



REPORT



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AHI HOSTS 41ST ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER



From left: Honorees Nicolas Bornozis, Rena Papapostolou, Basil Mossaidis and Peter Pappas.

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) hosted its 41st Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner, March 5, 2016, Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C.

AHI honored a distinguished set of awardees based upon their important career achievements and contributions to the Greek American community or community at-large. They were: Basil N. Mossaidis, AHEPA Executive Director; Rena Papapostolou, Co-founder, *Return to Origins*, Greek language educator; Nicolas Bornozis, Founder, President/CEO, Capital Link; and Peter J. Pappas, Sr., Chairman of the Board, P.J.M. Holdings Corp., and Philanthropist.

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AHI CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRIP TO GREECE, CYPRUS

A delegation from the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) successfully completed the organization’s annual leadership trip to Greece and Cyprus where it held substantive meetings with high-ranking government officials with the purpose of strengthening relations and addressing issues of mutual concern. The 10-day trip occurred May 4 to 12, 2016.

“We had a very productive series of high-visibility meetings in Greece and Cyprus,” President Nick Larigakis said. “We accomplished the objectives we set out to achieve, and the briefings we received on issues of importance to the Greek American community were insightful and informative. We thank all of the leaders who took the time to meet with us to discuss these very important issues.”

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AMERICAN HELLENIC, AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS HAIL SECOND THREE-COUNTRY LEADERSHIP MISSION



From left: Chairman Stephen M. Greenberg of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, AHEPA Supreme President John W. Galanis, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Gary P. Saltzman of B'nai B'rith International, AHI president Nick Larigakis.

A 13-member delegation of community leaders from American Hellenic and American Jewish organizations participated on their second three-country Leadership Mission to Israel, Cyprus, and Greece, Jan. 10 to 19, 2016. The purpose of the Mission was to evaluate the critical and developing relationship between these three countries on security, energy, economics and political areas. The 2016 Mission also sought to build upon the initial Mission the four organizations took in January 2014. Meetings were held with high-ranking government

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AHI GENERAL NEWS

AHI HOSTS 41ST ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER

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AHI President Nick Larigakis, Senator Mazie Hirono, AHI Founder Gene Rossides.



Presentation of the colors by the United States Marine Corps.



From left: Nick Larigakis, Nicolas Bornozis, Dr. Spiro Spireas.

Larry Michael, “Voice of the Redskins,” and senior vice president and executive producer of Media, Washington Redskins, was the evening’s emcee. AHI volunteer legal counsel and Board of Directors Treasurer Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., partner in Sfikas & Karambelas LLP, introduced Michael. The Marines of Headquarters Battalion presented the colors and the American and Greek national anthems were performed by Maria Pearce. Rev. Steven P.

Zorzos, Presiding Priest of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Washington, D.C., offered the invocation and benediction. Apollonia provided the musical entertainment.

Opening the evening’s program were AHI President Nick Larigakis and AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiro Spireas, both of who offered greetings

HONOREES HUMBLLED, MOVED



From left: Nick Larigakis, Basil Mossaidis, Dr. Spiro Spireas.

Basil N. Mossaidis, who is the executive director of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the largest and oldest association for American citizens of Greek heritage and Philhellenes, accepted the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award for his extraordinary efforts to promote and advocate for Hellenism in the United States. In acceptance, Mossaidis thanked AHI President Nick Larigakis and AHI for the honor. He also thanked his parents and recalled his upbringing in a Greek household as the beginning of his journey to where he is today.



From left: Nick Larigakis, Rena Papapostolou, Dr. Spiro Spireas.

“This is what Hellenism is about to me, it is about family, and like I said earlier I believe that we are all one Greek family,” Mossaidis said.

Rena Papapostolou received the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award for her tireless promotion of Hellenic art and culture through music and dance through her work

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as co-founder of Return to Origins, a Greek cultural and educational program aimed at fostering Greek culture and heritage and strengthening Greek ecclesiastical tradition, especially among the youth. Papapostou accepted the honor with deep emotion and gratitude toward AHI and on behalf of her late husband, with whom she founded Return to Origins.

“Nearly 50 years ago we started this life of service through music, dance and education through which we have enjoyed and taught to others the best principles and values of our Hellenic heritage,” she said. “I would especially like to extend my most heartfelt thanks to the president of AHI, Mr. Nick Larigakis, and with his generous support, RTO has been continuously successful.”

In acceptance of the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award for his outstanding achievements fostering strong economic ties with the Hellenic world, **Nicolas Bornozis**, recalled his beginnings in the capital markets and international finance industry, working for a French bank in the United States, eventually becoming its CEO. Twenty years ago, he started Capital Link, a leader in investor relations for the shipping industry, closed-end funds and companies seeking access to the U.S. and European financial markets. Capital Link organizes 12 large-scale investment conferences annually in Athens, New York, London and Shanghai, attracting as many as 1,000 delegates at some venues and spurring investment and business opportunities in Greece.

“...it has been particularly testing but equally important to put up the right message about Greece,” he said. “We are all proud to be Americans and we are all proud to be Greek and [to have the] opportunity to thrive and contribute back to the American society and we have to contribute back to Greece...”



From left: Nick Larigakis, Peter Pappas, Dr. Spiro Spireas.

Peter J. Pappas, Sr. received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award in recognition of his entrepreneurial spirit, philanthropic endeavors, and fidelity to Hellenic causes. Pappas is the Chairman of the Board of P.J.M. Holdings Group, one of the largest HVAC and mechanical contracting firms in the United States. In acceptance, Pappas recounted his family story and what it was like to grow up “literally in the streets” of New York City, and how that impacted his path through life, as uncertain as it may have seemed at the time. Pappas also spoke about AHI Founder Gene Rossides and the work at AHI under President Nick Larigakis, stating, “He [Gene] has been an amazing man and

now Nick [Larigakis] who is following him is doing a sensational job, with this group and moving this group right along and is to be commended, as everyone else said.” And Pappas also had a message for the young people in attendance, “I saw a lot of young people walking around this room today, and I think that what the young people have to believe in is that you will have a chance... So I say to the young, you know the great line, ‘I had a dream’... Gene Rossides had a dream, other people have dreams, you young people have dreams and carry those dreams out.”

Finally, as part of the weekend’s festivities AHI hosted a breakfast briefing with Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos and Consul Konstantinos Polykarpou, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, March 5, 2016; and major benefactors and supporters attended a buffet dinner graciously hosted at the Embassy of Greece, March 4.

AHI HOSTS BRIEFING WITH TOP GREEK, CYPRIOT DIPLOMATS IN U.S.



From left: Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos of Greece, AHI President Nick Larigakis, Consul of Cyprus Konstantinos Polykarpou.

AHI hosted a breakfast briefing with Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos, ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the U.S., and Consul Konstantinos Polykarpou, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, March 5, 2016, at the Capital Hilton, as part of its Annual Awards Dinner weekend. AHI President Nick Larigakis moderated.

In his opening remarks President Larigakis addressed the importance of two major crises challenging Greece and Cyprus and added that Turkey presents an additional challenge to an already delicate situation.

In his remarks, Ambassador Panagopoulos commended AHI and President Larigakis for creating an important bridge and maintaining open channels between Greece and the United States. He explained Greece’s current economic state and the government’s overarching plan for Greece to return to growth, stating the end goal is to achieve a modern economy and a modern state that will be able to compete successfully. In addition, Ambassador Panagopoulos addressed the destabilizing effect of the refugee crisis in Greece and the whole of Europe and the importance of an upcoming EU summit dedicated to addressing the challenges facing the EU.

Consul Polykarpou addressed three issues currently dictating foreign policy in Cyprus. The first is the ongoing negotiations to

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find a solution to the Cyprus problem. He applauded President Anastasiades' renewed efforts as well as maintaining a common vision with Turkish Cypriot leader, Mustafa Akinci. Polykarpou emphasized the importance of U.S. support, especially in encouraging Turkey to contribute more to the process. He highlighted the Treaty of Guarantee and his government's belief that it is obsolete for the future of a unified Cyprus. The second issue centers around energy, Polykarpou said. The necessity of cooperation with Greece, Israel and Egypt is of particular importance, he added.

FY17 FOREIGN AID TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO HOUSE APPROPRIATORS

AHI submitted testimony to the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs on the Obama Administration's foreign aid proposals for FY2017 on March 24, 2016. In the best interests of the United States, AHI's testimony opposed: any military assistance the administration will request for Turkey until Turkey removes its troops and illegal Turkish settlers from Cyprus; aid the administration will request for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM); and any reduction that might be introduced in the aid levels for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. In addition, AHI's testimony recommended that should a settlement to reunify Cyprus be reached via referendum, United States foreign assistance can help solidify a reunified Cyprus and its government during the post-referendum transition period.

AHI CELEBRATES GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE

AHI celebrated Greek Independence Day at the White House on April 4, 2016. AHI President Nick Larigakis, Legislative Director Georgea Polizos, Board Member Leon Andris, and AHI Foundation Board Member Jim Lagos attended the ceremony officiated by President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

"We thank President Obama for hosting this event to honor Greek Independence," Larigakis said. "The event served to reaffirm the strong bonds of friendship between Greece and the United States, including Greece as a valued NATO ally; and to bring attention to the fact that this relationship is etched intrinsically by virtue of the noble democratic ideals and principles that guided our Founding Fathers in establishing our own country."

AHIF PRESIDENT, AHI MEMBERS SERVE AS GRAND MARSHALS TO PARADES

AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiros Spireas and AHI Members Paul Kotrotsios and Dr. Panayiotis Baltatzis served as Grand Marshals at Greek Independence Day parades held in April. Dr. Spireas served as one of the Grand Marshals of the New York

City Greek Independence Day Parade, April 10, 2016. Kotrotsios and Dr. Baltatzis served as Grand Marshals of the Baltimore Greek Independence Day Parade, April 3, 2016.

"We congratulate these outstanding representatives of the AHI



Dr. Spiro Spireas pictured with other Grand Marshalls at the parade. Courtesy of Dimitrios Panagos.



Paul Kotrotsios, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Dr. Panayiotis Baltatzis.

Foundation and AHI, who were recognized in this esteemed manner by the organizers of the New York City and Baltimore Greek Independence Day Parades," said President Nick Larigakis, who attended both parades. "They have made significant contributions to Hellenism and the Greek American community. We enjoyed celebrating the 195th anniversary of Greek Independence with the communities of New York City and its Tri-state area as well as the Baltimore community."

AHI PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT NHSA CONFERENCE

President Nick Larigakis shared his foreign policy expertise with the delegates of the National Hellenic Student Association Conference, April 2, 2016, Baltimore, Md. Larigakis discussed the topic "Sovereignty in the Aegean" before an audience of more than 100 students. Larigakis spoke about the violations of Greece's airspace committed by Turkey over the Aegean Sea. His remarks also included Turkey's violations of Greece's territorial

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waters, and he explained the differences between infringements and violations of airspace.

U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD) and Dr. Theodore Kariotis, professor emeritus of Economics at the University System of Maryland, also joined Larigakis on the program.

AHI HOSTS ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL SALUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY



Rep. Carolyn Maloney.

AHI celebrated the 195th anniversary of Greek Independence Day by hosting its annual “Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day,” on April 13, 2016. The common democratic ideals held by Greece and the United States were reaffirmed by several members of Congress at the event which was held in cooperation with the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

AHI President Nick Larigakis served as Master of Ceremonies. He welcomed the guests and thanked Representatives Bilirakis and Maloney for their support to organize the reception and for their ongoing efforts to promote Greek American issues in the U.S. Congress.

Members of Congress who addressed the audience included (in order of appearance): U.S. Reps. Lee Zeldin (R-NY), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), former chairman and current member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; Dina Titus (D-NV), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), and Frank Pallone (D-NJ). U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) also stopped by and chatted with AHI staff during the event. In addition, although U.S. Reps. John Sarbanes (D-MD) and Tony Cárdenas (D-CA) were unable to attend, they submitted written remarks to AHI.

Special guest speakers were: Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos, Deputy Chief of Mission Andreas Nikolaidis, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus; and AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis.

The speakers emphasized their admiration for Hellenic culture and for the valiant and inspirational struggle for Greek Independence achieved in 1821. They also expressed their support for a proper settlement of the Cyprus issue, a proper resolution to the FYROM name-recognition issue, and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

During the evening, there was a presentation of traditional Greek dances performed by the Return to Origins Greek Folk Dance Troupe under the direction of Rena Papapostolou. The Greek School Students of Saint Katherine’s Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, Va., and the Hellenic School of Potomac, Md., sang the American and Greek National Anthems.



AHI President Nick Larigakis with Reps. Virginia Foxx, Gus Bilirakis, Dina Titus, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Greek school students from the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Katherine.



Return to Origins dance troupe with their instructor, Rena Papapostolou and Nick Larigakis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AHI Responds to Correct the Record on FYROM

AHI submitted a letter to the editor to *The Washington Times* in response to a March 20, 2016 op-ed titled, “Why a Stable Macedonia Matters” by Jason Katz. In his letter, President Nick Larigakis rebuts the author’s claim that Greece impedes FYROM’s path toward stability and prosperity. Instead, Larigakis points out Greece has been one of the largest sources of foreign investment in FYROM in recent years. Larigakis also rebuts Katz’s position that former Prime Minister Gruevski has “sought alignment with the West,” arguing that Gruevski’s long-term policy of extreme nationalism and provocation against Greece is in conflict with Euro-Atlantic values and in breach of the UN-brokered Interim Accord. Finally, Larigakis adds that Greece, under extreme economic duress, continues to bear the burden of the refugee crisis that has only been exacerbated by FYROM’s border closures.

NOON FORUMS

AHI IN THE NEWS

AHI-Athens President's Article Published in Foreign Affairs Greek Edition

Foreign Affairs, a leading magazine for analysis and debate of foreign policy, economics and global affairs, published an article in its Greek edition authored by George Economou. Economou is founder of G.C. Economou & Associates Law Firm and president of the American Hellenic Institute-Athens Chapter. The article is entitled “QUO VADIS CYPRUS? The slippery road to reaching agreement.” It appeared in the December 2015—January 2016 Greek edition of *Foreign Affairs*.

In the article, Economou states, “...the groundwork is being prepared for the acceptance of a compromised federal solution similar to the ‘Anan Plan’ which will castrate Cyprus as a sovereign and independent state.” Economou argues that in the midst of everyone’s haste to solve the Cyprus problem that one should step back and consider the repercussions not just for Cyprus, but for Greece and potentially the West. Economou sets the stage by tracing the modern history of Cyprus.

NEO Magazine Features AHI's Awards Dinner, President

NEO Magazine featured the work of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) and AHI President Nick Larigakis. The article by Cindy Klimek titled, “The American Hellenic Institute Celebrates 41 Years of Public Service” appeared in the March 2016 edition. In the interview, Larigakis discusses AHI’s 41st Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement & Public Service Awards Dinner, held March 5, 2016, as well as the history of the dinner, which has showcased prominent Greek Americans over the years. The feature article also recounts AHI’s founding in 1974 in support for the rule of law following Turkey’s invasion of the Republic of Cyprus and reports on AHI’s work today.

VISITORS TO HELLENIC HOUSE

Dignitaries Visit Hellenic House during DC Visit



The visiting Greek delegation with President Nick Larigakis.

AHI hosted a group visiting from Greece on the occasion of the White House’s ceremony in commemoration of Greek Independence, April 4, 2016. The visiting group included: George Hatzimarkos, governor, South Aegean Region; Miltos Goudama-

nis, CEO, Global Strategies Council; Anthony Kambourakis, president, Hotels’ Association of Rhodes and owner, Rhodes Palace Hotel; John Horozoglou, communications director for a travel agency; and Panos Satzoglou, program director, Cosmos FM NY 91.5 Hellenic Public Radio.

President Nick Larigakis reviewed the role AHI plays in Washington as well as the challenges Greece faces in meeting its policy goals in Washington. “We were pleased to welcome this distinguished group of individuals to Hellenic House,” Larigakis said. “We thank them for taking time from their busy schedules to visit with us and to discuss issues affecting Greece and the eastern Mediterranean.”

Legislative Director Georgea Polizos also attended the meeting.

NOON FORUM

AHI Examines Turkey's Effect on Peace, Stability in Eastern Mediterranean

AHI hosted a Noon Forum titled, “The Role of Turkey in Affecting Peace and Stability in the Eastern Mediterranean,” featuring Doug Bandow, senior fellow, Cato Institute, Feb. 25, 2016, at Hellenic House. Bandow made the strong case for the United States to drop Turkey as an ally. Bandow stated the justification for Turkey’s membership in NATO and America’s defense guarantee for Ankara has long since passed. He added that Turkey’s actions, including its provocations with Russia which has drawn concern from NATO, demonstrate it is not an ally of the United States.

“Turkey is a known aggressor in the Aegean with its egregious violations of Greece’s airspace and territorial waters; and of course, with Cyprus, through illegal invasion and subsequent occupation of a sovereign, EU nation,” President Nick Larigakis said. “We applaud his analysis recent events that confirm AHI’s position over the decades that Turkey is an unreliable ally.”

Migration Crisis and its Impact Greece Focus of Forum



Sokou gives her presentation on the migration crisis.

AHI hosted a Noon Forum titled, “The Migration Crisis and Its Implications for Greece,” featuring Katerina Sokou, Washington correspondent, SKAI TV and Kathimerini, April 6, 2016, at Hellenic House. Sokou emphasized the implications of the humanitarian crisis and recent attempts to address the challenges it presents. According to Sokou, for the European Union, the crisis has become an economic, political and security issue, and with regard

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to Greece, the crisis has put the country on the frontlines because of its geographic location. Greece faces a multitude of challenges, including public health and security. Sokou also provided staggering statistics of the number of refugees, demonstrating the broad scope of the crisis. A Q&A session followed her presentation.

“We thank Katerina Sokou for providing us with much-needed insight on a crisis that has impacted Greece profoundly,” President Nick Larigakis said. “The migratory crisis has placed an incredible logistical and administrative burden upon Greece, which is also dealing with an economic crisis. Clearly, Europe and Turkey are going to need to do more if this crisis is to deescalate.”

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AHIF Releases Spring 2016 Issue of AHIF Online Policy Journal

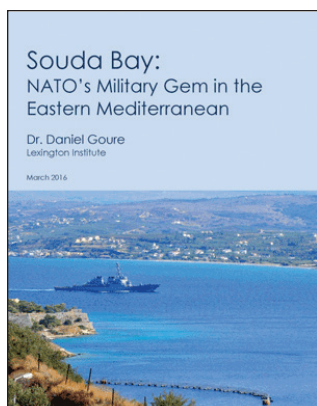
The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) announced its sixth volume release of its *Spring 2016 Online Policy Journal*. The journal is a forum for commentary and scholarship on issues of vital importance to Greek Americans. This particular issue probes recent developments in Cyprus, the historical atrocities committed by Turkey, and the dynamics of Greek America. Professor Dan Georgakas, director, Greek American Studies Project, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College (CUNY), is editor of the *Online Policy Journal*. He also provided the Forward.

AHI Releases 2015 Annual Report

AHI announced the release of its 2015 Annual Report on March 10, 2016. “All of AHI’s policy-based programs and initiatives for 2015 that advance the best interests of the United States on issues of importance to the Greek American community are encapsulated in this report,” President Nick Larigakis said. “We are proud to highlight our successful programming, which includes our ‘Future of Hellenism in America’ conference, foreign policy trip abroad for college students, and several policy forums, among other initiatives and events.” Visit www.aheworld.org to download a copy.

AHI, Lexington Institute Co-host Presentation Announcing Release of Souda Bay White Paper

AHI and Lexington Institute, a nonprofit public-policy research organization, co-hosted a presentation on Capitol Hill to announce the release of a Lexington Institute white paper, “Souda Bay: NATO’s Military Gem in the Eastern Mediterranean,” March 21, 2016, Rayburn House Office Building. The presentation featured the white paper’s author, Dr. Daniel Goure, vice president, Lexington Institute; and Greece’s Minister of Defense, Panos Kam-



menos. AHI President Nick Larigakis moderated.

President Larigakis, who has visited Souda Bay on several occasions, addressed the importance of Greece as a geopolitical asset



Dr. Daniel Goure, Lexington Institute Vice President.



Nick Larigakis and Defense Minister Panos Kammenos.



Attendees.

to NATO and staunch ally and Souda Bay as a key military facility in the eastern Mediterranean.

In his remarks, Defense Minister Kammenos explained Souda Bay’s importance based upon its reach of operations, including Europe, Africa and the Middle East; and a broad range of missions that it can support such as to combat piracy, terrorism and human trafficking. He emphasized the usefulness of Souda Bay

IN MEMORIAM

during times of peace as well as crisis. Defense Minister Kammenos also reaffirmed Greece as a consistently reliable ally for NATO and the United States.

In presenting the white paper, Dr. Goure provided context on the reasons Souda Bay should be discussed, mentioning the historical significance of the base and the future geostrategic and potentially stabilizing role it could play in a complex region. The return of a “meddlesome” Russia and the refugee crisis are just a few of the issues complicating the region. He added, the role of Greece is becoming increasingly important because of its access and existing facilities. Dr. Goure described Crete as a permanent aircraft carrier in the middle of the Mediterranean and emphasized that Greece has never restricted access to this base or any other resources they maintain. Greece also remains consistently above the NATO target for GDP spending on defense even amid its economic crisis. Moreover, Dr. Goure observed that as more non-state actors acquire ballistic missiles that there will be a growing need to advance defense systems. Souda Bay is among the few places that exist that is able to provide such a capability. The base allows for a continuous presence in the region rather than relying on selective deployment, which requires more time to mobilize and higher costs. Finally, Dr. Goure underscored that Souda Bay is vital to the national security of the United States.

A Q&A session followed the presentation during which Dr. Goure mentioned that unlike bases in Turkey, Souda Bay has never been used by Greece as a “bargaining chip.”

Visit www.aheworld.org to download the white paper.

Fmr. AHIF Student Trip Participant Advises Presumptive GOP Presidential Nominee on Foreign Policy



George Papadopoulos (r) meets with Nick Larigakis.

From time to time, the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) presents updates on alumni of the AHI Foundation Study Abroad program or former interns.

George Papadopoulos, a participant on the 2009 AHIF Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus, has been named a foreign policy adviser to presumptive Republican Presidential Nominee Donald Trump. In addition to AHI, Papadopoulos, an international energy consultant, has been a researcher at the Hudson Institute before joining the London Center of International Law Practice. He also advised former Presidential Candidate Dr. Ben Carson.

Papadopoulos visited the Hellenic House on April 1 and met with AHI President Nick Larigakis and Legislative Director Georgea Polizos and received an up-to-date briefing on developments in the southeast Mediterranean.

“Southeastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean combine to form an important geopolitical region to the United States,” Papadopoulos said. “The strong, bilateral relationships that the United States has with Greece and Cyprus has only contributed to regional stability and the promotion of security and U.S. interests.”

This meeting served to further AHI’s ongoing strategy to outreach to all presidential candidates, providing each of their campaigns with an opportunity to present their positions on issues of importance to the Greek American community.

AHI Legal Counsel Publishes Guide to Business Entities in Greece

Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., a partner in Sfikas & Karambelas, LLP, in cooperation with Tribonian Publishing, LLC, has published the “Comparative Guide to Business Entities in Greece for United States Business Persons.” Mr. Karambelas is legal counsel to the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) and a director on AHI’s Board of Directors. The purpose of the publication is to introduce to U.S. business persons the business entities which are available under Greek law. The publication compares U.S. business entities to the Greek business entities and discusses their similarities and differences.

The publication is available free of charge as an ebook. It can be downloaded from www.ngklaw.com.

IN MEMORIAM

The American Hellenic Institute mourns the passing of our members, supporters, and friends. May their memories be eternal.

NANCY HORTON, Athens, Greece, passed away February 18, 2016. She was 103. Nancy was the daughter of Catherine Sacopoulou and George Horton, the U.S.’s Consul-General in Athens, Thessaloniki, and Smyrna at the time of the great fire in September 1922. Until the last possible moment, while flames engulfed Smyrna, George Horton helped beleaguered refugees find means of escape. After the fire, his book *The Blight of Asia* cited first-person witnesses to lay the blame for the fire’s origins on uniformed Turkish troops, who occupied Smyrna at the denouement of the Greek-Turkish war of 1919-1922. Like her father, Nancy was an author and poet, was fluent in Greek, and was an ardent lover of all things Greek. Through her writings and activities, she kept alive her distinguished father’s memory and was much beloved by Greeks everywhere. Nancy Horton will be interred with her father and mother in Georgetown’s Oak Hill Cemetery.



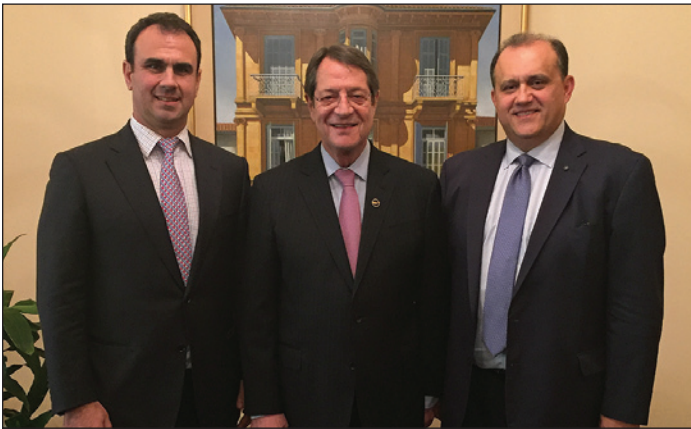
Nancy Horton on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

SECOND THREE-COUNTRY LEADERSHIP MISSION HAILED

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A Holocaust survivor from Thessaloniki providing a tour at the Greece Jewry Heritage Center.



AHI Board Member Aleco Haralambides and AHI President Nick Larigakis with President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades.



Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulidis briefing the group.

and military officials—in addition to local community leaders—from the three countries and the United States. The Mission also visited military installations at Palmachim Air Base, Yavne, Israel and Souda Bay, Crete, Greece. The participating organizations included: American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), American Hellenic Institute (AHI), B'nai B'rith International, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

“Our meetings made clear that the trilateral relationship between

Israel, Cyprus, and Greece is vibrant and strong on all levels. We believe the relationship has developed to the betterment of the region and is on sustained course. In a region with so much instability, the trilateral relationship possesses the potential to allow the eastern Mediterranean to become a community of nations based on shared common values and aspirations. We applaud the leaders of these three countries for their foresight in establishing this cooperative relationship which we hope other nations will join.”



Briefing by Admiral Apostolakis at the HNDGS.

“The American Hellenic and American Jewish communities will continue to work to foster closer cooperation in the United States and support the trilateral relationship. We are grateful to the many leaders who afforded us the opportunity to exchange views and ideas. The friendship and hospitality shown to us made the trip all the more meaningful and productive.”

For a full listing of the meetings held during the Leadership Mission, and Mission participants, please visit the AHI Media Center, <http://aheworld.org/media-center/press-releases/2016.html>.

TRILATERAL SUMMIT REINFORCES MISSION'S FINDINGS

A trilateral summit concluded in Nicosia, Cyprus, Jan. 28, where leaders of the three countries met to discuss strengthening ties in the security, energy, economic and political arenas. According to a summit declaration issued by President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu and Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Alexis Tsipras, the leaders have “...agreed to strengthen the cooperation between our three countries in order to promote a trilateral partnership in different fields of common interest and to work together towards promoting peace, stability, security and prosperity in the Mediterranean and the wider region.”

The Mission's participating organizations stated: “The trilateral summit, and its declaration, reinforce the messages we received during our meetings with the prime ministers, presidents and top officials from all three countries. We welcome the summit's declaration, and we are pleased the leaders have announced a second summit is planned to be held in the second half of 2016 in Israel.”

IN POST-MISSION TRIP, AHI PRESIDENT VISITS THESSALONIKI

AHI President Nick Larigakis made a post-Mission visit to Thessa-

FEATURE ARTICLES

loniki, Jan. 20, for a one-day series of meetings. Thanks to the efforts of Lt. Gen. Ilias A Leontaris, Larigakis met with Minister of Macedonia and Thrace Maria Kollia Tsaroucha at lunch hosted by Lt. Gen. Leontaris. The lieutenant general also hosted a business roundtable discussion where Larigakis was the principal speaker. In addition, Larigakis met with Pericles A. Mitkas, Rector Professor, Aristotle University, and received a VIP tour of a military history museum.

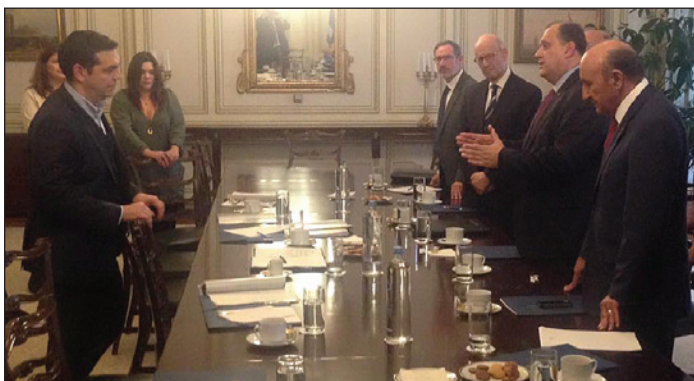
“Thank you to Lieutenant General Leontaris for his assistance in helping to make my one-day visit to Thessaloniki a productive one,” Larigakis said.



Briefing at the 115CW F-16 Fighter Squadron in Souda Bay, Crete.



AHI Board Member Aleco Haralambides checking out the inside of an F16.



Prime Minister Tsipras briefing the delegation.

AHI CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRIP TO GREECE, CYPRUS

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AHI WORKS TO ADDRESS MANY ISSUES FACING CYPRUS

The AHI delegation received multiple briefings from Cypriot and American officials on the status of settlement talks for Cyprus under UN auspices; Cyprus’ efforts to explore for hydrocarbon reserves in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and on Cypriot commerce and tourism sectors. All throughout the delegation’s meetings in Cyprus, AHI was commended for its past advocacy and current steadfast efforts to keep the Cyprus issue highly visible with key policymakers in the Obama administration and in the U.S. Congress.

During its stay in Cyprus, May 5 and 6, the delegation met with U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus Kathleen Doherty, President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government Spokesman Nikos Christodoulidis, President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou, Minister of Defense Christoforos Fokaides, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Yiorgos Lakkotrypīs, Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, the chief negotiator for the current settlement talks; and Fotis Fotiou, commissioner to the Presidency for Humanitarian Affairs and Overseas Cypriots. The AHI delegation also met with Espen Barthe Eide, the special representative of the UN Secretary-General on Cyprus.

“Our meetings provided us with a candid assessment of the current state of the settlement talks and other developments in the eastern Mediterranean,” Larigakis said. “AHI believes the United States must exert pressure on Turkey as the biggest problem in the effort to solve the Cyprus issue is Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s behavior.”

GREECE: PM TSIPRAS, PRESIDENT PAVLOPOULOS, AMB. PEARCE, MEETINGS TOP AGENDA

Meetings with Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Alexis Tsipras and President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos, U.S. Ambassador to Greece David Pearce, and extensive briefings with foreign ministry and Department of Defense officials, were highlights of the delegation’s itinerary in Greece from May 7 to 11, 2016. The itinerary included the 12th Annual AHI Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner at the Grand Bretagne Hotel, May 11, which drew a record number of attendees at more than 400 persons.

“Our meetings covered a broad range of issue topics, including Greece’s economic crisis, the Cyprus issue, and Greece’s relations in the Balkans and with Turkey,” Larigakis said. “We also explored ways in which the Greek American community can strengthen cooperation and enhance relations between Greece and the United States.”

The delegation met with Ambassador Pearce and Prime Min-

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ister Tsipras on May 9. Also on that day, AHI met with: Government Spokesperson Olga Gerovasili, Defense Minister Panos Kammenos, and Minister of State Nikos Pappas, prior to the latter's departure to the United States. The delegation's audience with President Prokopis Pavlopoulos was held May 11. In addition, meetings with high-level ministry officials were held with: Deputy Foreign Minister Ioannis Amanatidis, May 10; Ambassador Dimitris Alexandrakis, director, A7 Directorate for North America, May 11; Ambassador Ioannis Papameletiou, acting director, A2 Directorate for Cyprus, May 10; Ambassador Dimitris Chronopoulos, A4 Directorate for Turkey, May 10; and Director General of the Secretariat for Greeks Abroad Michalis Kokkinos, May 10. In addition, the delegation met with members of the Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament, May 10; and Governor of the Bank of Greece, Yannis Stournaras, May 11.



The AHI delegation with President of the Hellenic Republic Pavlopoulos.



The AHI delegation with President of the Republic of Cyprus Anastasiades.

On the trip, AHI President Nick Larigakis was accompanied by: AHI Board Member Leon Andris and AHI Legislative Director Georgea Polizos. AHI Foundation Board Member Gus Andy joined the group in Cyprus only, AHI board members Kostas Alexakis and Dr. George Tsetsekos and AHI-New Jersey representative Constantine Larigakis joined the delegation in Greece only.

AHI HOSTS 12TH ATHENS AWARDS DINNER



Honorees Dennys Plessas Leonidis and Fulbright Foundation—Greece, represented by Artemis A. Zenetou with Ambassador Pearce, AHI President Larigakis, and Master of Ceremonies Bournozi.

The Twelfth Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner was held May 11, The Grande Bretagne. AHI President Nick Larigakis provided opening remarks and Ambassador Pearce offered greetings. Honorees were: Dennys Plessas Leonidis, vice president, Business Development Initiatives, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics/International; and Fulbright Foundation—Greece. Videos profiling the honorees and Lockheed Martin's involvement in Greece for half century were shown to a record 406 AHI friends and supporters who attended.

In acceptance, Leonidis acknowledged his employer, Lockheed Martin and his colleagues, and having the good fortune to work from Greece and his volunteer charitable work with “Doctors of the World.” He also took the opportunity to commend the resiliency of the Greek people and to state that he shares the honor with the Hellenic Armed Forces, “who with personal sacrifice defend the Greek skies, the Aegean Seas and the Greek land and are the true successors of ‘Icarus and Daedalus.’”

In acceptance on behalf of the Fulbright Foundation—Greece, Executive Director Artemis A. Zenetou credited Fulbright being about teamwork and collaborations. As such, she stated the award belongs to U.S. Ambassador David Pearce, who actively supports Fulbright; the Greek and U.S. members of the Board of Directors, to the Fulbright team, which is its staff members; and to the “more than 5,000 Fulbright alumni in Greece and in the U.S. who represent academic excellence, scholarship and 68 solid years of educational and cultural exchanges between the United States and Greece.” She also presented the audience with the background and history of Fulbright in Greece and how it is evolving to respond to a changing landscape and to address current and future needs in education.

In remarks, Ambassador Pearce congratulated the honorees and commended AHI for hosting a “wonderful celebration for Greece, for the United States, and for our enduring friendship.” He also reflected upon his three years as American ambassador

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The AHI delegation with Prime Minister of Greece Tsipras.

to Greece, noting a strong U.S.-Greece relationship and the generosity of the Greek people and the Greek American community, “After three years, I can happily say that our relationship as defense allies and friends is as strong as ever. Greece needs allies, and friends, now, perhaps more than ever. I have seen how the Greek people have suffered under the tremendous weight of the economic crisis and the migrant crisis. But, when I see the remarkable generosity of Greeks and Greek-Americans, helping their neighbors and total strangers through this time of crisis, I feel optimistic about the future of Greece. It is a true testament to the generosity of spirit, the natural ‘philotimo’, which exists both here in Greece and among the diaspora community.”

Also, AHI President Nick Larigakis made a special presentation to former Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos P. Panagopoulos. Larigakis presented Ambassador Panagopoulos with a public service award for his efforts as ambassador to the U.S. to foster a stronger bond between the people of Greece and the people of the United States. In accepting the award, the ambassador was very moved as he thanked the organization.

Olga Bournozi of Capital Link served exceptionally as Master of Ceremonies. Ilias Malevitis, president, AHI-Greece; George C. Economou, president, AHI-Athens Chapter; Panagiotis Madamopoulos-Moraris, director of Development; and AHI Members Katerina Papathanassiou and Sylvia Gavalla contributed to the dinner’s success as did AHI Member George Mermelas, who provided public relations support and guidance.

“We congratulate our honorees and commend them for their excellence in their respective sector of industry and their contributions to society,” Larigakis said. “We are delighted this special event, now in its twelfth year, has grown to new heights. We would like to thank the AHI-Athens Chapter for its hard work as well as to our generous benefactors and sponsors.”

Dignitaries in attendance included: Government Spokesperson and Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister Olga Gerovasili, who officially represented Prime Minister Tsipras; Minister of Interior Panagiotis Kouroumplis, Vice Admiral George Giakoumakis, chief, Hellenic Navy General Staff; Lt. General Chris-

tos Vaitsis, chief, Hellenic Air Force General Staff; Lt. General Ilias Leontaris, commander, 1st Hellenic Army and the Hellenic European Union Operations Command HQs, who officially represented Lt. General Vasileios Tellidis, chief, Hellenic Army General Staff; Deputy Foreign Minister Demetris Mardas, Alternate Minister of Defense Dimitrios Vitsas, Adonis Georgiadis, vice president, Nea Demokratia, who officially represented Kyriakos Mitsotakis; Vasilios Leventis, president, Union of Centrist Party; Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos, former Greek ambassador to the U.S.; AHEPA Supreme President John Galanis, Michael Kokkinos, head, General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; George Michelis, chairman, Hellenic Financial Stability Fund; and many other business, cultural, government and political leaders.

Benefactors: Lockheed Martin and SigmaPharm Laboratories, LLC. **President’s Circle:** Dole Hellas, Ltd., and Constantine and Sophia Galanis, Mexico City, Mexico. **Chairman’s Circle:** Aeroservices, G.C. Economou and Associates, Athens; Gus Andy (La Mer Beachfront Inn, Cape May, N.J.), Interoperability Systems International; James H. Lagos, Springfield, Ohio; Jim and Ted Pedas, Washington, D.C. **Sponsors:** Agora Trading, A.S. Papadimitriou & Partners Law Firm, Aris Drivas Yachting, Athens; Greek Dream, Inc.; Kapotas S.A.; Karipidis Brothers, Symeon G. Tsomokos S.A.; Ted & Erika Spyropoulos Foundation, Chicago; George Tsetsekos, Ph.D., Philadelphia, Penn. **Supporters:** Theodors Vakrinos and Helen Abadzi, Virginia; Emvatis S.A.; Apella S.A.; Hotel Grande Bretagne; Theon Sensors; Itracom Defense Electronics.

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