of Caracas, Venezuela, the very first AHI member and Hellenic House Grand Benefactor contributed \$50,000 to the AHIF to reduce the mortgage at the 23rd Anniversary Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards Dinner. This donation is in addition to the initial down payment of \$227,000 that he donated in 1993 when Hellenic House was purchased.

Distinguished Visitors To Hellenic House

Andreas Andrianopoulos, former Greek Minister of Trade, Industry, Energy and Technology and a fall 1998 fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center.

Notis Papadopoulos, the new Washington bureau chief of Mega TV and *Kathemirini* newspaper.



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

Ambassador Alexander Philon, the new Ambassador of Greece to the U.S.

Ambassador Lysandros Migliareisis-Phocas, Director, North America Affairs, Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, new Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S.

Dr. Ted Lyras, president, AHI-Cherry Hill, NJ president and members **Chris Sevast** and **Mrs. Katie Mamas**.

Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD).

Theodosis Georgiou, Chairman, Atlantic Treaty Association.

Members of the Greek Parliament, led by **Eleftherios Veryvakis**, Chairman of the Greek parliamentary Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs; **Vassilios Maginas**, former Greek Government Spokesperson; and **Stylianos Papatthemelis**, former Minister of Public Order.



(L-R) AHI Public Affairs Director Jonathan Clarke and Chairman of the Atlantic Treaty Association Theodosis Georgiou

Greek Journalists **Mrs. Rachil Homisioglou**, publisher of *Ellinon Nea*; Mrs. Eleftheria Vlahou, publisher of *Kefsos* magazine; and **Mr. H. Gianakidis**, Thessaloniki reporter for the *Eleftherotipia* newspaper.

Chian Youth Society delegation.

CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO THE AHI LOBBY

AHI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



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



AHI 1998 Fall Interns Athena Inembolidis (top) and Aira Chtena (bottom)

Whether they were rushing off to Capitol Hill to cover a hearing or calling our members nationwide to urge them to contact their representatives and senators, our 1998 AHI interns got a taste of political action in Washington, D.C. Involved in all aspects of AHI's work, our interns gained practical experience and gave us valuable assistance. A big thanks goes to our talented young men and women for all their good work and we wish them all the best in their career and future endeavors.

Aira Chtena is a senior at Lawrence University, Wisconsin, majoring in government with a focus on international relations. A native of Kavala, Greece, she came to AHI as an intern during the fall semester at the American University in Washington, DC. She plans to continue with graduate studies in international relations after her graduation this May.

Dena Fokas, a Greek American from Charleston, SC, interned at AHI for two months during the summer. Her parents are from Mavrata, Kefalonia. A senior at Furman University majoring in Political Science and Religion, Dena came to Washington with 24 other Furman students on an internship program. During High School she was a member of the Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA) at her church, and continues her involvement as an advisor. A recipient of the AHEPA Scholarship, Dena will continue her studies in international politics at the graduate level.

Athena Inembolidis, a senior, is an international studies major at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. Her

studies have focused on the transition of political systems from communism to democracy during the post-Cold War period. Once she graduates in May, Athena plans to expand her family's travel business in Ohio.

Christina Rocha is a senior at Chatham College in Pittsburgh concentrating in International Relations. Christina is a first generation Greek American from Baltimore, Maryland; her mother emigrated from Athens, Greece. Christina came to AHI for six weeks in the summer of 1998 following a six-week internship at Senator Sarbanes' office. After her internship, Christina will finish her BA at Chatham and plans to continue with graduate studies and pursue a career in international relations or the Foreign Service.

MORE THAN 300 GUESTS CELEBRATE AHI'S "CONGRESSIONAL SALUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY"



Left to Right, Gene Rossides, Congressman Ben Gilman and Congressman Mike Pappas.

To mark the occasion of the 177th Anniversary of Greek Independence on March 25, 1998, the AHI in cooperation with the Order of AHEPA, the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), and the Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWC) hosted "A Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" in the Rayburn House Office Building.

The Congressional Host Committee comprised: Senators Joe Biden (D-DE); Paul Sarbanes (D-MD); and Olympia Snowe (R-ME); Representatives Robert Andrews (D-NJ); Michael Bilirakis (R-FL); Randy Cunningham (R-CA); George Gekas (R-PA); Ben Gilman (R-NY); Joseph Kennedy, II (D-MA); Ron Klink (D-PA); Carol Maloney (D-NY); Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Mike Pappas (R-NJ) who also acted as congressional coordinator for this event.

AHI Founder Eugene T. Rossides, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis, and HAWC Chair Theodora Hancock welcomed the guests. Personal greetings were delivered by Ambassador Loucas Tsilas of the Hellenic

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO THE AHI LOBBY](#)



Left to Right, Representative Mike Pappas, Nick Larigakis, Representative Rob Andrews, Ambassador Loucas Tsilas and Senator Paul Sarbanes.

Republic, Ambassador Andros Nicolaidis of Cyprus, Senator Sarbanes (D-MD), Representatives Andrews (D-NJ), Bilbray (R-CA), Bilirakis ((R-FL), Cunningham (R-CA), Gilman (R-NY), Maloney (D-NY), Pallone (D-NJ), Pappas (R-NJ), Slaughter (D-NY), and Wamp (R-TN). Each speaker highlighted the decisive contribution of Hellenism to western civilization and praised the close U.S. relationship with Greece. There were also several calls for U.S. recognition of Greece's sovereign territory in the Aegean and for the removal of Turkish troops from Cyprus.



Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney posing with the children of the Hellenic American Academy, Potomac, MD who sang patriotic songs.

Students from the Hellenic Academy in Potomac, MD, dressed in traditional Greek costume, sang the American and Greek national anthems. This was an uplifting moment much savored by the Ambassadors, Senators, Representatives, Congressional staffers and over 300 guests including AHI delegations from California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Virginia and Greece.

AHI HOSTS 23RD ANNIVERSARY HELLENIC HERITAGE AND NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS DINNER



Left to Right, AHI Honorees George Behrakis, Dr. Stamatios Krimigis, Dr. Ioanna Morfessis, Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham and Harry J. Pappas.

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO THE AHI LOBBY](#)

AT THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY HELLENIC HERITAGE and National Public Service Awards Dinner held on February 21, 1998 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C., AHI honored four distinguished Greek Americans and two Members of Congress

The Honorees who received the Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award for their outstanding careers in public service were **Congressman Brad Sherman** (D-24th CA), **Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham** (R-51st CA), and **Dr. Ioanna T. Morfessis**, the founding President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Alliance (GBA).

Hellenic Heritage Achievement Awards were presented to **Mr. Stamatios M. Krimigis**, distinguished scientist and Head of the Space Department of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory; **Mr. George D. Behrakis**, distinguished businessman, philanthropist, and President and CEO of Muro Pharmaceutical, Inc., in

Massachusetts; and **Mr. Harry J. Pappas**, distinguished entrepreneur and President and CEO of Pappas Telecasting Companies, Visalia, California.

The dinner was attended by over 300 family, friends and supporters of the AHI from across the country, including Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Greek Ambassador Loucas Tsilas, Cypriot Ambassador Andros Nicolaides, and international guests from Greece, Cyprus, Canada, and Venezuela. Prominent guests included Nick Gage, former U.S. Ambassador to Greece Thomas A. Niles, and former Secretary for Veterans Affairs Ed Derwinski. Others who attended the dinner were Hellenic American National Council President Ted Spyropoulos, Dora Hancock, President of the Hellenic American Women's Council, AHEPA Executive Director Tim Maniatis, Anatolia College Executive Director Panos Speliakos, and Executive Director of the Western Policy Center John Sitilides.

**AHI HOSTS 23RD
ANNIVERSARY HELLENIC
HERITAGE AND NATIONAL
PUBLIC SERVICE
AWARDS DINNER**



George Behrakis (right) being presented his award by his friend, George Danis.



Harry Pappas receiving his award from his long-time friend, Richard Hildreth.



Dr. Ioanna Morfessis (center) receiving her award from her friends, Jacqueline Thomas and (M.C.) Ike Pappas.



Dr. Stamatios Krimigis (left) receives his award from his long-time friend, Lou Sarris.



AHIPAC Chairman, Nicholas Chimicles, Esq. (right) presents the award to Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham.