



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP  
Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

April 13, 2024

The esteemed Nick Larigakis  
President & CEO of the American Hellenic Institute, Inc.  
1220 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Larigakis,

It is with sentiments of Archbishopal delight that I offer these words of wholehearted commendation to you and the entire American Hellenic Institute on your 50th anniversary.

As you gather in celebration of this significant milestone, I am deeply pleased to join in your gala festivities by extending to you my warmest best wishes and congratulations. For half a century, AHI has served as a tireless beacon of support and advocacy for Greece, Cyprus and the global Hellenic community. This year, of course, marks the semicentennial of your Institute's establishment by the great Gene Rossides, who founded AHI in direct response to the illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus by Turkish forces fifty years ago. Since then, your respected organization has never ceased raising awareness on critical international issues of paramount importance for Hellenes and Philhellenes alike. And this has led to a proud lineage of valiant Greek-American titans who have served our *Omogenia* and its interests with the utmost passion, dedication and commitment.

In commemoration of your golden jubilee, you joyfully continue your annual tradition of choosing to honor esteemed individuals who embody the principles of your prestigious **Hellenic Heritage Lifetime Achievement** and **National Public Service Awards**. This evening you have selected two worthy recipients in **Angelo K. Tsakopoulos** and **Caterina Papoulias-Sakellaris**. Their remarkable contributions reflect the very essence of Hellenism and blend the noble ideals of our rich heritage with the high values of public service and philanthropy. It is only natural, then, that the proud achievements of visionaries like tonight's honorees perpetuate the AHI's enduring spirit of innovation and leadership throughout the wider community. And so, I pray that you may be ever strengthened from above in your desire to promote the greater common good and to foster deeper ties of unity and solidarity between our beloved homelands of Greece, Cyprus and America.

Many, many heartfelt congratulations to you all, my dear and esteemed friends!

With paternal love in Christ,

+ ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America