



In Memoriam: AHI Founder Eugene T. Rossides

It was with profound sadness the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) announced on May 18, 2020 the passing of its founder and former president, Eugene (Gene) T. Rossides. Gene Rossides passed away May 16, 2020. He was 92.

The May 18 announcement AHI issued follows below.

The global Hellenic community mourns a tremendous loss. On behalf of AHI’s Board of Directors, President Nick Larigakis, staff, and members, we convey our deepest sympathies to his wife, Aphrodite; his children, Gale, Michael, Eleni, and Alexander; and the entire Rossides family.

A proud American who never lost sight of his ancestry, Gene Rossides championed and inspired a generation and more to advocate for the rule of law, for Hellenism, and justice for Cyprus. He provided a lifetime of service and dedication to America, Greece, Cyprus, and Hellenic ideals. The Greek American community and Hellenic diaspora are in a far better place because of Gene Rossides.

Gene Rossides will be remembered for his many contributions to the law, legal scholarship, athletics and government service. He understood that United States foreign policy must be grounded on ethical principles and not only national power. He was the first Greek American to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to an Executive Branch office. He served as Assistant Secretary for the United States Treasury in the Nixon administration.

In the wake of the Turkish invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974, Gene Rossides founded AHI to advocate for US interests in U.S.-Greece-Cyprus relations. He was the architect of the most substantial policy victory for the rule of law in Cyprus which was achieved with bipartisan support—the United States embargo on transfers of US arms to Turkey which took effect on February 5, 1975 and remained in effect until 1978.

“Without that office and staff, we would not have succeeded in passing the historic rule of law arms embargo against Turkey,” Rossides told The National Herald in a [2010 interview](#).

Gene Rossides also founded the American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) in 1975. It was the first “think tank” devoted exclusively to the study of policy issues involving the Greek American community and contemporary Hellenism. He was serving as a director on the board of AHIF at the time of his passing.



Eugene T. Rossides

The American Hellenic Institute remains committed to the ideals of Gene Rossides and pledges to continue promoting his ideals and foreign policy values.

For his extraordinary leadership of AHI and his contributions to the Hellenic diaspora, Gene Rossides received numerous honors, awards, and accolades from governments, the Orthodox Church, Hellenic heritage and diaspora organizations. During his lifetime, Gene also received significant recognition as a distinguished athlete at Columbia University, starring at quarterback during the university’s “Golden Era” of football. Included among his many honors, awards, and achievements are:

- Commander of the Order of the Phoenix by President Konstantinos Stephanopoulos of the Hellenic Republic (2004)
- The Republic of Cyprus Presidential Exceptional Service Medal—a rare honor requiring approval of Cyprus’s Council of Ministers (2016)
- The House of Representatives of Cyprus Medal as a token of gratitude for a lifetime of dedication to Cyprus and its cause – the highest honor bestowed by the House of Representatives upon an individual (2014)
- Investiture in The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle— Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America
- Induction into the Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame and named to Columbia Football’s Team of the 20th Century
- Honorary degree of Doctor of Laws of the Academy of Athens (2005)
- AHEPA-Archbishop Iakovos Humanitarian Award (2000)
- Induction into the AHEPA Hellenic Athletic Hall of Fame
- AHEPA-Stamos Family Lifetime Achievement Award (2014)

The New York Times obituary of Gene Rossides can be [viewed here](#).

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On November 10, 2016, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Leonidas Pantelides presented the Republic of Cyprus Presidential Exceptional Service Medal to Eugene T. Rossides "as a token of our gratitude for a lifetime of dedication to Cyprus and its cause."

In Remembrance: AHI President & CEO Nick Larigakis

"It is with a heavy heart that I reflect upon Gene Rossides and what he meant to the community, AHI, and me, personally," AHI President & CEO Nick Larigakis said. "I am forever indebted and grateful to Mr. Rossides for his leadership, guidance, and mentorship over the decades. I am most appreciative of his entrusting me with the opportunity to lead the AHI, of which its mission he valued so deeply. I have always tried to lead this organization in a way that always honors his name and the passion with which he championed the causes for which he cared deeply. In so doing, I am never under any illusion that I am replacing him because there is no replacing a legend; however, just to attempt to do the best I can to continue in his work and legacy. On a more personal level, I always considered Gene Rossides like a second father because I was always able to share with him things that I was never able to share with my father. He will be remembered as a man of virtue and integrity, a genuine man. Gene Rossides did what he did out of true conviction and principle, and in so doing, he advocated and fought for the issues for all the right reasons! I will miss him dearly and can only make him the promise that I will continue to carry out his work to the best of my ability, moving forward. May His Memory Be Eternal."

In Remembrance: AHI Foundation President Constantine A. Galanis

"The American Hellenic Institute Foundation, its board members, supporters, and benefactors, profoundly lament the passing of its founder and mentor, Mr. Gene Rossides," AHI Foundation President Constantine A. Galanis said. "He has been an inspiration to all of us in doing the right thing, a champion of the rule of law, and respected broadly on both sides of the Atlantic for his values and integrity. In honor of his memory, we will continue to work for the causes he bestowed on us with even more fervor and inspiration. May His Memory Be Eternal."

AHI Shares Worldwide Condolences from Prominent Government and Religious Officials Regarding Passing of Eugene Rossides

Since the passing of American Hellenic Institute Founder Eugene Rossides, AHI has been overwhelmed with an outpouring of statements and expressions of sympathy and condolences for the passing of AHI Founder Eugene T. Rossides. AHI is grateful and appreciative of all the sentiments of condolences it has received.

AHI shares the following statements issued by prominent former and current government and religious officials.

President of the Hellenic Republic Katerina Sakellaropoulou

I express my deep sorrow for the loss of Eugene Rossides, pioneer in the defence of the rights of Hellenism in the US. Eugene Rossides, with his vision and tireless efforts, through the American Hellenic Institute which he established, contributed to the international awareness of our national issues and leaves a legacy of great work, which is being continued by his successors.

My warmest condolences to his family and the administration of the American Hellenic Institute.

Prime Minister of Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis

The news of the loss of Eugene Rossides fills the Greeks of the US with sadness, but also all of us who continue in the footsteps of the national effort that he made.

Eugene Rossides was the first Greek abroad who, with the approval of the Senate, took position in the executive branch of the US. And one of the first realizing the importance of the political organization of the Greeks of the US by founding the American Hellenic Institute. A strong voice in favour of the Law and the interests of Hellenism. But also a timeless bridge of cooperation between his first and the second homeland.

His legacy remains a shining example for the next generations, since it is based on strong foundations and is inspired by universal principals. Patriotism, and respect for law and democracy. This is why his national footprint will remain indelible in everyone's memory.

Warm condolences to his family.

President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades

It is with deep sorrow that I was informed of the passing of Eugene Rossides, an iconic figure of the Hellenic diaspora in the United States of America, founder of the American Hellenic Institute and a strong fighter on behalf of the rights of Cyprus and of Hellenism.

Eugene Rossides was a true patriot whose special love for Cyprus, Greece, and their just struggles led him to the founding of the American Hellenic Institute immediately following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974 with the objective to support international legality.

His dedication and combative spirit in support of the rights of the Republic of Cyprus and the Cypriot Hellenism

are widely recognized both by Hellenism, more broadly, and also by the United States of America where he was engaged in his struggle for the freedom of Cyprus since 1954.

In recognition of his great contribution to the Republic of Cyprus, the state of Cyprus deservedly honored Eugene Rossides in 2016 with the Medal of Exceptional Service.

The fighting spirit of the noble Eugene Rossides with regard to the ideals of freedom and international legality is a guiding beacon for those who fight for freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. His shining example will continue to inspire the struggle of Cyprus until complete vindication is achieved.

On behalf of the Government and myself personally, I express sincere condolences to his family, to the American Hellenic Institute, and to the Hellenism of the diaspora at large.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

I write to you today, extending every sympathy on behalf of the entire Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for the loss of the Lion of our Omogeneia, Eugene Telemachus Rossides. There truly are no words equal to the task to describe either the accomplishments of Gene, as he was lovingly known, or the legacy that he leaves. AHI, his labor of righteousness and truth in the wake of the invasion of Cyprus, will endure thanks to you and the many partners you have around the world. But the full impact of Gene's contributions on the Hellenic universe will truly be difficult to assess for many generations to come. Simply put, his historic contributions are too many to tell.

He was a warrior for justice, and fought battle after battle for the self-determination of Cyprus. Of such as Gene, Pericles said 2,500 years ago:

Ἄνδρῶν γὰρ ἐπιφανῶν πᾶσα γῆ τάφος, καὶ οὐ στηλῶν μόνον ἐν τῇ οἰκείᾳ σημαίνει ἐπιγραφή, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐν τῇ μὴ προσηκούσῃ ἄγραφος μνήμη παρ' ἐκάστῳ τῆς γνώμης μᾶλλον ἢ τοῦ ἔργου ἐνδιδαιτᾶται.

Gene was a true hero whose life's meaning will be forever inscribed on the tablet of the hearts of those who loved him, of those who were inspired by him, and of those whose lives were made the better by his courage, commitment, and passion for justice.

May his memory be eternal, and may the work of

his hands, the American Hellenic Institute, continue to prosper and serve as he would have wanted, and continue the enduring good work of the servant of God, Eugene Telemachus Rossides. Αἰώνια του ἡ μνήμη!

Former Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Alexis Tsipras

It is with great sorrow that I learned of the passing of the leading figure of the Greek and Greek Cypriot Diaspora, Eugene T. Rossides, respected by Greeks around the world, who leaves behind a great legacy.

Eugene Rossides will be remembered as a patriot and advocate of justice, vigorously supporting the efforts and struggles of Cyprus and Hellenism, as well as the strengthening of US-Greek relations. His vision was manifested by setting the foundations for the American Hellenic Institute and he was always very proud to know that, following on his footsteps, the Institute remains a champion and dynamic voice for Hellenism.

I express my deepest condolences to his family and to the American Hellenic Institute.

Former President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopios Pavlopoulos

The former President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos, contacted today, by telephone, the President of the American Hellenic Institute, Mr. Nikolaos Larigakis, and expressed his sincere condolences for the death of the prominent Greek-American Eugene Rossides. The late Eugene Rossides established the Institute after the [illegal] Turkish invasion [of] Cyprus and offered invaluable services, through the homogeneity and not only to, the defense of the Republic of Cyprus and the full implementation of the International Law for the just and sustainable solution of the Cyprus problem.

During this communication with Mr. Larigakis, Mr. Pavlopoulos warmly thanked him for the close

and very productive cooperation, throughout his service as a President of the Hellenic Republic, with the aim to achieve the general objectives of the American Hellenic Institute, which especially refer to the support on Cyprus and Greece in general, by the homogeneity.



On October 8, 2014, President of the Cypriot House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou presents Gene Rossides with the highest award the House can bestow upon an individual as a token of our gratitude for a lifetime of dedication to Cyprus and its cause.



At the 40th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner on March 14, 2015 Gene Rossides received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award."



On September 23, 2004, Gene Rossides received the Commander of the Order of the Phoenix from Greek President Konstantinos Stefanopoulos for his commitment to supporting Greek national issues, largely through his work at AHI.

Foreign Minister of the Hellenic Republic Nikos Dendias (via Twitter)

Eugene Rossides was an emblematic figure of the Greeks abroad in the US. He offered valuable services to the Hellenism. Warm condolences to his family, and to the American Hellenic Institute for the loss of its founder.

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides (via Twitter)

We are deeply saddened by news of the passing of Eugene (Gene) Rossides, passionate advocate for justice in #Cyprus following Turkish invasion, founder of @TheAHIinDC & source of inspiration for everyone in the Hellenic American community & beyond. Sincere #condolences to family.

Minister of National Defense of the Hellenic Republic Nikos Panagiotopoulos (via Facebook)

I express my sorrow for the loss of the founder of American Hellenic Institute (AHI), Eugene Rossides, a pure patriot, emblematic personality of the Greeks homogeneity of the US and an ardent fighter of the justice of Cyprus and Hellenism in his whole life.

Sincere condolences to his family, to the American Hellenic Institute and the Hellenic American homogeneity.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

We express our sadness and our deep emotion for the loss of Eugene Rossides, one of the most emblematic figures of the Greek community abroad.

Eugene Rossides was a prominent member of the Greek-American Community, leaving behind a particularly important scientific and political legacy. He was the first Greek-American that received a government post, serving as Assistant Minister of Finance, from 1969 to 1973, and was the founder and the first president of the American Hellenic Institute.

Throughout his life, he offered unselfishly valuable services to Hellenism, for which he was honoured with important international distinctions. His contribution to the struggle of the Cypriot people for freedom was also important, as well as to the defence of the rights of Cyprus in the efforts for a viable solution to the Cyprus problem, after the Turkish invasion, in 1974. His loss is a blow to the world Greek community.

The political and service leadership, as well as the officials of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs, express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Eugene Rossides and to the American Hellenic Institute for the loss of its founder.

U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt (via Twitter)

@TheAHIinDC is also a key advocate and partner in growing the US-Greece relationship. We are grateful for Gene's legacy, and I join Ambassador Garber in expressing my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Judith Garber (via Twitter)

I am saddened by the passing of Gene Rossides, founder of @TheAHIinDC. A leader who accomplished much and served under two U.S. presidents, Gene's work strengthened

the bonds between the U.S. & Cyprus. My condolences to his family and loved ones; may his memory be a blessing.

Ambassador Alexandra Papadopoulou, Ambassador of Greece to the U.S.

Eugene Rossides was an emblematic figure of the Greek American community. It is with utmost respect and gratitude that we pay farewell to him. Deep condolences to his family and the American Hellenic Institute, his lasting legacy.

Congressman John Sarbanes and Former Senator Paul Sarbanes

It is with a heavy heart that we learn of the passing of Gene Rossides, an outstanding public servant who dedicated his life and career to promoting the rule of law across the world. As founder of the American Hellenic Institute, he was a tireless advocate of justice for Cyprus, bringing relentless focus and condemnation to Turkey's illegal occupation and ongoing violation of basic human rights. AHI flourished under his leadership and continues to benefit from his legacy.

Gene was the embodiment of philotimo. He treated friend and foe alike with decency, respect and compassion. His passing is a loss for the Greek and Cypriot American communities, as well as for the country he loved and to which he contributed so much. For all who value liberty, civil rights and human rights, he will continue to inspire. May his memory be eternal!

Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, Chairman/Founder, AKT Development Corp.

Gene Rossides was a giant of Hellenism, one of the greatest figures in Greek-American history...A dedicated public servant in the United States government, he successfully founded a major Greek American organization, public affairs committee, and academic foundation... We miss him dearly, and we rededicate our commitment to upholding his vision and passing it on to the next generation of Greek American leadership and to all public officials who guide our nation in the conduct of its foreign policy. May his memory be eternal.

Father Alexander Karloutsos, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

...Gene Rossides was a great quarterback at Columbia and he was definitely the early days quarterback of the Greek Lobby...He was a great leader because he was one of the Community's great quarterbacks who was willing to take big and ugly hits in order for our Community to achieve results for Cyprus, Greece, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate...

U.S. Representatives Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)

...What an honor and a blessing to have known and worked with Gene who was an outlier in the Hellenic Community....Gene's steady hand, work ethic, and integrity has made AHI one of the most respected advocacy centers in the nation working on issues related to Greece, Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean. I am grateful to have learned from Gene and will miss his advice and good counsel. Everlasting be his memory!

Visit www.aheworld.org to read all of the statements.

AHI Announces Six Additions to its Board of Directors



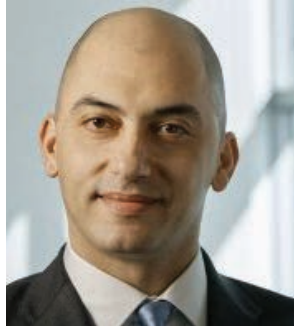
Timothy Ananiadis



Elizabeth Z. Bartz



Nico Bamberger Priskos



Yanni Sianis



Paul P. Sogotis



John Vasiliou

In January, the American Hellenic Institute was pleased to announce six additions to its Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2020.

They are: Timothy Ananiadis, Athens, Greece, who is the general manager/managing director of Hotel Grande Bretagne & King George; Elizabeth Z. Bartz, Akron, Ohio, who is the founder, president, and CEO of State and Federal Communications, Inc.; Nico Bamberger Priskos, Salt Lake City, Utah, who is managing partner of InterNet Properties, and an alumnus of the AHI Foundation's Student Foreign Policy Abroad Trip; Yanni Sianis, Chicago, Ill., who is the Chief of Staff to Calamos Investments; Paul P. Sogotis, Burlingame, Calif., who is President and CEO of Pacific Coast Maritime Agencies, Inc.; and John Vasiliou, Philadelphia, Pa., who is the principal and vice-president of Astra Foods.

"We are pleased to welcome a dynamic group of professionals, each of whom brings a unique set of expertise and resources to AHI's Board of Directors," President Nick

Larigakis said. "They will be assets to the Institute and will complement our current set of dedicated board members as we strive to achieve our mission of advocating for the rule of law. I look forward to working with the new board to execute our legislative agenda and programs that strengthen United States relations with Greece and Cyprus."

Meet our new, dynamic board members by visiting www.aheworld.org.



American Hellenic, American Jewish Groups Hail Fourth Leadership Mission



Joint Delegation members meeting with the President of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiades, at the Presidential Palace

A 22-member delegation of leaders of the American Hellenic and American Jewish organizations completed a fourth, three-country Leadership Mission to Greece, Cyprus and Israel, to explore the major political, economic and security developments underway in the Eastern Mediterranean and to advance the interests of the United States in the region. Meetings were held with more than 30 high-ranking government and military officials and policy analysts from the three countries and the United States between January 11 and 17, 2020. The participating organizations included: the AHI, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), B'nai B'rith International, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

In a post-mission statement, the groups noted:

"Our meetings clearly revealed the trilateral partnership between Israel, Cyprus and Greece—now together with the United States in a 3+1 framework—is moving forward on a sustained course with a commitment to achieve peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and the broader region. The Eastern Mediterranean provides strategic depth and the 3+1 is an ongoing, orienting framework that offers added value to the region.

"We applaud the leaders of the three countries for their close cooperative partnership. Through high-level meetings, the groundwork for a roadmap of cooperation across a variety of areas has been prepared. All level of government



(L-R) Kostas Alexakis, Leon Andris, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nikos Christodoulidis and Nick Larigakis.



Joint delegation members meeting with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis

in conjunction with the private sector, must contribute substance to the groundwork to yield additional actions and concrete results.

“Further, the trilateral partnership possesses the potential to allow the Eastern Mediterranean to become a community of nations based on shared common values and aspirations. This approach anticipates that the partnership is neither exclusionary nor exclusive and we hope it expands to like-minded countries that respect democratic values, international law, and sovereign rights. This will only serve to strengthen the region.

“Provocative actions in the Eastern Mediterranean and the broader region are unacceptable, including infringements on sovereignty. The engagement of the United States in the region is critical and appreciated but, together with Europe, must do more to counter the actions of malign actors in the Eastern Mediterranean.

“As committed supporters, the American Hellenic and American Jewish communities are committed to advancing the trilateral partnership and 3+1 framework. We will continue to work to foster closer cooperation with the United States and support the common efforts to achieve tangible and measurable outcomes across all areas. For example, we commend programs involving student and young

professionals exchanges, initiatives to combat anti-Semitism, and joint response efforts to natural disasters.

“Finally, we are grateful to the many public officials who afforded us the opportunity to exchange views and ideas. The friendship and hospitality shown to us made the trip even more meaningful and productive.”

President/COO Nick Larigakis, Vice President James Lagos, Esq., Board of Directors Member Nicholas Chimicles, Board Member Demetri Halakos (Greece only), and Georgia Halakos (Greece only) represented AHI on the mission.

Annual Vasilopita-cutting ceremony held in Athens



Priest flanked by AHI-Athens President George Economou and AHI-Athens Vice President Vice Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis at the second annual AHI Vasilopita-cutting ceremony at the Athens Club.

AHI held its second annual Vasilopita-cutting ceremony at the Athens Club, January 19, 2020.

At the ceremony, President Larigakis provided an overview of AHI's policy work and reviewed the recently completed Fourth International Leadership Mission on which he participated with American Jewish and American Hellenic community leaders.

AHI-Athens President George Economou addressed the audience and participated in the Vasilopita-cutting ceremony. AHI-Athens Vice President Vice Admiral Vasileios Kyriazis (ret.) H.N. provided greetings.

Dignitaries in attendance included: Deputy Chief of Mission David Burger, U.S. Embassy in Athens; Chief of the Hellenic Navy Vice-Admiral Stylianos Petrakis, Deputy Chief of the Hellenic Navy Rear-Admiral George Kampourakis, Secretary General for the Greeks Abroad Prof. John Chrisoulakis, former Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change Yannis Maniatis, and former Minister of Employment & Social Protection and Former Minister of Tourism Fani Palli Petralia.

AHI Actively Engaged during Greek Prime Minister's U.S. Visit



AHI President Larigakis Engaging In A Brief Discussion With Vice President Mike Pence

AHI was actively engaged during Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' multi-day visit to the United States in January.

During the Prime Minister's visit to Washington, AHI co-hosted a luncheon for the Prime Minister at the Willard Hotel, January 8, 2020. AHI President Larigakis, AHI Foundation President Costas Galanis, and an additional eight board members represented the organization at the luncheon. Later that evening, President Larigakis and AHI Foundation President Galanis represented AHI at a State Department reception hosted by Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in honor of Prime Minister Mitsotakis.

President Larigakis and Legislative Director Gerasoulis attended Prime Minister Mitsotakis' remarks to the Atlantic Council, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, January 7, 2020. Also that day, President Larigakis was invited to participate in a White House conference call focused on Prime Minister Mitsotakis' meeting with President Trump. Out of 86 individuals participating in the call, President



(L-R) AHI President Larigakis, as a co-host of the luncheon, welcoming the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis



Prime Minister Mitsotakis (L) Speaking With AHIF President Costas Galanis

Larigakis was one of the six who asked a question in the off-the-record conversation.

President Larigakis also had the opportunity to engage with Prime Minister Mitsotakis on multiple occasions during the Prime Minister's historic visit to Tarpon Springs, Fla., January 5 and 6.



AHI Legislative Director Elias Gerasoulis, Assembly Congressional Director Mariam Khaloyan, AHI President Nick Larigakis, Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny, and Assembly Communications Director Danielle Saroyan

AHI, Armenian Assembly of America Discuss Policy Agendas

AHI hosted the leadership of the Armenian Assembly of America for a meeting to discuss areas of mutual cooperation at AHI's Hellenic House, January 30, 2020. Executive Director Bryan Ardouny, Congressional Director Mariam Khaloyan, and Communications Director Danielle Saroyan represented the Assembly.

"We had a great discussion about our missions as advocacy organizations and our respective policy agendas," President Nick Larigakis said. "We thank our colleagues at Armenian Assembly of America for their time, and we agreed there would be ongoing dialogue on areas of mutual interest."

AHI Legislative Director Elias Gerasoulis also attended the meeting.

AHI's Legislative Director Presents to Ethnic Groups on Institute's Work



(L-R) Consul General of Cyprus In New York, Alexis Phedonos-Vadet, with Director of Legislative Affairs Elias Gerasoulis

AHI Legislative Director Elias Gerasoulis presented on the topic of AHI's policy work at a forum held by Armenian and Cypriot groups, February 21, 2020. At the invitation of Consul General of Cyprus in New York Alexis Phedonos-Vadet, Gerasoulis made the presentation to the leadership of the Knights of Vartan, Federation of Cypriot American Organizations, and NEPOMAK, a Cypriot youth organization.

As part of the presentation, Gerasoulis discussed the state of Hellenic-Armenian relations and AHI's collaborative work with the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) and the Armenian Assembly of America. He also stated his appreciation for Consul General Phedonos-Vadet's invitation and the value the consul general places on the work of young Greek Americans.

AHI Engages with Department of Energy Officials

In March, AHI had a conference call with Robert Sandoli, Director, Office of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of Energy. Those participating on the call were the following: President Nick Larigakis, AHI Board Member Nick Karambelas, and AHI Legislative Director Elias Gerasoulis.

"Energy in the Eastern Mediterranean, and its resultant geo-political and economic impact, is of growing importance, and as such, both myself and our legislative staff thought it was essential to establish channels of communication with the agency" President Nick Larigakis said. "We had a great discussion about our missions and our respective policy agendas. We thank Mr. Sandoli for his time, and we agreed there would be ongoing dialogue on areas of mutual interest."

In addition, Larigakis stated "Though the coronavirus has impeded the ability to have in-person meetings, both myself and Mr. Gerasoulis will actively engage with policymakers remotely and continue to carry on the mission of the AHI."

In Conference Call with State Department Official, AHI Urges U.S. Vigilance in Eastern Mediterranean

AHI held a conference call for its board of directors and staff with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Matthew Palmer on April 9, 2020.

"We thank Deputy Assistant Secretary Palmer for his time and for providing the opportunity for AHI to remain engaged during the pandemic on issues of concern to the Greek American community with regard to all aspects of the Eastern Mediterranean," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "We reiterated our message that the United States must be vigilant as historically during times of crisis or major distraction, Turkey has shown a tendency to create external disturbances to distract from domestic problems. Even during a pandemic, Turkey continues to be an instigator of provocative behavior with violations of Greece's airspace."

He added, "Respecting and advancing the rule of law is key to the promotion of democracy and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean. Greece and Cyprus clearly abide, and Turkey does not. Although we appreciate the U.S. government's previous attempts to call out Turkey for its acts of provocation, it must continue to do so publicly."

Deputy Assistant Secretary Palmer fielded several questions from AHI's board members and staff. Maria Olson, director, Office of Southern European Affairs, and Ross Johnston, Greece desk officer, at the U.S. Department of State, joined Palmer on the one hour and fifteen-minute off-the-record call.

Sixteen AHI board members and two AHI staff members participated on the call with President Larigakis, who moderated.

AHI Releases Series of Book Reviews

AHI was pleased to publish two book reviews in May by AHI Board Member Van Coufoudakis Ph.D.

The first, on May 4, 2020, reviewed, *The First Greek Ambassador to the American Federation 1867-1868—From the Memoirs of Alexandros Rizos Rangavis* (Minneapolis, MN: Nostos Books, 2019), translated by Christine Gabrielides.

The book consists of an English translation of selections from the memoirs of Alexandros Rizos Rangavis, covering his service as the first ambassador of Greece to the United States. Rangavis' memoirs consist of a massive four volume work originally published in Greek starting in the late 19th century.

The second review, released May 11, 2020, was on *The Greek Genocide in American Naval War Diaries—Naval Commanders Report and Protest Death Marches and Massacres in Turkey's Pontus Region, 1921-1922* (New Orleans: The University of New Orleans Press, 2020), Robert Shenk and Sam Koktzoglou, editors.

The editors of this volume, with forward written by Admiral James Stavridis (USN, Ret.), present, for the first

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AHI, Collaborating Groups Debrief Senate Foreign Relations Staff



(L-R) Former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Patrick N. Theros, Douglas Hengel, German Marshall Fund, Josh Volz, U.S. Department of State; Simon Henderson, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, at the March 3rd Congressional Energy Briefing

AHI President Nick Larigakis joined representatives from AHEPA and B'nai B'rith International to debrief the foreign policy team of U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, upon their return from the successful Fourth International Leadership Mission to Israel, Cyprus, and Greece in January. The meeting with Ranking Member Menendez's foreign policy team, led by Damian Murphy, senior professional staff member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, occurred February 1, 2020.

"We thank Damian Murphy, and his colleagues, for their strong interest in the findings of the Leadership Mission," Larigakis said. "Ranking Member Menendez has championed the geostrategic importance of the Eastern Mediterranean, and the United States' engagement with the trilateral partnership. We look forward to our continued working relationship to advance the 3+1 framework."

Daniel Mariaschin, executive vice president, B'nai B'rith International and AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis represented their respective organizations.

AHI Maintains Presence on Capitol Hill, Pursues Policy Agenda

AHI held a series of meetings on Capitol Hill as it worked to advance the Institute's public policy agenda prior to the conclusion of the first session of the 116th Congress and during the start of the second session in January 2020. The policy agenda included: providing support for the Eastern Mediterranean trilateral partnership between Greece, Cyprus, and Israel; religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and raising awareness of Turkey's provocations in the region that are a detriment to U.S. security interests. The meetings also served to discuss the then-upcoming visit to Washington, D.C. of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the strong state of U.S.-Greece relations.

AHI representatives who participated at the meetings varied for each one, but were comprised of: President Nick Larigakis, Board Member Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., and

Legislative Director Elias Gerasoulis. In many cases, they met with top-level congressional staff, including chiefs of staff, legislative directors, and national security advisers.

AHI Submits Testimony to House Appropriations Committee

AHI President Nick Larigakis submitted written testimony to the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs on the Trump Administration's foreign aid proposal for FY2021 on February 24, 2020.

In written testimony, President Larigakis stated in the best interests of the United States that AHI opposed: (1) any military assistance the administration will request for Turkey until Turkey withdraws all of its troops and illegal Turkish settlers in Cyprus and Turkey ceases and desists its acts of provocation and aggression in Aegean airspace and waterways and in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus; and (2) any proposed reduction in the aid levels for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

AHI also rejected the Administration's requested funding level of \$550,000 for NATO ally Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) program and instead testified in support of a \$1.5 million appropriation for Greece's IMET program as authorized in The Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act. The Act passed as part of the FY2020 government funding package in December 2019. The Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act also authorized, for the first time, \$500,000 for the Republic of Cyprus' IMET program, and AHI recommended the Appropriations Subcommittee to provide the \$500,000 authorized by the Act.

In addition, AHI commended Congress for appropriations language it passed in the FY2020 government funding package that held Turkey accountable for actions unbecoming of a NATO ally and recommended that similar language be included in the Subcommittee's FY21 appropriations bill.

AHI Collaborates with Congress to Organize Successful Eastern Med Energy Developments Briefing

AHI, in collaboration with U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and under the auspices of the Congressional Energy and National Security Caucus, held a congressional briefing, "Energy and the Evolving Geopolitics in the Eastern Mediterranean," March 3, 2020. Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Engel and Foreign Affairs Committee Member Francis Rooney (R-FL) are the co-chairs of the caucus.

The briefing featured panelists Josh Volz, U.S. Department of State; Simon Henderson, Washington Institute for Near East Policy; and Douglas Hengel, German Marshall Fund. Former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Patrick N.

Continued on Page 12

U.S. Administration's Expressed Commitment to Greece Commended

AHI President Nick Larigakis wrote to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on January 31, 2020, applauding him for conveying the United States' commitment to Greece's democracy, security, and prosperity.

At a January 8 reception held at the State Department on the occasion of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis's visit to Washington, Secretary Pompeo stated, "...we'll keep supporting your prosperity, your security, and your democracy..." He reiterated the United States' commitment in a letter to Prime Minister Mitsotakis made public on January 21.

In addition to applauding Secretary Pompeo, President Larigakis asserted that Greece remains under siege from Turkey's egregious provocations and "gunboat diplomacy" in the Eastern Mediterranean.

AHI Urges U.S. Government to Keep Engaged on the Border Crisis

AHI President Nick Larigakis wrote to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo out of concern the international community will lose its focus on "Turkey's propensity to cause instability in the region" amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Citing an understanding of Turkey's habits, President Larigakis cautions that as conditions within Turkey deteriorate due to the coronavirus, and other factors, including a reeling economy, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will "seek to instigate instability and disruption in the Eastern Mediterranean as it pertains to Greece and Cyprus as well as other partners in the region as a means to 'export' Turkey's domestic problems abroad."

The March 24 letter calls on the United States to continue to be engaged in the Eastern Mediterranean and on the Greek-Turkish border, especially as tensions remain elevated. As an example of the tenuous situation, Larigakis points to recent reports of migrants attempting to cross over the Evros River and allegedly using tear gas grenades, purportedly supplied by Turkish security forces, to attack Greek security forces. He also expresses concern about the potential for Turkey to engage in future actions against Greece as well as Cyprus.

State Department's Response

Maria Olson, director, Office of Southern European Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, provided the following response:

"As you know, the U.S. relationship with Greece has never been better. The Department will continue to support our NATO Ally Greece in this difficult time, as the United States stood with Greece during its last decade of economic hardship. We deeply value Greece's contributions as a pillar of stability in the region. Greece's support for the NATO accession of North Macedonia, our newest Ally, exemplifies its constructive leadership role. The Department recognizes the Eastern Mediterranean as an important strategic region,

and we are committed to remain engaged and focused on ensuring the region is peaceful and prosperous for the benefit of the United States, our Allies, and our partners."

"Thank you for sharing your views on Turkey's recent foreign policy behavior. The United States and Greece share a conviction that it is crucial for our countries individually, for the NATO Alliance, and for the Eastern Mediterranean region that Turkey remain rooted in Western institutions. The United States welcomes Prime Minister Mitsotakis' outreach to Turkey, and the United States will continue to encourage actions that lower tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean and call on all countries in the region to refrain from provocative activities."

"Thank you, as always, for your engagement on these issues and for sharing your views with the Department."

President Larigakis stated he appreciated Director Olson's prompt reply to AHI's concern about Turkey's behavior and the State Department's reiterated support for NATO ally, Greece, and value placed on Greece's contributions as a "pillar of stability" in the region. However, President Larigakis maintains AHI's strong contention that there is only one country that needs to be called on to refrain from provocations—and that country is failed NATO ally, Turkey.

AHI President Congratulates, Commends Greek President

On Greek Independence Day, AHI President Nick Larigakis wrote to President of the Hellenic Republic Katerina Sakellaropoulou to congratulate her ascendancy to the presidency and to laud President Sakellaropoulou's role in the Greek government's effective and professional response to the coronavirus outbreak.

"I commend you for your career in public service, and for your contributions to Greece in various capacities and at the highest levels, ultimately culminating in your making history as the first female President of the Hellenic Republic," President Larigakis wrote, adding, "We are eager to work with you and other members of the government on issues of mutual concern and in particular as they relate to issues affecting U.S. relations with Greece."

President's Response: AHI is an "Important Rule of Law Advocate" in DC

In appreciation of President Larigakis' congratulatory letter, President Sakellaropoulou replied with a letter complimenting AHI:

"Since 1974, the American Hellenic Institute has been an important rule of law advocate in Washington and has been actively working in order to promote bilateral relations between Greece and the United States."

President Sakellaropoulou added that she looks forward to working with AHI "for the promotion of Greece-US partnership."

She also conveyed her best wishes to AHI's board of directors and members.

AHI Requests State to Remove Arms Prohibition on Republic of Cyprus based on President's Memorandum

AHI President Nick Larigakis wrote to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo requesting him to utilize the authority delegated to him by President Donald Trump under two recently enacted laws to waive the limitations placed on the transfer of arms to the Republic of Cyprus, and further, to remove the Republic of Cyprus altogether from the list of countries to which arms sales are prohibited under International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

President Larigakis' April 22 letter to Secretary Pompeo cites President Trump's April 14, 2020 Memorandum on the Delegation of Authorities under the NDAA for FY 2020 and the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 that delegates the authority to Secretary Pompeo to determine whether Cyprus has satisfied the two limitations of: 1) continued cooperation with implementing anti-money laundering regulations and 2) the denial of port facilities in Cyprus to Russian military vessels.

In the letter, President Larigakis provides several points to demonstrate the Republic of Cyprus has satisfied the two limitations and advocates for Secretary Pompeo to remove permanently the Republic of Cyprus from the ITAR list as the secretary has always been authorized to do.

"AHI has long maintained the State Department had the authority to remove the Republic of Cyprus from the ITAR list," Larigakis said. "That position is underscored even more so with President Trump's memorandum. The Republic of Cyprus is a valued strategic partner of the United States that promotes regional stability and U.S. security interests. AHI calls for Secretary Pompeo to act immediately to remove the Republic of Cyprus from the ITAR list."

State Department's Response

On behalf of Secretary Pompeo, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Matthew Palmer presented the United States' position on waiving the limitations.

"On anti-money laundering efforts, the United States government welcomed the February MONEYVAL Mutual Evaluation Report on ROC's [Republic of Cyprus's] anti-money laundering measures, which showed ROC's important progress in strengthening AML [anti-money laundering] efforts and combatting illicit financial flows. Regarding Russian military vessels' access, however, the United States continues to urge a halt in Russia's regular navy port calls to the ROC. There is no doubt these vessels contribute to destabilizing actions in Syria."

President Larigakis welcomed the letter's reaffirmation of the United States' view of the Republic of Cyprus as a "valued partner and friend in the Eastern Mediterranean" and assessment that U.S. cooperation with the Republic of Cyprus is at a "historic high." However, Larigakis expressed obvious disappointment that several of AHI's points made to

remove the arms prohibition were not addressed.

"The letter does not address the issue of removing the Republic of Cyprus from the ITAR list and did not acknowledge AHI's points related to the issue of access of Russian military vessels to Cypriot ports," Larigakis said.

Larigakis added that according to the letter, the State Department will review "all tools available to deepen security cooperation with the Republic of Cyprus."

"As the State Department continues with its review of ways to deepen security cooperation with the Republic of Cyprus, AHI will continue to work with the State Department to reach an understanding that it is in U.S. interests to remove the Republic of Cyprus from the ITAR list altogether, especially if the United States values Cyprus as a partner and cooperation is at a historic high," Larigakis said.

"On behalf of AHI, I thank Mr. Palmer for expressing his appreciation in the letter for the 'important role' AHI plays in contributing to efforts to deepen bilateral relations between the United States and Republic of Cyprus," Larigakis concluded.

ACTION ALERT

February 21, 2020

AHI urged its advocates, stakeholders, and community members to contact U.S. Senators and urge them to co-sponsor S.2641, the Promoting American National Security and Preventing the Resurgence of ISIS Act. In addition, advocates were asked to request their U.S. Senators to urge Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to bring the legislation to the Senate Floor for a vote. If enacted, S.2641 would impose substantial sanctions on Turkey for its invasion of northeast Syria and attack on the Kurds. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman James Risch (R-ID) and Ranking Member Robert Menendez (D-NJ) are sponsors of the bill.

Ekathimerini Publishes AHI's Article on Turkey's Violations and F-16s

Ekathimerini published an article authored by AHI Board Member Nick Karambelas, January 17, 2020, titled "Turkey violates US law when its F-16s fly over the Aegean." In the article, Karambelas explains how Turkey's illegal encroachments into Greek airspace are a violation of international law as well as being at variance with U.S. law when American-sold F-16s are used.

Cypriot Daily Newspaper Interviews AHI President

The Cypriot daily newspaper *Phileleftheros* published an interview with AHI President Nick Larigakis, February 9, 2020.

In the interview, Larigakis provided a synopsis of the Fourth International Leadership Mission of American Hellenic and American Jewish community leaders to Israel, Cyprus, and Greece. He also discussed the current state of the Eastern Mediterranean, prospects for a Cyprus solution, and how AHI advocates in the best interests of the United States on all of these pressing issues.

AHI President on RT America: "Greece Will Not Stand for It"

President Nick Larigakis appeared on RT America's "The News with Rick Sanchez" program with Faran Fronczak, March 6, 2020 to discuss tensions on the Greek-Turkish border caused by Turkey.

Larigakis discussed Greece's readiness to handle the crisis, noting Greece is quite prepared based upon Turkey's constant violations of Greece's airspace and territorial waters. He added Greece demonstrated preparedness from a political standpoint, having secured a visit of EU's leadership to the border and citing the EU's statements of solidarity.

"I view this as another systematic violation of Greece's territorial integrity and Greece will not stand for it," Larigakis said.

During the interview, Larigakis discussed how President Tayyip Recep Erdogan's policy to cause instability in the region targets Greece, thus elevating tensions. Larigakis also squarely lays blame on Turkey's Syria policy for the influx of migrants, but noted, however, the majority of the migrants being sent to the Greek border do not seem to be of Syrian origin. The interview concluded with Larigakis referencing other ways Turkey violates international law, including its maritime MoU with Libya, which also encroaches on Greece's territorial integrity.

The interview is available for view at www.aheworld.org.

AHI President Invited by ERT3-TV to Discuss Coronavirus Outbreak

President Nick Larigakis was invited to appear on an ERT3-TV news segment on the coronavirus outbreak that featured diaspora Greeks.

Larigakis participated via telephone on the segment which aired April 6, 2020.

AHI Collaborates with Congress...Continued from page 9

Theros moderated the briefing.

Volz's presentation highlighted the promise and benefits of energy development in the Eastern Mediterranean, including the possibility of energy development as a facilitator to address the Cyprus issue. Volz also criticized Turkey for its "provocative" actions in interfering in Cyprus' exclusive economic zone. He believes commercial interests are too strong to allow Turkey to stymie the development of the Eastern Mediterranean as an energy hub.

Henderson and Hengel also highlighted the potential challenges of the Eastern Mediterranean becoming an energy hub, including continued Turkish interference. They also raised the costs and logistical challenges of the proposed East Med Pipeline, which, if completed, would be one of the most expensive pipelines in modern history.

"The Eastern Mediterranean is important to U.S. interests due to the significant energy and commerce that transit the region," President Nick Larigakis said. "We thank Congressmen Engel and Rooney for holding this timely briefing that will examine the geopolitical and energy developments in the Eastern Mediterranean and their impact on U.S. national security."

Legislative Director Elias Gerasoulas added, "We also appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the formulation of the briefing program and to collaborate with the staff of the Foreign Affairs Committee, especially policy analyst, Harry Semerdjian, who organized the briefing."

Representatives from the Embassies of Greece and Republic of Cyprus attended. The briefing received media coverage in the *Athens News Agency* and *Hellas Journal*.

AHI Releases Series of Books Reviews...Continued from page 8

time, the war diaries of U.S. naval commanders whose ships operated in the Black Sea until mid-1923. These records, kept in the U.S. National Archives, provide new accounts of the death marches of Greek women, children and men organized and carried out by Turkish forces and their agents.

Dr. Coufoudakis is Dean Emeritus of the College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University-Purdue University; and Rector Emeritus, University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Visit www.aheworld.org to read the reviews in their entirety.

Visitors To Hellenic House

State Department Officials Visit Hellenic House



(L-R) Maria Olson, Director, Office of Southern European Affairs, with AHI President Larigakis

AHI welcomed U.S. Department of State officials to Hellenic House for a meeting on February 13, 2020.

Maria Olson, director, Office of Southern European Affairs, and Ross Johnston, Greek desk officer, represented the State Department.

The discussion focused on topics ranging from Turkish aggression in the Eastern Mediterranean to Greece's important role as a pillar of stability in the region.

In addition to President Larigakis, Legislative Director Elias Gerasoulis and Administrative Assistant Emily Pandis also participated at the meeting.

AHI Meets with Greek Deputy FM, Mayor of Athens

In February, AHI President Nick Larigakis met with two Greek public officials during their visit to Washington, D.C.

President Larigakis met with Deputy Foreign Minister for Greeks Abroad Konstantinos Vlasis at the Embassy of Greece, February 6, 2020.

The next day, Mayor of Athens Kostas Bakoyannis visited AHI's Hellenic House for a meeting with President Larigakis and Legislative Director Elias Gerasoulis.



(L-R) AHI President Larigakis with Deputy Foreign Minister for Greeks Abroad, Kostas Vlassis



(L-R) Kostas Bakoyannis, Mayor of Athens, with AHI President Nick Larigakis

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 14, 2020

45TH ANNUAL Hellenic Heritage Achievement & National Public Service Awards Dinner



American Hellenic, American Jewish Groups Welcome Trilateral Pipeline Agreement

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI), American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), B'nai B'rith International, and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued the following joint statement on January 2, 2020:

“Our organizations welcome today’s agreement between Greece, Israel, and Cyprus to proceed with the EastMed pipeline. The agreement demonstrates the significant progress the trilateral alliance has achieved in energy cooperation and the three countries’ leadership in the region to provide energy security. We also are pleased the three countries are meeting for a seventh summit in Athens and that bilateral meetings also will occur between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades, respectively. We anticipate the summit will yield further prospects for advances across a multitude of sectors.”

“We applaud the commitment to fostering peace, security, stability, and shared democratic values and ideals, in the region by all parties. We will continue to lend our broad diaspora support and encouragement for advancing the trilateral alliance.”

AHI Objects to Turkish MoU Request to State Dept. on Cultural Property

AHI provided both oral and written testimony to the U.S. Department of State urging the Department to reject Turkey’s request for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which imposes import restrictions on cultural goods originating prior to 1924 or the formulation of the Turkish Republic. AHI President Larigakis submitted written testimony, while AHI Legislative Director Gerasoulis provided oral testimony to both Dr. Sabloff and his colleagues on the State Department’s Cultural Property Advisory Committee (CPAC) on January 21, 2020. Gerasoulis also answered questions from Committee members.

In the January 7 letter to the State Department’s Cultural Property Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Jeremy Sabloff, Larigakis contends that Turkey has enabled or tolerated the destruction of cultural property, citing numerous examples including in Turkish-occupied Cyprus.

In oral testimony, Gerasoulis stated to Dr. Sabloff and the committee, “if the MoU is approved, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will consider his intention to convert Hagia Sophia into a mosque to be justified.”

Senator Menendez’s Questioning at Libya Hearing Commended

AHI welcomed a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on “U.S.-Libya Policy” and commends Ranking Member Robert Menendez for his line of questioning critical of Turkey’s role in Libya.

In his opening statement at the February 12 hearing, Ranking Member Menendez stated the parameters of the widely panned Turkey-Libya maritime agreement “undermine U.S. policies, partnerships, and security in the Eastern Mediterranean.” He added that Turkey has “found a deepened foothold for its longstanding ambitions in the Mediterranean” due to a leadership vacuum in Libya and Turkey is violating the UN arms embargo because of the troops it has deployed in Libya.

“The State Department’s canned talking points about the need for all parties to refrain from elevating tensions in this region are unhelpful and can be construed as appeasing Turkey,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “Senator Menendez was right to press Deputy Assistant Secretary Robinson on it. There is only one party guilty of elevating tensions in the region and that party is Turkey. It is not Greece. It is not Cyprus. We thank Ranking Member Menendez for his deep grasp of what is transpiring in the region and the role Turkey plays as a source of instability and threat to peace and security.”

Turkish Administrative Court’s Ruling that Denigrates Christian History Condemned

AHI condemned a Turkish administrative court’s ruling that denigrates Turkey’s Christian heritage and sets an ominous precedent for the world-famous cathedral church of Hagia Sophia in a statement issued February 11, 2020.

The November 2019 ruling of the Council of State, Turkey’s highest administrative court, directly affects Istanbul’s Church of St. Savior in Chora (popularly known as the Chora Church). This 1,000-year-old church is especially well known for its splendid interior mosaics and is considered second in artistic prominence only to Hagia Sophia. The Chora Church was converted into the Kariye Mosque in the 16th century. It ceased functioning as a mosque in 1948 and was re-opened by the Turkish government as a museum in 1958.

The recent ruling deems the Chora Church’s museum designation unlawful because a mosque “cannot be used except for its essential function.” According to press reports, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is expected to implement the court’s decision.

The decision is an ominous precedent for any Turkish church that later served as a mosque, particularly Hagia Sophia. For more than nine centuries, Hagia Sophia was the pre-eminent Eastern Orthodox cathedral and seat of the Ecumenical Patriarch. It became a mosque in 1453, was closed in 1931, and since 1935 has operated as a museum. In March 2019 President Erdogan vowed to return Hagia Sophia to mosque status.

“Turkey has sought to erase its Christian history through genocide, pogroms, and a blatant disregard for religious and cultural heritage and property,” President Nick Larigakis said. “The November court decision is extremely troubling. It paves the way for President Erdogan to make good on his threats to convert Hagia Sophia to a mosque.”

AHI Statement on President Trump- President Erdogan January Call

AHI issued the following February 3, 2020 statement following a January 27, 2020 phone call between President Donald J. Trump and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan:

According to press reports, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary Judd Deere stated that among the items they discussed included, “President Trump also highlighted the importance of Turkey and Greece resolving their disagreements in the Eastern Mediterranean.”

It is significant that President Trump acknowledges that the relations between Turkey and Greece are important to the Eastern Mediterranean. But these relations must be considered in context. The “disagreements” to be resolved stem from acts by Turkey which are hostile and provocative.

1. President Erdogan has urged that Turkey repudiate the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923, which has served as the legal regime in the Aegean Sea since 1923.
2. Since 2018, Turkey has ordered its U.S.- supplied military aircraft to sortie into the Greek Flight Information Region (FIR) and sovereign Greek airspace. Each sortie violates the U.S. law under which the U.S. supplied the aircraft as well as the UN Charter and international law.
3. Turkey has claimed to conclude with a faction in the Libyan government an “international agreement” which purports to draw maritime boundaries in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The U.S. and the European Union (EU) and the general international community has condemned this act as unlawful and void.
4. Turkey has moved a research vessel into and through the waters within the Greek continental shelf.
5. Turkey has repeatedly violated the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus.
6. Turkey continues to unlawfully occupy the territory of the Republic of Cyprus which it began after it unlawfully invaded the Republic of Cyprus in 1974.

Further, illegal immigration via Turkey threatens Greece’s economic development and prosperity.

The United States’ expressed commitment to Greece’s security as communicated by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo—in public remarks and in a written letter to Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis last month—is appreciated. However, Greece is under siege from Turkey and is well within its rights to defend itself against Turkey’s threats and provocations. Greece is an immensely valuable link as “a pillar of stability” in the region, is a frontline state against terrorism, and is a pivotal and dependable NATO ally. Therefore, it is in the best interests for the United States for peace and stability to exist in the eastern Mediterranean. For that to occur, the United States must address Turkey as the root cause of the region’s current instability and increased tension.

AHI Statement on Turkey’s Provocative, Illegal Refugee Ploy

AHI issued the following statement on March 3, 2020:

Illegal immigration via Turkey compromises Greece’s security, stability, and economic development. Greece is well within its rights to defend itself against Turkey’s threats and provocations, which have not succeeded. Moreover, Turkey’s actions to utilize migrants and refugees as geopolitical pawns are a violation of international law, and thus should be condemned by the United States and the international community.

Greece is an immensely valuable link as “a pillar of stability” in the region, is a frontline state against terrorism and is a pivotal and dependable NATO ally. The United States must address Turkey as the root cause of the region’s current instability and increased tension with the most recent example being Turkey’s escalation of the migrant crisis. AHI commends the European Commission’s acknowledgement that Greece is Europe’s “shield” and that it is Europe’s responsibility to guard the European Union’s borders as expressed by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

In January, the United States expressed a commitment to Greece’s security as communicated by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo—in public remarks and in a written letter to Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis last month. The United States now must meet this commitment.

Furthermore, the United States and the international community have an obligation to assist Greece and must condemn Turkey for violating international law. Turkey is a signatory of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a 1951 multilateral United Nations agreement that defines rights and procedures for refugees. The United States is a signatory to its sister treaty, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. The Convention specifically states that refugees need to abide by the laws of the countries that they are trying to enter. Turkey’s instigation and encouragement of illegal mass migration and border crossings into Greece, at variance with Greek law, is a violation of the Convention to which it is a signatory.

AHI urges the Trump administration emphatically to express to Turkey that it must comply with its treaty obligations, and through diplomatic means, call on the United Nations and Europe to take more active roles in support of Greece to address the recent surge in migrant flows caused by Turkey that threatens the sovereignty of Greece and all of Europe, as well as international laws and treaties.

U.S. Envoy’s Statement on Migrant Crisis Applauded

AHI issued the following March 9, 2020 statement on Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Matthew Palmer’s March 7 statement made during his visit to Greece:

AHI applauds Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Matthew Palmer for the clear statement of affirmation that what is transpiring at the Greek-Turkish border is “unacceptable” and that the United States finds the situation with the migration flow to be “unsustainable” and needs to change.

The Institute also commends Deputy Assistant Secretary Palmer’s understanding that the migrants and refugees have been “misled into believing that the road to Europe is open” and the uncontrolled migrant flow is “destabilizing.” Palmer also described how the Greek security services have handled themselves as professional.

AHI thanks Deputy Assistant Secretary Palmer and U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt for the United States’ demonstrated solidarity with Greece and its people and for reiterating President Donald Trump’s statement in support of Greece’s right to defend its borders.

AHI Releases 2019 Annual Report

AHI announced the release of its 2019 Annual Report on March 17, 2020. “All of AHI’s policy-based programs and initiatives that advocate for the rule of law and advance the best interests of the United States on policies of importance to Greek Americans are captured in this report,” President Nick Larigakis said. “We are proud to highlight our policy achievements as well as our successful programs, which include our foreign policy trip abroad for college students and several policy forums where significant statements by policy analysts and government officials were made. The report also shares when AHI’s policy perspectives and positions received media placement.”

AHI President Calls for Community Engagement in Greek Independence Message

AHI President Nick Larigakis has issued the following statement on the occasion of the 199th anniversary of Greek Independence Day:

Today we commemorate the 199th anniversary of Greece’s Independence and remember the heroes who fought and sacrificed to defeat Ottoman rule in a triumph for liberty. Each year the Hellenic spirit reverberates strongly. The conditions placed upon us by the coronavirus pandemic that prohibits traditional celebrations, whether via parades, gatherings in our community halls, or flag-raising, must not dampen our collective enthusiasm and joy. Celebrate Greek independence loudly and resoundingly on our social media platforms, in our homes, and in our hearts.

The commemoration of Greece’s independence is an important reminder for free citizens around the world that Hellenism and the rule of law must be defended or else we can expect the slow erosion of these principles that underpin our society. Despite the heroic sacrifices and battles our ancestors have fought, the struggle continues.

Greece is under siege today.

Under the guise of a horrific public health pandemic,

Turkey continues to threaten Greece at Greece’s borders. Tensions remain at an elevated level. Turkey’s habits during times of crisis or major distraction are understood by our community—we only need to harken back to 1974. As the coronavirus pandemic begins to impact the people of Turkey and take its toll on an already reeling Turkish economy, and the situation in Syria becomes more dire, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will seek to instigate instability and disruption in the Eastern Mediterranean as it pertains to Greece and Cyprus as well as other partners in the region as a means to “export” Turkey’s domestic problems abroad.

To date, the United States and the European Union support for Greece’s position during the Greek-Turkish border crisis has been made clear and unequivocal. Every country has the right and the obligation to protect its borders. The support of the United States and the European Union must continue unabated.

As long as the NATO army of Turkey is occupying a European Union member in Cyprus, the struggle continues.

As long as Turkey stifles the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the struggle continues.

As long as Turkey violates fellow NATO member Greece’s sovereignty in the Aegean, the struggle continues.

- Turkey’s continuing violations of Greece’s territorial waters and airspace, which number approximately 7,000 infringements and violations in 2019 includes:
 - 4,813 Hellenic airspace violations of which 124 are categorized as “Hellenic Territory Over-Flights,”
 - 2,150 maritime incidents, and
 - 384 mock dogfights between Turkish and Greek aircraft in 2019.
- Turkey’s aggression against Cyprus which includes its continuing illegal occupation of 37.3 percent of Cyprus.
- Turkey’s numerous incursions into Cyprus’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), illegal drilling in Cyprus’ EEZ on three occasions in 2019 supported by Turkish warships and drones and demonstrated “gunboat diplomacy.”

We must not lose sight of the danger Turkey presents in the Eastern Mediterranean and to United States interests in the region. The community must engage our policymakers, educate them on these facts, and urge them to act.

Although we have not been able to celebrate Greek Independence Day in traditional ways this year, we all look forward to celebrating the landmark Bicentennial of Greek independence next year in a world free from the threat of coronavirus and amid an Eastern Mediterranean region that is stable and at peace.

AHI Calls Out Two Inaccurate Portrayals of Greece During Migrant Crisis

AHI issued an April 3, 2020 statement calling out Human Rights Watch and Foreign Affairs for publishing articles that portrayed Greece in an unfair and inaccurate light during the recent migrant crisis on the Greek-Turkish border.

AHI asserted the reporting in both pieces is misleading due to their unbalanced approach and potentially biased due to the reporting being sourced from Turkish accounts of what transpired at the border, including accounts from Turkish security forces.

“Both articles do not provide adequate reporting of Turkey’s encouragement and facilitation of illegal immigration, the very root cause of the current migratory crisis. Instead, they erroneously portray Greece as being cruel to migrants, when it is Greece that is the victim of Turkey’s actions,” AHI’s statement reads.

AHI Marks the 105th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

AHI issued the following statement on April 24, 2020:

Today, we join with the Armenian community to commemorate the 105th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, a crime against humanity. We remember the 1.5 million Armenians who were systematically and deliberately annihilated by Ottoman Turkey.

The historical record on the Armenian Genocide the broader genocidal campaign perpetrated by Ottoman Turkey against Christian minorities of the Ottoman Empire is well documented.

The continued effort by present-day Turkey to deny these genocides is an affront to fundamental human rights and only serves as an obstacle to regional stability and greater regional cooperation.

AHI Condemns Turkey’s Latest Illegal Activity in Cyprus’ EEZ, Welcomes U.S. Ambassador’s Response

AHI issued the following April 28, 2020 statement on Turkey’s incursion into the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Cyprus:

AHI condemns Turkey’s violation of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Cyprus with the reported arrival of the Turkish drillship, “Yavuz,” April 20, 2020, and welcomes U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Judith Garber’s response that expressed deep concern about Turkey’s plans to drill in Cyprus’ EEZ and urged Turkey to halt its operations.

Ambassador Garber commented on Turkey’s planned operations in an [interview published in *Phileleftheros*](#), April 26, 2020.

“We welcome Ambassador Garber’s statement,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “Turkey’s actions are in violation of international law and its drilling ship must leave Cyprus’ EEZ. It is unacceptable that amid a pandemic Turkey

continues to be an instigator of tensions and provocative behavior, a violator of international law, and a threat to peace and stability.”

Larigakis added, “However, Ambassador Garber calls ‘on all parties to avoid steps that raise tensions in the region,’ and AHI maintains firmly that there is only one country that needs to be called on to refrain from provocations and that country is failed NATO ally, Turkey.”

AHI has repeatedly [warned the United States government](#) that its officials must be vigilant as historically, during times of crisis or major distraction, Turkey has shown a tendency to create external disturbances to distract from domestic problems.

AHI Releases First Installment of 2020 Policy Statements

AHI announced the release of the first installment in a series of 2020 Policy Statements today on the topic of “U.S.-Greece Relations.”

“Relations between NATO allies United States and Greece are clearly at a high point,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “AHI’s policy agenda will continue to press the United States to commit to ensuring Greece’s security and economic development is a priority and for continued bilateral cooperation that leads to strengthening across all sectors. We strongly urge our audience to utilize the policy statements to their full potential, educating policymakers and raising awareness of the issues to the community at-large.”

He added, “The positions presented advocate for the application of the rule of law and are in the best interests of the United States.”

Future installments of the 2020 Policy Statements will be released periodically. They will address issues affecting the Greek American community as they pertain to United States relations with countries in the Eastern Mediterranean, among other policy topics such as human rights/religious freedom and energy development in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Commission’s Critique of Turkey’s Treatment of Religious Minorities Welcomed

AHI issued the following May 5, 2020 statement on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) 2020 Annual Report on Turkey:

The American Hellenic Institute welcomes the [USCIRF 2020 Annual Report](#) on Turkey. The report notes Turkey’s failure to maintain an atmosphere of religious freedom and specifically cites Turkey’s violation of the rights of religious minorities of the “Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek” communities. It criticized the Turkish government’s mistreatment of Orthodox Christians, including the government’s ongoing closure of the Greek Orthodox Halki Seminary. The report also references Turkey’s efforts to convert Orthodox churches into mosques, such as the St. Chora Church in Istanbul, [a move that AHI publicly opposes](#).

STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the report, USCIRF recommended Turkey for the U.S. Department of State's "Special Watch List" designation for "engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA)." The series of recommendations USCIRF presents to the U.S. government also includes for it to raise issues such as the continued closure of the Halki Seminary in all meetings with Turkish government officials.

AHI welcomes the USCIRF's critique of Turkey's treatment of religious minorities in its annual report and calls for the U.S. government to implement the USCIRF's recommendations. AHI has long maintained Turkey stands in violation of IRFA and further agrees with USCIRF's assessment that Turkey, too, engages in, or tolerates severe violations of religious freedom pursuant to IFRA. AHI calls for the United States to hold Turkey accountable under IFRA, which obligates the President of the United States to take one or more of 15 enumerated actions toward a country that violates the Act.

However, AHI believes that the USCIRF should have recommended Turkey for a "Country of Particular Concern" designation given Turkey's longstanding history of suppressing religious freedom of minorities, which has been well-documented for decades; the lack of any real progress by Turkey to address and improve its record on religious freedom, and Turkey's failure to adhere to European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) rulings.

AHI proudly has been at the forefront of promoting religious freedom and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarch in Turkey to policymakers, including in 1994, when AHI was one of the first Greek American organizations to raise such issues with the White House.

U.S. Action that Strengthens Economic Relations with Greece Commended

In a May 11, 2020 statement, AHI commended the U.S. government for its decision to delist Greece from the Special 301 Report in 2020. The purpose of the Special 301 Report is to keep trading partners accountable by pinpointing areas of malpractice, including in areas such as intellectual property and counterfeit products. As such, nations on the Special 301 Report 'watch list' are under greater scrutiny from U.S. government agencies.

The U.S. government, in addressing the reasons why it decided to delist Greece from the list, accentuated the Greek government's efforts to address improper use of unlicensed software and steps to reduce counterfeit products in Greece. The State Department's Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Keith Krach, in a letter to Development and Investments Minister Adonis Georgiadis, congratulated him on this development, and highlighted it as a "hugely positive development" in U.S.-Greece bilateral relations.

"AHI congratulates the U.S. government for its historic decision, and Greek government for its good work in adopting international best practices regarding trade and

intellectual property," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "The U.S. government's action to remove Greece from the watch list is an important step in strengthening U.S.-Greece economic relations."

AHI Rebuts Former Supreme Allied Commander's Take on Turkey

Retired U.S. Navy Admiral James Stavridis, former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, participated in the Turkish Heritage Organization Webinar, "[The Future of The Transatlantic Military Alliance](#)" held May 14, 2020.

During the interview, Admiral Stavridis made statements about Turkey that are of deep concern to the AHI and should concern U.S. policymakers.

In a comprehensive statement issued May 25, 2020, AHI rebutted Admiral Stavrides' views on the Turkey-Libya and the migrant crisis, his failure to note Turkey's hostile acts in the region, his praise of the Turkish military and Turkey's purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defense system; and his praise of Turkey's role in combatting terrorism and in Syria.

"Unfortunately, Admiral Stavridis views Turkey through an outdated prism," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "We greatly appreciate and respect his lifetime of dedicated service to the US. However, his views on Erdogan and Turkey are either nostalgic or simply wrong."

Admiral Stavrides reminisces fondly about the Turkish general officers he knew over seven years ago when he served as Supreme Allied Commander. U.S. policymakers and even the Greek military had good relations with their Turkish counterparts in NATO. Since the 2016 attempted coup, Erdogan has purged the Turkish military of the professional general officers who Admiral Stavrides remembers. He has replaced them with officers whose primary qualification is abject loyalty to Erdogan.

Visit www.aheworld.org to read the statement in its entirety.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



AHI Calls Out Unbalanced New York Times Piece on Greek-Turkish Border Incidents

AHI released a March 12 letter to the editor of the New York Times it sent to correct the record on the newspaper's unbalanced reporting of incidents that occurred at the Greek-Turkish border as a result of the recent migrant crisis instigated by Turkey ("["We Are Like Animals': Inside Greece's Secret Site for Migrants,"](#) which appeared March 10, 2020).

"It [the reporting] is sourced mainly from Turkish accounts of what transpired, and their motives are dubious based upon Turkish President Erdogan's proven hostilities toward Greece, for example, through daily violations of Greek airspace and territorial waters," Larigakis wrote, citing 4,813 airspace violations alone in 2019 and adding that illegal immigration is the most recent in a long line of Turkish provocations toward Greece.

President Nick Larigakis also called out the article's omission of statements of support from the United States and European Union as well as its failure to report that Turkey's actions violate international law, namely, the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a 1951 multilateral United Nations agreement to which Turkey is a signatory.

AHI: The Hill's Commentary Fails to Identify Turkey as the Culprit in Keeping the Eastern Med from Reaching Full Potential

AHI released an April 20, 2020 letter to the editor that it sent to The Hill in response to an April 11, 2020 opinion piece, "[In Eastern Mediterranean, resolving maritime boundary disputes becomes key.](#)"

In his letter, AHI President Nick Larigakis stated the authors of the commentary failed to identify Turkey as the culprit of the "firebrand rhetoric" and "tense foreign policy" that threatens to "negate opportunities at hand" for a "bright and cooperative future for the Eastern Mediterranean."

The authors' commentary also states hydrocarbon diplomacy is accompanied by "counterpart gunboat diplomacy." Here, again, President Larigakis points out the authors fail to identify Turkey as the instigator of gunboat diplomacy in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Visit www.aheworld.org to read both letters.

VIRTUAL FORUMS

AHI Inaugurates Virtual Speakers Forum with Greek, Cypriot Ambassadors



Amb. Alexandra Papadopoulou, Nick Larigakis and Amb. Marios Lysiotis.

AHI launched its Virtual Speakers Forum with an inaugural segment that featured Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Alexandra Papadopoulou and Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Marios Lysiotis, May 14, 2020.

The ambassadors discussed a variety of topics, including Greece and Cyprus' effective response to the coronavirus pandemic and how the two countries promote stability in the region amid continued hostility. The discussion also examined U.S. policy toward the Eastern Mediterranean.

AHI President Larigakis moderated the conversation, which also featured a Q&A. More than 80 persons from around the world viewed the presentation.

Larigakis commented, "We thank Ambassadors Lysiotis and Papadopoulou for taking the time to be a part of our speakers forum. AHI's new virtual speakers forum will help promote AHI's multi-dimensional agenda, as we continue to move towards an ever-more technological and digital world."

Virtual Speakers Forum Examines the Battle of Crete



Emmanuel Velivasakis, Nick Larigakis & Col. Vasileios Lampropoulos.

AHI held its second Virtual Speakers Forum with Col. Vasileios Lampropoulos, Defense and Military attaché, Embassy of Greece in Washington, D.C., and Emmanuel

Continued on Page 20

AHIF Releases Spring 2020 Issue of AHIF Online Policy Journal

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) was pleased to announce the release of the eleventh volume of its policy journal, American Journal of Contemporary Hellenic Issues, in April. The online journal is available gratis at AHIF Policy Journal website, <http://www.ahifworld.org/journal-issues>. The journal is a forum for commentary and scholarship on issues of vital importance to Greek Americans. In his introduction to the current issue, editor Dan Georgakas writes of the pressing foreign policy issues facing the United States, Greece, and Cyprus and their neighbors in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans.

CBS News Internship Program Publishes AHI Foundation Study Abroad Alumna's Article

Floriana Boardman, a participant on the 2018 AHI Foundation Foreign Policy Study Abroad program, currently is an intern at 60 Minutes with CBS News in New York City. The CBS News Internship Program published Floriana's article, "The Greek Orthodox Church of America responds to Covid-19" on the program's [Facebook page](#). The program tasked its interns with writing an article about how COVID-19 is affecting an aspect of their lives during this time of uncertainty.

Floriana reports, "With religion being a communal activity, faiths across the globe have had to deal with COVID-19's unprecedented isolation. But in a way, the separation is bringing people together more than they realize.

Her reporting examined how the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, under the leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, is responding to the challenges presented by restrictions on the sacraments, such

as communion, and the economic stresses of a downturned economy.

As an intern, Floriana works closely with producers and correspondents conducting research for upcoming stories and preliminary interviews. Floriana is a junior at Fordham University majoring in Political Science with a minor in Orthodox Christian Studies. She also interned for Congressman Gus Bilirakis and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Floriana hopes to merge her love for foreign policy, politics and journalism in her future career.

"We are proud to see all of our Study Abroad alumni continue to take significant strides in their careers following their time in the program," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "Overall, it speaks to the quality and talent of students in the Greek American community. Floriana is our most recent example of this success story, and we wish her continued success going forward."

2020 AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Trip Cancelled due to COVID-19

Due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AHI Foundation regret to announced the 12th annual summer study abroad program, the AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Trip: Washington, DC; Greece & Cyprus, is cancelled as well as the extensive program in Washington, DC.

This decision was based on continued health and safety concerns associated with global and domestic travel and the Department of State's travel advisory to refrain from non-essential international travel.

The AHIF encourages students to apply next year as the Foundation remains committed to offer the opportunity to experience first-hand on foreign policy issues affecting U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus, and in the eastern Mediterranean.

Virtual Speakers Forum Examines the Battle of Crete...Continued from page 19

Velivasakis, past president, Pancretan Association of America and the World Council of Cretans, on May 20, 2020.

The Battle of Crete, an important battle during World War II, served as the topic of discussion. Both Col. Lampropoulos and Velivasakis provided an extensive historical analysis of the political and military implications of the battle as well as an overview of the key personalities involved in the Battle of Crete.

AHI President Larigakis moderated the conversation, which also featured a Q&A.

"We thank Colonel Lampropoulos and Emmanuel Velivasakis for taking the time to be a part of our speakers forum," Larigakis said. "I am grateful for their efforts to share their insights on this historic event."

To view both conversations, please visit www.ahifworld.org.



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