



Hellenic Heritage Achievement  
& National Public Service



## HELLENIC HERITAGE NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

### Caterina Papoulias-Sakellaris

*Retired Business Executive & Philanthropist*

*For her exceptional professional achievements, unwavering philanthropic efforts, and steadfast promotion of Hellenic culture.*

**Caterina Papoulias-Sakellaris** was born to Panagiotis and Panagiota Papoulias, who instilled in her the essence of Hellenic heritage and communal spirit. Her father, who hailed from Psari, Megalopolis, and her mother whose origins traced back to Giorgitsi, Sparta, illuminated Cathy's path with the enduring traditions of their Greek lineage. Her grandparents were among the first Greeks to immigrate to the United States in the early 1900s. Cathy's upbringing intentionally balanced assimilation with retaining our precious Greek values and traditions. Engaged in Greek School and GOYA, she cherished the camaraderie and cultural richness these activities provided. Her summers at the Greek Orthodox Camp of New England & Ionian Village Camp in Vartholomio, Greece, cemented her connection to her ancestral homeland. Cathy received a full scholarship to the University of New Hampshire

where she graduated with the highest distinction, Phi Beta Kappa. Degrees in Psychology and Business prepared her for her future and a fast-track career with three premier multi-national companies.

After graduation, Cathy obtained a coveted role in Procter and Gamble's sales training program, quickly climbed to Sales Management, and then to Brand Management. Creative innovation marked Cathy's trailblazing trajectory; her pivotal role in fostering Procter and Gamble's promotional collaboration with the Boston Red Sox launched P&G into sports marketing, and has since been duplicated in other markets. After P&G, Cathy was recruited to ITT in the Information Systems Division. Her tenure there was characterized by her hands-on leadership style. At 25 years of age, she was appointed Director of North American Sales & Engineering for a newly formed





## AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

start-up. She built and led a sales and engineering force driving sales in the competitive PC Marketplace of the '80s. Cathy then worked at Dun and Bradstreet, Nielsen Marketing Research, where she held the positions of National Vice President of Sales, Software & Systems and Managing Director. In her last role there, Cathy was headquartered in London as Vice President of Global Accounts. Her responsibilities included worldwide marketing, sales, and service strategies with premier consumer products companies.

At the beginning of her career, Cathy met her lifelong partner, George, at a Greek dance in 1978. She found her equal in George, who was professionally ambitious, energetic, romantic, and fun. Their enduring partnership, which was forged with mutual respect, friendship, and a shared devotion to Hellenic heritage led to their marriage in 1990. Cathy subsequently left the corporate world in 2000 to raise her children, Christina and Peter. At this time, she turned her considerable management and marketing acumen towards philanthropic endeavors. As a philanthropist, Cathy brings the same energy, creativity, and leadership skills from her business career to achieve ambitious undertakings. Cathy has led numerous charitable endeavors and community initiatives. Uniquely, in addition to contributing significant resources, Cathy also donates her time and talent to manage the details and help direct teams to achieve exceptional results. Over the past 25 years, Cathy has served in national and multi-national boards and community projects including the Faith Endowment, the Hellenic Initiative, Leadership 100, the Hellenic Women's Club of Boston, Metropolis Council of New England, Virginia Tech University Trustee Foundation, the Dana Farber Cancer Institute Major Donor Fellowship, and Public Power International. In addition, Cathy devotes time to smaller foundations and educational organizations through her work as a godparent and benefactor to St. Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church of Braintree, emeritus member of the Milton Academy Board of Trustees, member of Virginia Tech's Baseball Board, and as a founding member of the Northeastern Women Who Empower Committee.

Cathy finds her greatest satisfaction in her work of building community, achieved through initiating and managing challenging projects, assembling teams of like-minded people, providing environments conducive to their success, and orchestrating successful and memorable events. In her pursuit of spreading the joys of Greek culture, she has led many events, most notably "The Pops Goes Hellenic Concert" and "The Corfu Challenge Regatta." These two events involved years of recruiting, leading, and managing like-minded Hellenes to accomplish what was thought to be impossible. Pops Goes Hellenic sold-out Symphony Hall and raised \$3.5 million through a concert featuring music from some of Greece's most legendary composers, conductor Keith Lockhart, and the vocals of Harris Alexiou. The Corfu Challenge's inspiration originated from George's passion for sailing and their love of Greece. Surrounded by a stellar team, and with George's support, Cathy orchestrated a seven-day sailing regatta, along with social events, and awards ceremonies. She also secured Rolex's sponsorship for the regatta. The event received press that highlighted Greece as an excellent venue for sailboat racing and received many accolades from the sailing community. To top it off, George's team, Proteus, won the regatta.

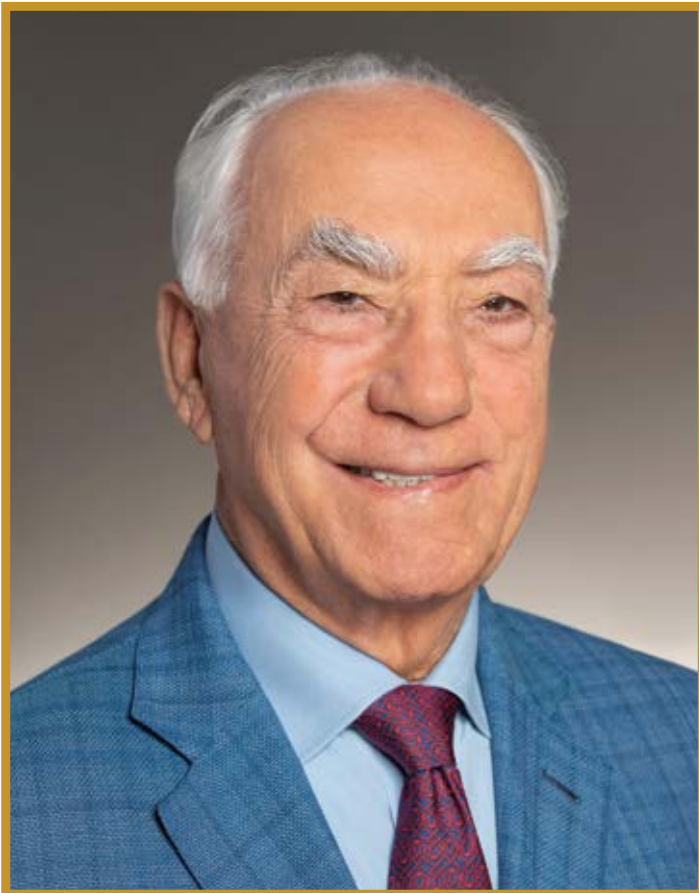
Cathy and George thrive on challenges, and they take pride in what they see as a responsibility to protect their Greek heritage. These ambitious projects would not be possible without their way of complementing each other; they give each other the unique ability to take on risks and projects that others might consider too daunting. To Cathy and George, no vision is unachievable. They are most proud of their children Christina and Peter, to whom they have passed this mindset.

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*In recognition of her remarkable achievements, inspirational philanthropy, proud and incomparably passionate promotion of Greek culture, we are honored to present Caterina Papoulias-Sakellaris with the Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award on this thirteenth day of April 2024, at our Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner.*



Hellenic Heritage Achievement  
& National Public Service



## HELLENIC HERITAGE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### Angelo K. Tsakopoulos

*Founder, Chief Executive Officer,  
& Co-Chairman, AKT Investments Inc.*

*In appreciation for his lifelong dedication  
and passionate advocacy of Hellenism,  
Education, and the Rule of Law.*

The embodiment in full of the American dream, Angelo K. Tsakopoulos is a prominent, civic-minded businessman in Sacramento, California and the founder and chairman of AKT Investments Inc., a diversified, family-owned land development and one of northern California's largest and most respected property investment and real estate development firms.

As a philanthropist and benefactor, he has made lasting contributions to the educational and cultural life of the greater community, in California, across the United States, and in support of Hellenism worldwide, where he has been an ardent proponent of the Greek virtue of "paideia," or education.

Tsakopoulos was born to a farming family on Aug. 4, 1936, in Rizis, a small village in Arcadia, Greece. His father, a butcher, struggled to feed five children. He arrived in United States in 1951, passing by the Statue of Liberty in New York City on his fifteenth birthday. He had no trade, no knowledge

of English, and no financial resources. Through energy and imagination, he overcame all barriers, launching his own real estate company in 1963. Since then, his professional accomplishments have become legendary, climbing to prominence through uncommon business acumen and sheer tenacity.

Today, AKT Investments owns or controls upwards of 80,000 acres of land in northern and central California, including 35,000 acres of farmland and vineyards and 35,000 acres of cattle grazing land. The company has developed more than 40,000 homesites and 30 million square feet of office space, and preserved more than 25,000 acres of open space, wetlands, and endangered species habitat. He has donated land for schools, art galleries, museums, hospitals and senior citizens facilities. The Sacramento Bee newspaper described Tsakopoulos as arguably the most significant force to shape Sacramento since John Sutter, who founded and planned the capitol city in 1850.







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Over the past two decades, the Tsakopoulos family has become a standard bearer for Greek political and cultural interests in America, and is also dedicated to advancing the careers of Greek American politicians. They have established Hellenic Studies chairs at several major American universities across the country, including:

- a) the Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis Professorship in Honor of Constantine Mitsotakis at Stanford University, to support the study of Greek ideas in contemporary society;
- b) the Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Chair on Aristotle and the Moderns (in memory of Tsakopoulos' father) at Columbia University, focused on the importance and relevance of Aristotle's teachings in today's world; and
- c) the Eleni and Markos Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis Chair in Hellenic Studies at Georgetown University to support "teaching and research that will emphasize both Greece's importance as a cornerstone of civilization and its contemporary vitality."

In 1991, Tsakopoulos established the S.B. Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism, an academic research center in Sacramento, which published many volumes and co-sponsored highly recognized conferences. In 2002, Tsakopoulos acquired the center's expansive collection on Hellenistic civilization and donated it to the library of California State University, Sacramento where it is available for use by the community.

Today, the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection is recognized as an internationally significant resource of the California statewide university network for scholars worldwide. Currently numbering approximately 78,000 volumes, it comprises a large circulating book collection, journal holdings, electronic resources, non-print media, rare books, archival materials, art, and artifacts. With its focus on the Hellenic world, the collection contains early through contemporary materials across the social sciences and humanities relating to Greece, its neighboring countries, and the surrounding region. This multidisciplinary collection supports various campus programs and facilitates research by external scholars through its grant-funded Hellenic Research Fellowship Program inaugurated in 2012.

In 1992, Tsakopoulos was co-Chair of Greek Americans on then-Governor Bill Clinton's successful presidential campaign. In 1993, Tsakopoulos urged President Clinton to direct the State Department to withhold recognition of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) until Athens and Skopje could first come to agreement on a number

of disputes. In 1996, Tsakopoulos urged President Clinton to become personally engaged in the deconfliction of Greek and Turkish armed forces over Imia, and to persuade Turkey to withdraw its military forces from the region around the Greek islets. In 1999, Tsakopoulos urged President Clinton to help negotiate an EU accession process for the Republic of Cyprus, and a mutually acceptable mechanism for resolving Turkish sovereignty claims against Greece in the Aegean.

Tsakopoulos has been a friend to America's most prominent political leaders, and to most of Greece's prime ministers of various parties over the past forty years. In 1994, Tsakopoulos hosted President Clinton at his Sacramento home for a major political event, and in 1996, Tsakopoulos hosted Greek President Kostas Stephanopoulos in California's capital.

In 1997, Tsakopoulos established the Western Policy Center, an international relations institute dedicated to the advancement of U.S. and Western values and interests across southern Europe, with emphasis on Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey. In 2004, Tsakopoulos led the negotiated merger of the center with the prestigious, Congressionally-funded Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars to launch the Southeast Europe Project, to advance scholarly research and public affairs programs focused on Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey, with particular attention to European Union enlargement and NATO expansion and realignment in the geopolitical landscape of the 21st century. The policy program included the Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis Lecture Series, providing a unique Washington forum for world leaders and distinguished scholars to study, understand, and manifest democracy and reason – among Classical Hellenism's greatest virtues – in contemporary statecraft and society.

In 2007, Greek President Karolos Papoulias bestowed upon Tsakopoulos the Hellenic Republic's prestigious "Commander of the Order of Honor" award for his lifetime of philanthropic devotion to advancement of Hellenism, including founding both the Western Policy Center and the Wilson Center Southeast Europe Project. In 2022, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis also honored Tsakopoulos for his lifetime of service to Greece and to Hellenism.

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*With profound gratitude and esteem for his outstanding business achievements, dedicated philanthropy, lifelong dedication and fervent advocacy of Hellenism, Education, and the Rule of Law, we present Angelo K. Tsakopoulos with the Hellenic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award this thirteenth day of April 2024, at our Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner.*

