

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE
AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE FOUNDATION



AHI
ANNUAL REPORT
2009

Including AHI History 1974-2008



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ANNUAL REPORT 2009



INTRODUCTION

Dear Members and Friends:

It affords me great pleasure to present the 2009 AHI Annual Report. All of AHI's policy-based programs and initiatives that advance the best interests of the United States on issues of importance to Greek Americans are encapsulated in this report.

In 2009, AHI issued 86 press releases detailing our numerous activities. These activities included: the 34th Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner; the 8th annual "Future of Hellenism in America" conference; the 5th Annual Awards Dinner in Athens; our annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" on Capitol Hill; our annual trips to Greece and Cyprus; and our public policy "Noon Forums."

We also pursued new initiatives in 2009 such as: an inaugural foreign policy study abroad program to Greece and Cyprus for students; our "Capital Report" that keeps members updated on policy events in Washington; an Online Policy Journal; and our progress report on the Cyprus negotiations.

At AHI, the majority of our efforts focus on advancing U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus as in the best interests of the U.S., and to support the Greek American community. To this effect, we engaged policy makers in the administration and Congress through numerous action alerts, letters, testimony, and face-to-face meetings with more than 70 congressional staff persons in 2009.

In addition, we hosted a timely luncheon briefing and panel discussion to commemorate the 35-year-long tragedy of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey. The briefing featured Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. Andreas Kakouris and U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney. The panel featured policy experts who provided their perspectives on the issue.

Our "Noon Forum" series continued to address policy, historical and cultural

themes to create awareness and educate audiences about Greek American issues. Topics examined Greece's role as OSCE chair (co-hosted with the prominent Eisenhower Institute) and the significance of the Battle of Crete, OXI Day, and Smyrna. Also, AHI hosted a Capitol Hill book presentation featuring AHI Foundation Fellow Dr. Van Coufoudakis that emphasized the history of human rights violations in Cyprus by Turkey.

Furthermore, we had a parade of visiting dignitaries—perhaps the most ever—from Greece and Cyprus visit Hellenic House. This included several ministers, deputy ministers, military officials, and scholars. A memorable first was a visit from five Greek Cypriot mayors of occupied Cyprus. Moreover, AHI leaders held important meetings with leading diplomats and Department of State officials, including U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel Speckhard and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Frank C. Urbancic.

We accomplished all of these initiatives with a new AHI president, Mr. Alexandros Haralambides. President Haralambides was appointed in January 2009, and he succeeds longtime President and AHI Founder Gene Rossides.

On a sad note, AHI mourned the passing of community leaders and experts near and dear to us, including Dr. Constantine Papadakis, president, Drexel University; Dr. Nicholas Matsakis, a longtime advocate for Cyprus; and Diplomatic Correspondent Lambros Papantoniou.

2010: Policy Challenges Will Intensify; AHI Programs Will Build on Momentum

AHI members and friends can expect us to build on the exciting new programs and initiatives that we offered in 2009. We are always looking for innovative ways to improve service to our membership base, to better address our core agenda, and to cultivate opportunities to positively influence the Greek American community and U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus.

In 2010, our foreign policy challenges will be as intense as ever. A second year of direct negotiations on the Cyprus issue will be well underway. The plight of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Patriarchate, and the restrictions placed upon them by Turkish authorities, will intensify as a result of His All Holiness' candid interview with *60 Minutes* in December. Turkish aggression in the Aegean and the FYROM name-recognition issue are areas that will require our collective attention and action. Furthermore, the U.S. administration will no longer be new. Now into its second year, we must ensure that our issues remain at the forefront of the Obama Administration's foreign policy agenda and that the policy commitments he made to the community are kept.

Finally, AHI looks to build upon the momentum generated by uplifting new programs like our study abroad initiative for college students while exploring additional ways to encourage growth in commerce, trade, and investment between the United States and Greece and Cyprus. Also in 2010, AHIF will release two publications and a DVD that will help the community raise awareness of Greek American issues to key audiences.

As executive director, I am deeply grateful and appreciative of the members, officers and staff for their dedication. Everyone worked together to make 2009 another productive year. Alongside AHI's own activities in Washington, our strength relies on the many significant contributions and generous support of our members. We also look to you to communicate your suggestions, share your knowledge, and provide your insights so that we can continue to fulfill the needs of our most valuable asset—our members.

Thank you.
Warmest regards,

Nicholas Larigakis, Executive Director

Public Policy

THE 2009 GREEK AMERICAN POLICY STATEMENTS

On May 4, AHI issued the *2009 Greek American Policy Statements*. The *Policy Statements* annually present positions on Greek American issues based on what is in the best interests of the United States. Issues presented were: the Aegean Sea boundary, name recognition for the Former Yugoslav Republic of "Macedonia" (FYROM), treatment of the Greek minority in Albania, Greece's candidacy to join the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, the Cyprus issue, including Turkey's new threat to peace; and Turkey's suppression of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. It also calls for a critical review of U.S. policy toward Turkey.

The *Policy Statements* highlights the significant changes taking place in the political, security and economic landscape of Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. Distributed to 20 high-ranking U.S. government officials, the document stresses the strategic importance of Greece and Cyprus to the U.S. As vigorous, prosperous and stable democracies, these countries are a source of regional leadership, and they offer the U.S. an opportunity to advance its national interests in the region.

The *Policy Statements* was prepared by AHI and endorsed by: the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), the Cyprus Federation of America, the Pan-Macedonian Association of America, the Pan-Cretan Association of America, the Pan-Pontian Federation of U.S.A. and Canada, the United Hellenic Federation of Northern California, the Chios Societies of America, Inc., and the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). These groups represent leading Greek American and Armenian American membership-based organizations with members in all fifty states.

GREECE-TURKEY RELATIONS

AHI closely monitors Greece-Turkey relations. AHI supports a policy that encourages a normalization of relations between the two countries and is firmly based on international law and a reversal of aggression. AHI also believes that it is in the best interest of the U.S. to support stable relations between these two countries by proactively promoting the rule of law.

In particular, AHI notes the following areas as the fundamental causes of problems between Greece and Turkey:

- Turkey's unilateral claims against sovereign Greek territory in the Aegean in violation of international law, and its refusal to refer its unilateral claims to binding international arbitration;
- Turkey's aggression against Cyprus and its continuing illegal occupation of 37.3 percent of Cyprus;

- Turkey's continuing violations of Greece's airspace; and
- Illegal immigration via Turkey that threatens Greek democracy.

Although there is a new administration in Greece with the election of Prime Minister George Papandreou, Greece remains a vocal supporter of Turkey's European Union (EU) ambitions with the goal of fostering long-term peace and stability in the region through its neighbor's accession. AHI congratulates Greece for its ongoing efforts to promote this goal through its outreach to Turkey. Turkey must now meet its obligations and adhere to international agreements and the rule of law.

THE CYPRUS PROBLEM

One of AHI's primary objectives is to keep the Cyprus issue at the forefront of the policy debate in Washington. In this effort, AHI hosted several events and meetings at which Cyprus was the topic of discussion. For instance, AHI organized a public policy seminar on Cyprus featuring expert panelists. Moreover, AHI's commitment to the Cyprus issue is demonstrated by two annual visits to Cyprus. Furthermore, as the first round of reunification talks concluded in 2009, and a second round began, AHI kept key audiences informed by releasing a progress report that provided a review and assessment of the negotiations. The report garnered mainstream media attention.

Additionally, AHI continued to push for greater public and governmental awareness of the Cyprus issue. AHI accomplished this task by submitting numerous letters to the editors of prominent print media outlets, sending letters to government officials, producing op-ed pieces, and the dissemination of action alerts. Furthermore, AHIF embarked on a new initiative in 2009 to introduce a younger generation of Greek Americans to Cyprus and Greece with its inaugural Foreign Policy Study Abroad Program.

Also fundamental to AHI's involvement in this issue were meetings held with U.S. government officials and their staffs and government representatives from Greece and Cyprus. These meetings are important tactics to help forge closer cooperation, foster greater understanding, and stimulate new ideas as all parties work toward a Cyprus resolution.

For example, AHI leaders placed significant emphasis on the Cyprus issue during meetings and events held with new members of the 111th Congress. AHI also hosted Deputy Chief of Mission to Cyprus Jonathan Cohen at Hellenic House and met with American Ambassador to Cyprus Frank Urbancic on several occasions.

MACEDONIAN INITIATIVES

Throughout 2009, AHI embarked on a number of different initiatives to raise awareness to help end the misappropriation of the name "Macedonia" by the Former Yugoslav Republic of "Macedonia" (FYROM). These initiatives included letters to President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton centered on educating the new administration about the issue and the presentation of public witness testi-



mony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations that opposed U.S. aid to FYROM.

An October 23 AHI action alert encouraged AHI members to contact the president of the University of Utah, Michael K. Young, to urge him to reconsider the university hosting a conference titled "7th Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies" in November. Also, AHI submitted a letter to the editor of *The Washington Post* to rebut misinformation about the FYROM name issue.

AHI also specifically addressed the FYROM name issue in its *Greek American Policy Statements*. The statements called on the U.S. "to consider withdrawing its 2004 recognition of FYROM as the 'Republic of Macedonia'" if FYROM refuses to cooperate in negotiations.

THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

AHI reiterated its unequivocal position on what actions the U.S. government should take to secure religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey in the *2009 Greek American Policy Statements*. In this document, AHI urges the U.S. government to use its influence with the Turkish government to safeguard the Ecumenical Patriarchate, its personnel, and its property; and to reopen the Halki Patriarchal School of Theology. AHI underscores that, "Under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the President is obligated to oppose violations of religious freedom in any country whose government 'engages in or tolerates violations of religious freedom and promote the right to religious freedom in that country.'" Furthermore, the Act obligates the President to take one or more of 15 enumerated actions with respect to any such country.

In 2009, AHI continued to raise awareness of religious restrictions in Turkey on several occasions. For example, AHI encouraged its members to contact their U.S. representatives to co-sponsor a resolution welcoming the Ecumenical Patriarch to the U.S. and urging religious freedom in Turkey. Furthermore, AHI released statements when human rights organizations, the State Department, or important commissions issued human rights or treatment of religious minorities reports on Turkey. Finally, AHI sent letters to President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that clearly presented the position of the community on this important issue.



LETTERS, STATEMENTS AND ACTION ALERTS

AHI sent six letters to President Barack Obama and administration officials in 2009. AHI also issued a number of public statements presenting positions on current events and policy decisions important to the organization's membership. Moreover, action alerts notified members to respond to these issues. Listed below is an overview of these communications:

"One of AHI's primary objectives is to keep the Cyprus issue at the forefront of the policy debate in Washington."

2009 Letters:

- **February 17:** AHI sent a letter to President Obama congratulating him on his historic inauguration. The letter outlined the Greek American community's core issues of concern in southeastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean.
- **February 19:** A letter is sent to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton focused on the name issue regarding FYROM as it relates to U.S. interests. The secretary's February 25, 2009 meeting with Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis prompted the letter.
- **March 4:** AHI released a letter sent to Secretary of State Clinton regarding the secretary's April trip to Turkey. The letter reinforces the Greek American community's position on the Aegean Sea, Cyprus, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- **March 26:** A letter to President Obama regarding the president's April trip to Turkey is sent. The letter reinforces the Greek American community's position on the Aegean Sea, Cyprus, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- **June 6:** AHI sent a letter to President Obama regarding negotiations between the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Government of Turkey for additional loans to fund an estimated 7 percent deficit in the Turkish national budget in 2009. AHI argues the deficit is caused by Turkey's illegal activities in Cyprus and the Aegean.
- **November 24:** AHI sent a letter to President Obama regarding the president's December 7, 2009 meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The letter called upon President Obama to support the rule of law and U.S. and international laws in the best interest of the United States as it pertains to U.S. policy in the eastern Mediterranean.

2009 Statements:

- **February 4:** AHI congratulated Congressman Gus Bilirakis on his appointment to ranking member of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Management, Investigations, and Oversight.
- **March 10:** In response to a State Department report on human rights in Turkey, AHI condemned Turkey's restrictions on religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. AHI also urged the U.S. to demand Turkey immediately adhere to international agreements guaranteeing human rights and religious freedom.
- **April 6:** AHI expressed deep sorrow on the passing of Drexel University President Dr. Constantine Papadakis.
- **April 9:** AHI commended President Obama for raising the issues of Cyprus and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in his speech to Turkish Parliament. However, AHI identified areas where President Obama could have issued stronger statements with regard to these two policy issues, and was disappointed that the president did not raise the issue of the Aegean.
- **May 20:** An AHI statement created awareness that Turkey was placed on the "Watch List" of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

- **May 30:** AHI mourned the passing of Journalist and State Department Correspondent Lambros Papantoniou.
- **June 23:** An AHI statement drew attention to Amnesty International's 2009 Annual Report which reaffirmed Turkey's poor human rights record.
- **August 28:** AHI expressed deep sorrow on the passing U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.
- **September 9:** AHI marked the 54th anniversary of the Turkish Pogrom of Istanbul and called for compensation for its victims.
- **September 24:** AHI expressed deep concern about the desecration of 90 tombs at the historical Orthodox Christian cemetery in Istanbul.
- **October 6:** AHI commends U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD) for his initiative to successfully correct the inaccuracy of a statement issued by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen that stated Turkey fought on the side of the Allies during WWII.
- **October 20:** AHI congratulated Greek Americans George Apostolakis and Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis on their nominations to key posts in the Obama Administration.
- **November 30:** AHI highlighted the latest State Department International Religious Freedom Report that reaffirmed Turkey's failure to implement protections for its religious minorities.
- **December 17:** AHI mourned the passing of Dr. Nicholas D. Matsakis.
- **December 23:** AHI congratulated *60 Minutes* for producing a segment on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarch and Patriarchate in Turkey.

2009 Action Alerts:

- **April 26:** To urge AHI supporters to write a letter of protest to the *New York Times* requesting a retraction of an article, "For Sale In... Cyprus" that promoted the purchase of illegal property in occupied northern Cyprus.
- **July 21:** To request AHI supporters to contact their U.S. representatives to sign two "Dear Colleague" letters that expressed support for efforts to reunify Cyprus. The letters were sent to President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton.
- **October 23:** To encourage AHI supporters to contact their U.S. representatives to co-sponsor H.Res.838, a congressional resolution welcoming His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I to the United States, and encouraging Turkey to grant religious freedom and property rights to the Ecumenical Patriarchate as well as to reopen the theological school at Halki.
- **October 23:** To encourage AHI supporters to contact the president of the University of Utah, Michael K. Young, urging him to reconsider the university hosting a conference titled "7th Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies" that featured revisionist academics on Nov. 5-9, 2009.

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY INITIATIVES

AHI Testimony Submitted to House Subcommittee

On March 26, Nick Larigakis presented public witness testi-



Nick Larigakis testifying before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs on March 26, 2009.

mony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs on behalf of AHI regarding FY2010 foreign assistance programs. 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 in 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.

Larigakis testified in support of continuing ES Funds for Cyprus as long as it is tied exclusively to bi-communal projects on the island as mandated by U.S. law which states that U.S. funds support only "measures aimed at reunification."

AHI Delaware Chapter Meets with U.S. Sen. Kaufman

On May 11, AHI's Delaware Chapter met with U.S. Sen. Ted Kaufman (D-DE), who was appointed to complete the remaining term of Vice President Joe Biden's senatorial seat. Chapter President George Moutsatsos and AHI members Constantine Caras, James Faller, Gus Georgiou, Dean Lomis, Basil Savopoulos, and Peter Yiannos comprised the delegation. A discussion on the continued Turkish occupation of Cyprus, Turkish violations of the Hellenic airspace over the Aegean Sea, the FYROM name dispute, and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate was held.

AHI's Capital Report Is Launched

A good portion of policy formulation in Washington, DC is influenced by analysts and academics of think-tank institutions. As a service to our membership and constituency, and to gain an understanding of the position of other entities on our issues, AHI attends and participates at policy forums or roundtable discussions to ensure the policy positions of the Greek American community are represented. Accordingly, in October, we introduced *AHI's Capital Report*, a timely synopsis of policy discussions in Washington to keep our members abreast of the latest developments in the public policy arena. Editions of the report can be found at http://www.ahiworl.org/2009capitol_reports.html.

AHI Releases Progress Report on Cyprus Talks

On December 3, AHI announced the release of "One Year Later: The 2008-09 Cyprus Negotiations." The report provided a review and assessment of the first year of the renewed Cyprus peace process. It offered a summary of the most recent attempt at a Cyprus solution under the July 8 high-level UN Agreement, an assessment of a year's worth of negotiations under this Agreement, and provided a realistic idea of what is required for a solution to be realized. To download a copy of the report, please visit <http://aheworld.org/press_releases/pdfs/PR81_JF_cyprus_progress.pdf>.

General News

Alexandros (Aleco) Haralambides Appointed AHI President



AHI President Aleco Haralambides.

AHI Founder Gene Rossides proudly announced the appointment of the organization's new president, Mr. Alexandros (Aleco) Haralambides, of Miami, Fla. Haralambides became involved 12 years ago, following in the footsteps of his father, John, who was an active member of the Greek American community. John's untimely passing prompted Aleco to take on a more active role in the community. It was on AHI's 2004

annual delegation trip to Greece where Haralambides' view of AHI's importance was reinforced. A top priority for Haralambides is to get more young persons actively engaged. Moreover, his long-term vision for AHI includes a bolstering of its business network. On policy issues, Turkey's mistreatment of its minorities, particularly the Greeks who remain there, is one that is closest to Haralambides' heart because his family's roots are in Asia Minor.

Aleco attended the University of Rochester in New York where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science. He received a J.D. from St. Thomas University and won first prize in Oral Argument. He has worked at numerous litigation firms throughout south Florida before deciding to launch his own practice in 2002. He also founded Advent Title Company in 2002 and Aristo Mortgage Investments in 2004. A passionate believer in the value of the Greek language, Aleco joined a steering committee to start a charter school focused on Greek language immersion, which was his father's lifelong dream. In 2002, the Archimedean Academy for Mathematics and the Greek Language was successfully opened and his father's dream realized. Aleco is currently vice president of the academy. In 2005, he married Vasiliki (Vicki) Hioureas, and they have two daughters.

Mallias: Greece Will Be "Honest Broker" as OSCE Chair

On February 18, AHI co-hosted a policy forum with The Eisenhower Institute that featured a preview of Greece's chairmanship of the OSCE presented by Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros Mallias. He offered that Greece will play the role of "honest broker" during its chairmanship.

AHI Leaders Attend Ceremony Marking Delivery of F-16s to Hellenic Air Force

AHI President Aleco Haralambides and Executive Director Nick Larigakis attended a ceremony at Lockheed Martin's facilities in Ft. Worth, Texas on March 19 to commemorate the initial delivery of the latest generation of F-16 fighter aircraft to Greece under an agreement with the United States. They were the only two representatives of the Greek American community present. Lt. Gen. Ioannis Giagkos, chief, Hellenic Air Force General Staff; and Bruce Lemkin, undersecretary of international affairs, U.S. Air Force; also took part in the ceremony. Since this event, Giagkos has been promoted to General and is the chief of the National Defense General Staff of Greece.

Capitol Hill Book Presentation on Human Rights

On April 28, 2009, AHI hosted a Capitol Hill book presentation "International Aggression and Violations of Human Rights: The Case of Turkey in Cyprus," by Professor Van Coufoudakis, rector emeritus, University of Nicosia, Cyprus, and dean emeritus, School of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne.



Professor Van Coufoudakis giving his book presentation.

Executive Director Speaks at Prominent Midwest Venues

The Hellenic Association at The Ohio State University hosted Executive Director Nick Larigakis for a discussion titled "Greek—American Relations: How Can the Greek-American Community be a Dynamic Factor in America's Foreign Policy?" on May 13. Also, Larigakis spoke at the inaugural installment of *The Symposium Series*, sponsored by the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, Chicago, on May 27. The theme was "The Obama Administration's Foreign Policy and Effects on Hellenic Issues." The panel discussed the first 100 days of President Obama's administration as it related to U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus.

Battle of Crete Remembered for Its Significance

World War II and The Battle of Crete was the topic of an AHI Noon Forum held May 28, featuring Brigadier General Ilias Leontaris, defense attaché, Embassy of Greece in Washington.

87th Anniversary of Smyrna Commemorated

An AHI Noon Forum commemorated the 87th anniversary of the Smyrna catastrophe of 1922 on September 23 with a presentation by Professor Dan Georgakas, director of the Greek American Studies Project, Queens College-CUNY's Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies.



Brigadier General Ilias Leontaris presenting on the Battle of Crete.

OXI Day Heroics Recounted 69 Years Later

On October 27, AHI hosted a Noon Forum at Hellenic House commemorating the 69th Anniversary of OXI Day. The forum featured guest speaker Colonel Taxiarchis Sardellis, defense attaché, Embassy of Greece. He provided the historical significance of the event in addition to how Prime Minister Metaxas interpreted the sentiments of the Greek people when he proclaimed "No" to Mussolini's surrender ultimatum.



Colonel Taxiarchis Sardellis.

HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS

American Embassy in Nicosia DCM Cohen

Deputy Chief of Mission Jonathan R. Cohen of the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus visited AHI's Hellenic House on February 2. Cyprus Desk Officer Terry Netos accompanied Mr. Cohen. The meeting covered U.S. relations with Cyprus.

Thessaloniki Mayor Vassilios Papageorgopoulos



Mayor of Thessaloniki Vassilios Papageorgopoulos with Nick Larigakis (left).

On April 6, the Mayor of Thessaloniki, Vassilios Papageorgopoulos, visited Hellenic House. He was accompanied by a delegation of twenty people consisting of members of the City Council of Thessaloniki and mayors from surrounding towns.

Vice Admiral of the Hellenic Navy Visits AHI



(l-r) Brigadier General Ilias Leontaris, Vice Admiral Dimitrios Elefsiniotis, Nick Larigakis, Colonel Taxiarchis Sardellis.

On April 28, Vice Admiral of the Hellenic Navy Dimitrios Elefsiniotis visited Hellenic House. Col. Taxiarchis Sardellis from the International Relations Division of the Greek Ministry of National Defense and Defense Attaché Designate to the Embassy of Greece in Washington accompanied him. The topics discussed were: U.S. relations with Greece, Greece's role in the Middle East, Turkish violations of Greek airspace over the Aegean

Sea, and Greece's global military deployment. Vice Admiral Elefsiniotis and Col. Sardellis were in Washington on the occasion of Greek Minister of National Defense Vangelis Meimarakis' meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Varvitsiotis

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic Miltiades Varvitsiotis visited Hellenic House on April 28. Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros Mallias accompanied DM Varvitsiotis. The meeting covered a broad range of issues pertaining to U.S.-Greece relations, including Greece's importance as the United States' key strategic, political and economic ally in southeast Europe and eastern Mediterranean. Greece's role in the Middle East was also discussed.

Greece's Army Chief Welcomed to Hellenic House



(l-r) Brigadier General Ilias Leontaris, Nick Larigakis, Lieutenant General Dimitrios Voulgaris presenting Gene Rossides with a gift from the Hellenic Army.

AHI hosted Greece's Chief of the Army Lt. Gen. Dimitrios Voulgaris for a meeting at Hellenic House followed by a luncheon in his honor on May 11. Brig. Gen. Ilias Leontaris, defense attaché, Embassy of Greece, and a delegation of Army officers, accompanied Lt. Gen. Voulgaris.

AHI Hosts Greek Cypriot Mayors from Occupied Cyprus

Five Greek Cypriot mayors from cities and towns located in occupied northern Cyprus visited Hellenic House on May 22. The delegation, a historic first of its kind to visit Hellenic House, included: Hon. Alexis Galanos, mayor of Farmagusta; Hon. Michalis Pilikos, mayor of Lefkoniko; Hon. Savvas Savvides, mayor of Akanthou; Hon. Charalambos Charalambous, deputy mayor of Morphou; and Hon. Charalambos Ioannides, director, Department of Overseas Cypriots. His Excellency Andreas



(l-r) Mayor of Akanthou Savvas Savvides, Mayor of Farmagusta Alexis Galanos, Gene Rossides, Mayor of Lefkoniko Michaelis Pilikos, Amb. Charalambos Ioannides and Deputy Mayor of Morphou Charalambos Charalambous.

Kakouris, ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S., and Second Secretary and Consul Demetra Christodoulou accompanied the delegation, which met with AHI Founder Gene Rossides and AHI staff. U.S. relations with Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey were discussed. Turkish violations of human rights in Cyprus, including the occupation and destruction of religious sites and personal properties; Turkish-E.U. relations, and the plan for reunification of the island were issues examined. AHI also hosted a luncheon for the delegation.

Greek Military Delegation Visits Hellenic House



Lieutenant General Dimitrios Lympiris presenting a plaque of the head of Alexander the Great to AHI Founder Gene Rossides as Nick Larigakis looks on.

A seven-member Greek military delegation led by Lt. Gen. Dimitrios Lympiris visited Hellenic House on September 24. Col. Taxiarchis Sardellis, defense attaché, Embassy of Greece; and Lt. Col. George Tsastas, military attaché, Embassy of Greece; joined the delegation. U.S. relations with Greece, Turkish violations of Greek airspace over the Aegean Sea, and the Greek military's deployment in a multitude of theatres around the world were topics discussed.

New Greek Ambassador to U.S. Makes First Visit to AHI



(l-r) AHI Board Member James Marketos Esq., AHI Founder Gene Rossides, AHI Legal Counsel Nick Karambelas Esq., Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis, and AHI Board Member Kostas Alexakis.

Newly appointed Ambassador of Greece to the United States Vassilis Kaskarelis made his first visit to Hellenic House on October 7. The ambassador met with AHI's leadership, including: Founder Gene Rossides, Legal Counsel Nick Karambelas Esq., Board Members Kostas Alexakis and James Marketos Esq.; Executive Director Nick Larigakis, and staff. Ambassador Kaskarelis stated how pleased he was to visit AHI because he has "heard so many great words regarding the great work that AHI does and has done for so many years." A thorough discussion of U.S. relations with Greece ensued.

CONFERENCES

AHI Marks 35th Anniversary of Cyprus Invasion

On July 22, AHI marked the 35th anniversary of the Cyprus invasion by Turkey with a seminar featuring a panel of experts on the Cyprus issue and a luncheon briefing that featured remarks by His Excellency Andreas Kakouris, ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S., and U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-chair, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues. The expert panel included: Ted Galen Carpenter, vice president for Foreign Policy and Defense Studies, Cato Institute; AHI Founder Gene Rossides, and Nicholas Karambelas, founding partner, Sfikas & Karambelas. David Jones, *Washington Times* managing editor-print edition, served as moderator. During the briefing, Ambassador Kakouris offered that reaching a solution to the Cyprus problem depends on Turkey playing a constructive role in the process of reunifying the island in a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. Rep. Maloney called on the United States and the international community to continue their support for the Cyprus peace process and she remained hopeful that a peaceful settlement could be found. To read the statements made during the conference, please visit www.aheworld.org.



Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. Andreas Kakouris.

The Future of Hellenism in America

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) hosted its Eighth Annual Conference on the **Future of Hellenism in America** on November 21 in Philadelphia. AHIF held the con-



(l-r) Dan Georgakas, Spiro Spireas and Nick Larigakis.



(l) George Tsetsekos And Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis.



Vangelis Katsikiotis, Student, Catholic University, Washington, DC.

ference in cooperation with the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, The Behrakis Foundation, and the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) USA Region. Sigmapharm Laboratories LLC sponsored the conference. Annually AHIF hosts the event in a different U.S. city to spread ideas and gather input from the local Greek American community on the various challenges facing Hellenism in America.

The 2009 conference featured more than 20 nationally prominent speakers from the Greek American community. The presentations analyzed key issues including the future of Greek American organizations, the political process and lobbying, religious and ethnic identity, promoting Hellenic culture through business, Greek education, and offered perspectives from young Greek Americans. Speakers also explored how Hellenism can be promoted in the future.

The conference covered the following topics:

- The Now and Future Greek America (Opening Keynote)
- The Future of Greek American Organizations (Session A)
- The Importance of Being Active in the Political Process (Session B)
- What Greece Can Do to Cultivate Ties with the Greek American Community (Luncheon Address)
- The Image of Hellenism: Hellenic Culture, Religious Identity, Trade and Commerce, and the Next Generation (Session C)
- Greek Education in America (Session D)
- A Perspective from Young Greek Americans (Session E)
- Round Table Discussion with Audience

Professor Dan Georgakas, director, Greek American Studies at Queens College-CUNY's Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, delivered the opening keynote on "The Now and Future of Greek America." Other noted speakers included Ambassador of Greece to the United States Vassilis Kaskarelis, who delivered the luncheon address, Ambassador Loucas Tsilas, executive director, Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA); and U.S. Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL).

Co-sponsors of the conference included: the Hellenic American National Council, the Federation of Hellenic American Societies of Philadelphia and Greater Delaware Valley, the Greek American Chamber of Commerce (Greater Philadelphia Chapter), the Hellenic Lawyers Association of Philadelphia, the Hellenic Medical Society of Greater Philadelphia, the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia, the U.S.-Greece Business Advisory Council, and the *Hellenic News of America*.

For a summary of the conference proceedings, and the major addresses presented, please visit <www.aheworld.org>.

"...the American Hellenic Institute participates at policy forums or roundtable discussions to ensure the policy positions of the Greek American community are represented."

AWARDS DINNERS

34th Anniversary Awards Dinner



Honorees from left to right: George Pelecanos, John G. Rangos, Sr., Cat Cora, Dr. George Tsetsekos, Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL).

On March 14, AHI honored distinguished Greek Americans at its 34th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner, held in Washington, D.C. The honorees for 2009 included:

- **Cat Cora**, acclaimed chef, philanthropist and author;
- **Dr. George P. Tsetsekos**, Dean, LeBow College of Business, Drexel University;
- **George Pelecanos**, renowned crime novelist;
- **U.S. Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis**, Ninth Congressional District of Florida; and
- **John G. Rangos, Sr.**, philanthropist and successful businessman.



Awards Dinner Emcee George Stephanopoulos.

These individuals' many accomplishments were celebrated throughout the evening. Congratulatory letters were submitted to AHI by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Alexandros P. Mallias, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Andreas S. Kakouris, World Council of Hellenes Abroad USA Region President Ted G. Spyropoulos, and International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus President Philip Christopher.

George Stephanopoulos, former anchor of *ABC News' "This Week with George Stephanopoulos"* and current co-host of "Good Morning America," served as master of ceremonies. AHI Executive Director

Nick Larigakis opened the program and AHI Founder Gene Rossides welcomed the guests. Mr. Rossides also introduced newly appointed AHI President Aleco Haralambides.

The weekend's events also featured a dinner reception hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Mallias at the Greek Embassy on March 13 in honor of AHI's significant contributions to strengthening U.S.-Greece relations.

Fifth Annual AHI-Athens Awards Dinner



Honorees of the night, Joanna Despotopoulou and Lavrentis Lavrentiadis with AHI President Aleco Haralambides (center), (L-R) George Economou, Nick Larigakis, U.S. Ambassador Daniel Speckhard, Ilias Malevitis.

On June 17, the Fifth Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage and National Public Service Awards Dinner was held at the Grande Bretagne Hotel. AHI honored **Joanna Despotopoulou**, president, Organizing Committee Special Olympics World Summer Games "Athens 2011" and **Dr. Lavrentis Lavrentiadis**, president, Lavrentiadis Group of Companies. Despotopoulou received the AHI National Public Service Award for her outstanding philanthropic achievements, dedication to volunteerism, and promotion of Hellenic culture. Lavrentiadis received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award for his outstanding business achievements and promotion of Hellenic culture. The dinner was a sold-out affair. It received significant coverage in Greek media outlets.

EVENTS

AHI Hosts Dinner in Honor of Greek American Congressional Delegation



(l-r) Nick Larigakis, Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), Rep. Zack Space (D-OH), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Gene Rossides, Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA), and Rep. Suzanne Kosmas (D-FL).

On January 14, AHI hosted a dinner in honor of the Greek American delegation of the 111th Congress. U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Suzanne Kosmas (D-FL), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Zack Space (D-OH), Dina Titus (D-NV), and Niki Tsongas (D-MA) attended. Sen. Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. All seven members of Congress addressed an audience of more than 100 persons. To view their remarks, please visit <www.aheworld.org>.

Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day

On April 1, AHI hosted its annual Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day on Capitol Hill. The event celebrated the 188th Anniversary of Greek Independence and the common democratic ideals shared by Greece and the U.S. It was held in cooperation with the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, U.S. Reps. Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros Mallias and Cypriot Ambassador to the U.S. Andreas Kakouris were guest speakers.

Members of Congress attending the reception and addressing the audience included (in order of appearance): U.S. Reps. Niki Tsongas (D-MA), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Michael E. McMahon (D-NY), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Gus



(l-r) Rep. Michael E. McMahon (D-NY), Amb. Kakouris, Sofia Tsangali, Principal of St. Katherine Sunday School, Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA), Students of Greek School of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Amb. Mallias, and Nick Larigakis.

Bilirakis (R-FL), Steven Rothman (D-NJ), Ron Klein (D-FL), Dina Titus (D-NV), Ed Royce (R-CA), Ted Poe (R-TX), Steve Driehaus (D-OH), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Donald Payne (D-NJ), and Zack Space (D-OH). For excerpts of their remarks, please visit <www.aheworld.org>.

AHI Co-Hosts Farewell Dinner for Ambassador Mallias

AHI co-hosted a farewell dinner in honor of His Excellency Alexandros Mallias, ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the United States, and Mrs. Francoise Mallias, in Washington on May 15. AHI joined with the American Hellenic Educational



(l-r) AHI President Aleco Haralambides, Amb. Mallias, AHI Founder Gene Rosides, Mrs. Mallias, and AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis present Ambassador and Mrs. Mallias with Awards for their service.

Progressive Association (AHEPA), Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE)-USA, and the Hellenic American National Council (HANC) to bid farewell to Ambassador Mallias, who served nearly four years in the nation's capital.

AHI Founder Gene Rosides, President Aleco Haralambides, and Executive Director Nick Larigakis presented Ambassador Mallias with the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award.

Sixth Annual AHI Benefit Golf Classic

On October 14, AHI hosted its Sixth Annual AHI Benefit Golf Classic at Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Va. More than 50 golfers participated. The winning team in the Captain's Choice Format competition consisted of Diane Herndon, Janice Calomiris, Mimi Hoffman, and Kay Tyler. Janice Calomiris captured the longest drive and Diane Herndon won closest to the pin. Proceeds from the tournament help to fund AHI's programs. AHI is grateful to all its sponsors for helping to make the Classic a success.

VISITS TO GREECE AND CYPRUS

June 8-17

In the first of two annual AHI trips overseas, the organization's leadership held substantive high-level talks with government officials and business leaders in Greece and Cyprus. Topics discussed included the Cyprus problem, U.S.-Greece relations, investment and business opportunities in Greece and Cyprus, and the continued Greek airspace violations by Turkey.

On June 9-11, meetings were held in Nicosia with: President Demetris Christofias and Government Spokesman Stefanos Stefanou (a 90-minute meeting), U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Frank C. Urbancic, Archbishop Chrysostomos II, Deputy Mayor of Nicosia Stelios Ieronymides, President of the Cyprus

House of Representatives Marios Garoyian, former Minister of Foreign Affairs Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Director of the Republic of Cyprus Press and Information Office Eleonora Gavrielides, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Nicholas Emiliou and Androula Lanitis, director, Press and Information Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; President of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry Manthos Mavrommatis, and Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus Athanasios Orphanides.

The contingent continued to Athens June 12 to meet with U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel V. Speckhard at the American Embassy. Meetings

followed with Greece's Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs Theodoros Kassimis and Miltiadis Varvitsiotis. On June 15, the delegation met with Krinio Kanellopulu, chairwoman, Hellenic Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs followed by Deputy Minister of National Defense Yannis Plakiotakis. An



(l-r) Dean Bellas, Nick Larigakis, President Papoulias, Aleco Haralambides, John Hanches.



AHI-President Aleco Haralambides exchanging gifts with President Demetris Christofias (center). (L-R) Dr. Takey Crist, Nick Larigakis, John Hanches.



audience with Greek President Karolos Papoulias on June 16 highlighted AHI's entire excursion. Later that day, a series of meetings at the Greek Foreign Ministry were held with Ambassador Chrysoula Aleferi, director, Directorate for North America; Ambassador Georgios Kaklikis, director, Directorate for Relations with Turkey; Director of the Directorate on Cyprus Affairs Dimitrios Yannakakis, and Director of the Directorate for Southeastern Europe Countries Christos Panagopoulos. The Athens leg concluded with meetings with Yiannos Grammatides, president, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, and Dimitris P. Droutsas, director, President's Diplomatic Cabinet and secretary for Foreign Policy and International Relations, PASOK (and current alternate foreign minister). The delegation concluded its trip June 18, meeting with Vice President of Hellenic Parliament Georgios Sourlas, Chairman of the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad Nikos Tsartsionis, and Stefanos Vlastos, secretary, Greek Education Abroad and Intercultural Education. Also, the AHI-Athens Chapter hosted its Fifth Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner on June 17 (see page 9 of this report).

Delegation Participants: In Cyprus, the delegation included AHI President Alecos Haralambides, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis, longtime AHI member Dr. Takey Crist, and AHI's newest representative from Portland, Ore., John Hanches. In Athens, AHI members Dean D. Bellas, Ph.D., and Chrysoula Economopoulos joined the contingent.

November 26—December 7

On November 26, Executive Director Nick Larigakis began his annual year-end trip to Greece and Cyprus to meet with government and military officials and business leaders. Larigakis discussed AHI's goal to explore new areas of mutual cooperation and development between Greek America and Greece and Cyprus. Larigakis kept a busy schedule with more than 40 meetings.

A private meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Frank Urbancic at the embassy and a second meeting with the ambassador and Cypriot businessmen at the ambassador's residence highlighted the Cyprus leg.



Daniel Speckhard, Ambassador of the United States to Greece.

In Athens, Larigakis met with U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel Speckhard and later visited the Greek Pentagon to meet with seven top military officials. Also by personal invitation of Dr. Lavrentis Lavrentiadis, principal, ALAPIS and Lavrentiadis Group of Properties, Larigakis attended a panel seminar to present the newly-created Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) Lavrentis

“AHIF is the first “think tank” devoted exclusively to the study of the issues confronting the Greek American community.”

Lavrentiadis Chair in Southeast European Studies on December 7.

Also on December 7, AHI in cooperation with the AHI Athens Chapter and The American College of Greece—DEREE hosted a presentation by Ambassador Speckhard and a reception at the Grande Bretagne Hotel. The ambassador spoke about a number of topics affecting U.S.-Greece relations. He noted that there is “good engagement” with the new Papandreou Administration on global issues and he cited Greece's contributions in Afghanistan. U.S.-Greece cooperation to meet the challenges of the environment and climate change, fighting terrorism, managing migration, and combating human trafficking

were also highlighted.

MEDIA RELATIONS

In 2009, AHI issued 86 press releases that were widely distributed to mainstream, Greek American, and foreign press; the Obama Administration, Congress, and AHI members and friends. AHI and its members also regularly wrote letters to the editors of major national and community newspapers, commenting on articles that appeared in their publications. In addition, numerous AHI op-ed pieces were published in Greek American media outlets.

Letters to the Editor

Throughout the year, a number of letters to the editor were written by AHI leadership and staff, some of which were published in major U.S. newspapers. These letters included:

- *The Washington Times* (April 30): “Turkey is the problem,” by Nick Larigakis, which was published in response to Andrew Borowiec's article, “Turkish-Cypriot Vote Threatens Talks on Unification.”
- *The Washington Times* (July 27): “Don't confuse the aggressor with the victim,” by Nick Larigakis, which was published in response to a letter titled, “Settling Cyprus” submitted by a “TRNC” representative.

Moreover, AHIF Fellow Professor Van Coufoudakis, Ph.D., submitted a letter to the editor to *The Washington Post* in response to a July 28, 2009 article by Craig Whitlock, “Another Rift Between Greece, Macedonia, Both Lay Claim to Alexander the Great.” Dr. Coufoudakis concisely explained the history of the issue and reasons for FYROM's frantic search for a national identity. In addition, AHIF's Foreign Policy Study Abroad Program was applauded by one participant's father in a letter to the editor *The National Herald* published on September 19.

AHI Op-Eds, Commentaries, and Media Placement

Twenty op-eds were written by Gene Rossides, Nick Larigakis, and Aleco Haralambides, appearing in numerous Greek American publications including: *The National Herald*, *Greek News*,

Hellenic News of America, The Greek Star, and The Hellenic Voice. Topics ranged from U.S relations with Greece and Turkey, to the new Obama administration, to reflective pieces on advocacy efforts of the Greek American community.

In addition, an editorial board member of the *New York Times* interviewed Executive Director Larigakis in December as a result of AHIF's release of its Cyprus Progress Report. Larigakis was also the focus of a January 12, 2009 interview with *Greek News*. AHIF's 7th Annual Conference on the Future of Hellenism in America provided the impetus for the article, "Nourishing the Vibrant Spirit of Hellenism in America."

AHIF FOUNDATION INITIATIVES

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt educational and research organization and is the first "think tank" devoted exclusively to the study of the issues confronting the Greek American community.

In addition to the 8th Annual Conference on the Future of Hellenism (see page 7 of this report), AHIF embarked on the following initiatives in 2009:

INAUGURAL AHIF FOREIGN POLICY STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

From June 25–July 10, AHIF sponsored nine Greek-American college students for its inaugural Foreign Policy Study Abroad Program. This new program introduced future Greek American leaders to the core foreign policy issues important to the Greek American community and their significance upon U.S.



The students at the Acropolis.



The students with Mr. George Iacovou, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and current Presidential Commissioner.



The students in front of an old Cyprus Air plane which was on the tarmac during the 1974 Turkish invasion and has remained there since.



The students with Archbishop Chrysostomos II, Archbishop of Cyprus.



The students with Dimitris Droutsas, who is the current alternate foreign minister of Greece.

interests in the eastern Mediterranean. The trip began with briefings in Washington from June 25 to 26, followed by a series of activities and briefings in Cyprus, June 27 to July 2, and Athens, July 3-9. It was a "hands-on" experience for the students. The program is open to Greek American and Cypriot American college students in good academic standing who are studying political science, international relations, history, or foreign affairs.

The nine student participants were: Lia Seremetis, University of Cincinnati; Lydia Pappas, Drexel University, Philadelphia; Irene Venetia Ginakakis, New York University; Jason Demetrios Vergados, Merrimack College, Mass.; George Balfoutis, University of Chicago; John Tyler Gazetos, University of Wisconsin at Madison; George Papadopoulos, DePaul University, Chicago; Vangelis Katsikiotis, Catholic University, Washington, D.C.; and Nicholas Papacostas, American University, Washington, D.C.

AHIF DEBUTS ONLINE POLICY JOURNAL

AHIF debuted its *Online Policy Journal* in July.

"The purpose of the online Journal is to offer a forum for our readers, including members of Congress and other government officials, by which they can examine issues concerning the United States, Greece, Cyprus and Turkey in a format that is more comprehensive and detailed than many of our traditional press releases and letters." wrote Gene Rossides in the foreword.

The Summer 2009 issue included the article "*The Case for Cyprus Transforms as Turkey Abandons the West in Favor of an Alliance With Moscow*" by Gregory R. Copley; "*Cyprus: Destruction of Cultural Property in the Northern Part of Cyprus and Violations of International Law*" (LL File No. 2008-01356), which is an April 2009 Report for Congress by The Law Library of Congress; and the article "*Apostolides v. Orams: An American Perspective*" by Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq.

Professor Harry Dinella is managing editor and head of the Board of Editors. The members of the Board are: Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., deputy managing editor; Chrysoula Economopoulos, assistant editor; C. Franciscos Economides, assistant to the managing editor; and Yola Pakhchanian, director of publications. The publisher is Gene Rossides. John Metaxas is the chairman of the Board of Advisors.

AHIF FELLOWS FOR 2009

On February 4, AHIF was pleased to announce its Fellows for 2009: Professor Van Coufoudakis, chair; Professor Constantine Hatzidimitriou, Dr. Christos P. Ioannides, Professor S. Victor Papacosma, Ambassador Clay Constantinou (ret.), and Professor Andre Gerolymatos. For complete bios on each Fellow, please visit <www.AHIworld.org>.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AHIF offers several internship positions during the year. Designed for undergraduate and graduate students interested in U.S. politics, foreign policy and American government, the internship can serve as a great way to introduce and jump start their career in politics, journalism, lobbying, government, or the nonprofit sector. Interns can work at AHI Headquarters, Capitol Hill, or at an embassy.

LEADERSHIP, AWARDS, & STAFF NEWS

Larigakis Honored at Greek Independence Parade in Florida

Executive Director Nick Larigakis participated in Greek Independence Day celebrations that were held in Tarpon Springs, Fla. on March 29 where he served as one of the parade's grand marshals. During the parade, Larigakis was presented with an Award of Appreciation from the Parade Committee. The award was in appreciation for his "outstanding leadership of the AHI over the years in support of Hellenism and in the strengthening of U.S. relations with Greece."

AHEPA Chapter Honors AHI Founder Rossides

AHI Founder Gene Rossides received the Col. Peter N. Derzis

Hellenism Award from AHEPA Chapter 438, Arlington, Va., on the occasion of the chapter's 40th anniversary gala on May 30. The Peter N. Derzis Award for Hellenism is presented to individuals and organizations whose contributions in support of Hellenism and devotion to humanity, freedom, and democracy have been noteworthy. In acceptance, Rossides said, "I am very pleased to receive this award because Peter Derzis was a close friend who gave full support to our efforts on behalf of the rule of law and because AHEPA is the heart and soul of Greek America in every state throughout our nation." Rossides is an AHEPA Life Member.

AHI Nominated Among "Greek America's Best & Brightest"

The Gabby Awards selection committee nominated the American Hellenic Institute as one of five candidates in the "Promotion of Hellenism" category. The Gabby Awards event, held for the first time June 19, was founded to celebrate excellence among Greek Americans and to reward those who embody it. The "Promotion of Hellenism" category is open to an individual or organization that promoted any aspect of Hellenism. Other nominees included: the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. The Metropolitan Museum of Art captured the Gabby. AHI Member Gregory Pappas organized The Gabby Awards, which was a tremendous success. AHI commends Pappas for his initiative and drive.

AHI Welcomes New Staff

In 2009, AHI welcomed Demetra Atsaloglou as the organization's research analyst. In her capacity, Atsaloglou helps AHI produce in-depth analysis of policy developments in Washington.

THE AHI BUSINESS NETWORK

AHI highlights the professional accomplishments of its members through its various communications vehicles in an effort to provide the Greek American community with a viable business network. For example, AHI's semiannual newsletter features the "Member Spotlight" and "Members in the News" sections that highlight the latest "movers and shakers" in the community. In 2009, our "Member Spotlight" section showcased Dr. Helen Rouvelas, Attorney Nicholas Chimicles, and Attorney and Congressional Candidate George Demos. Moreover, as part of the business network, AHI held a breakfast presentation featuring former CBS News Anchor Thalia Assuras on March 14 that allowed the audience to learn more about the media industry and journalism profession.



AHI Business Network presentation with Thalia Assuras.

AHI History: 1974-2008

The American Hellenic Institute, Inc. (AHI) was founded on August 1, 1974, following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus with the illegal use of American-supplied arms in violation of U.S. laws and agreements. The AHI initiated the rule of law issue in the Congress in the interests of the U.S., thus changing the face of American politics.

When Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the United States Congress would not act to enforce U.S. laws following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus on July 20, 1974, AHI called on some of its friends in Congress. AHI wrote to them on August 28, 1974, setting forth Turkey's violations of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) and the Foreign Military Sales Act (FMSA) in its invasion of Cyprus with the illegal use of American supplied arms and equipment.

Our friends in Congress adopted our arguments and sent a letter to Secretary Kissinger on August 29, 1974. Thus the rule of law issue was born. It should have been born the very day Turkey invaded Cyprus—July 20, 1974—and if it had been, there would have been no second aggression on August 14, 1974. Kissinger violated the FAA and FMSA and his constitutional oath of office to faithfully carry out the laws of the land when he refused to declare Turkey “immediately ineligible” for further U.S. aid and sales as required by law.

After a dozen major votes in the Congress between September and December 1974, in which the entire community was active in support of the rule of law, Congress passed an arms embargo against Turkey. AHI coordinated the effort in the community, kept a vote count on a daily



Ribbon-Cutting: Mr. George Spyropoulos, a long time supporter and friend of AHI, officially opens the doors to Hellenic House on October 25, 1994, under the watchful eye of Greece's then Ambassador to the U.S., Loucas Tsilas.

basis and provided the information to key supporters in the House and Senate. It was an historic success that should never be forgotten. It proved what could and

“...one of the most effective lobbies in Washington today is that of Greek Americans...most effective has been the American Hellenic Institute Public Affairs Committee.”

*—Time Magazine
June, 1975*

can be done when we are in the right and united on policy. Fundamental to the success was the fact that we stood for the rule of law in international affairs as in the best interests of the U.S.

Also in December 1974, AHI initiated the proposal for \$25 million in humanitarian aid for Cyprus, which was adopted by our friends in Congress. As a result of that initiative, supported annually by AHI, Cy-

prus has received over \$400 million which has aided the island's remarkable economic recovery.

In the years since 1974, AHI has kept the spirit of the rule of law alive. AHI and its affiliate organizations have championed the rule of law and American values in foreign policy as in the best interests of the U.S. This is especially true in South-east Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, a region critically important to American national interests.

AHI is a 501(c)(6) non-profit tax-exempt, independent public policy trade association. It provides an organization and program for strengthening relations between the U.S. and Greece, the U.S. and Cyprus, and within the American Hellenic community.

The **American Hellenic Institute Public Affairs Committee, Inc. (AHI-PAC)** was established in early 1975 with a charter similar to AHI's. While both AHI



Nick Larigakis speaking at the Hands Around the Capitol Rally marking the 25th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus.

and AHIPAC are authorized to lobby, AHIPAC was formed to concentrate on lobbying. AHIPAC is the only Greek American organization registered with the U.S. Congress under the Lobbying Act.



AHI's first congressional trip to Greece, August 1993: Reps. Newt Gingrich, Gerald Solomon, Carolyn Maloney and Mike Bilirakis at the Prime Minister's office.

The **American Hellenic Institute Foundation, Inc. (AHIF)**, established in 1975, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt educational and research organization and is the first "think tank" devoted exclusively to the study of the issues confronting the Greek American community.

The **AHI Business Network**, a division of AHI, was initiated in 1989 creating a national and international network for the Greek American business and professional community, and putting it to work helping other Greek Americans. Its purpose is to share business information and contacts. Its concept is people helping people by sharing experience, knowl-

edge and ideas.

In 1995, the Foundation for Hellenic Studies was established in Washington, D.C. under the auspices of AHIF and under the direction of Professor Van Coufoudakis, who is dean emeritus and professor emeritus at Indiana University—Purdue University in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The foundation's main objective is to provide support to qualified individuals, institutions, programs and projects advancing the study of Greece and Cyprus in the U.S.

Through the years, AHI has grown into one of the key Greek American membership organizations. Below you will find descriptions of some of the programs and publications the AHI and its affiliates have developed over the years to strengthen relations between the U.S., Greece and Cyprus and within the Greek American community.

TESTIMONY AND LETTERS TO CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH



Nick Larigakis delivers testimony before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations.

AHI has testified annually on behalf of AHI, the Hellenic American National Council, and other major Greek American organizations before House and Senate committees on foreign aid proposals. The testimony and letters to Congress and



Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congressman Michael Bilirakis are presented with an AHI award following a breakfast briefing in 2006. (l-r) James Marketos, Sen. Sarbanes, Congressman Bilirakis, Gene Rossides, Nick Larigakis.

the Executive Branch highlight support of the rule of law regarding the Aegean, Cyprus, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek minority in Albania, and opposition to the recognition of the Skopje regime under the name of "Macedonia."

LEGISLATION

AHI has periodically initiated legislation on the key issues of Cyprus, the Aegean, U.S. relations with Turkey, FYROM, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. AHI successfully ended grant aid to Turkey and helped to pass: (1) H.R. 4545—Visa Waiver for Greek citizens, passed into law on March 25, 1999; (2) S. 1607, a bill applying a code of conduct to U.S. arms supplies to non-democratic countries

including Turkey; and (3) Section 2804 of the 1999 Appropriations Law, calling on Turkey to respect the Ecumenical Patriarchate and reopen the Halki Theological School.

In 2004, Representative Frank Pallone,

Jr. (D-NJ) introduced the *American-Owned Property in Cyprus Claims Act, H.R. 5071*, which was initiated by AHI. If passed, this bill would enable U.S. citizens who own property in the Turkish occupied territory of Cyprus to seek financial remedies against either the current inhabitants of their property or with the Turkish government. And in 2006, Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) introduced the Senate version of the *American-Owned Property in Cyprus Claims Act* as S. 3520, along with her colleague Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ).

POLICY STATEMENTS

The AHI initiated the annual *Greek American Policy Statements* on issues concerning U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. The *Policy Statements* are authored by AHI and have been reviewed, edited and approved in past years by the Order of AHEPA, the Hellenic American National Council, the Hellenic American Women's Council, the Cyprus Federation of America, the Panepirotic Federation of America, the Pan-Macedonian Association of America and other organizations. Distributed to the members of the House, Senate, and the Executive Branch, the *Policy Statements* present a unified Greek American position on the issues of concern to the community.

ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE AND SCORECARD

AHI periodically issues a Candidate Questionnaire on issues of concern to Greek Americans, also asking them to answer policy questions. Also issued periodically are House and Senate Score Cards for Greek American issues which provide the voting records of the House and Senate members on issues regarding U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus.

In 1998 and 2000, the AHI Candidate Questionnaire was distributed to all candidates in the House and Senate. In 2006, AHI drafted and distributed the *2006 Questionnaire for Congressional Candidates* to those running in the 2006 mid-term Congressional elections to score their positions on issues important to the Greek

American community. In 2007 and 2008, AHI issued a questionnaire to U.S. presidential candidates.

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



(l-r) Former Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. Euripides L. Evriavidis, AHI Honoree and former CIA Director George Tenet, and former Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. George Sawaides.



Award-winning actress Olympia Dukakis was honored by AHI in 1996.



1994 Award Recipient Yanni.



Award recipient John P. Calamos (r) at the Annual Dinner in 2007 with George Stamas.

Each year, AHI hosts its major fundraising event—the Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner. AHI takes tremendous pride in paying tribute to a distinguished group of individuals for their important career achievements and for their contributions to the Greek American community. Past honorees have included: world-renowned musician Yanni, prominent businessman and philanthropist George Behrakis; former CIA Director George Tenet; George Stephanopoulos, co-host of *Good Morning America*, and former anchor of *ABC's This Week* and former senior advisor to President Clinton; Fox Filmed Entertainment Chairman James N. Gianopoulos; AOL Vice Chairman Ted Leonsis; Senators Paul Sarbanes, Olympia Snowe, and Joseph Biden; Congressman Michael Bilirakis; former U.S. Ambassadors to Greece Nicholas Burns and Thomas



(l-r) HANC President Ted G. Spyropoulos, former Greek President Kostis Stephanopoulos, AHI President Gene Rossides, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, and Phillip Morakis at the First Annual AHI-Athens Awards Dinner in 2005.

Miller; to name just a few. In our history, we also have honored two long-standing Greek American organizations: The National Philoptochos Society and the Daughters of Penelope.

Prominent members of the Greek American community from both the U.S. and abroad attend the gala each year, making it an important event through which guests can celebrate the successes and achievements of our community together. In 2004, AHI dedicated the gala dinner to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. A special segment during the evening paid tribute to three former Olympians by awarding them each with the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award.

CONFERENCES

Over the years, AHI has organized more than 60 conferences on legislative policy and how to lobby the Congress on U. S. foreign policy regarding Greece and Cyprus. In November 1999, AHI held its inaugural conferences in Nicosia and Athens. The conference was titled "U.S. Relations with Greece and Cyprus: The American Foreign Policy Process and the Role of Greek Americans." The participants learned about the issues and how



President of Greece Konstantinos Stefanopoulos awards Gene Rossides with the Order of the Phoenix medal.

Through its many years of dedicated service to the Greek American community, AHI has been recognized for its achievements and efforts promoting strong U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus, and within the Greek American community. In 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. And in 2006, AHI was honored with the Greek Letters Award by the Three Hierarchs Parish in Brooklyn, New York, on the occasion of Greek Letters Day.



(l-r) Congressman Zack Space, Professor Van Coufoudakis, Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulis, Endy Zemenides and Gene Rossides at the 2007 Hellenism Conference in Chicago.

the foreign policy legislative process operates in the U.S. To analyze the state of the Greek American community, AHI launched its first annual conference on "The Future of Hellenism in the United States" in 2002. The conference, which continues today, features an expert lineup of speakers from the community and travels to a different city each year.

AHI HONORS AND AWARDS

AHI CHAPTERS

AHI has embarked on a program to develop its chapters across the country to better facilitate the grassroots activities of the AHI and its affiliate organizations. This program includes meetings with and letters to elected officials, contacts with the media and academic community, and organizing newsworthy events.

FOUNDATION FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

The Foundation For Hellenic Studies' (FHS) main objective is to provide support to qualified individuals, institutions, programs and projects advancing the study of Greece and Cyprus in the United States. Since its inception in 1995, the FHS has dispersed approximately \$161,000 in grants to over 50 individuals and programs.

These grants have helped to support the following projects:

- A joint post-doctoral fellowship in Hellenic Studies with Princeton University



Hellenic Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) in 2007.



Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) at center with the Return to Origins Folk Dance Troupe during the Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day in 2006.

- Support for the restoration of Cypriot antiquities owned by the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida
- Support of Modern Greek Studies programs at various U.S. universities
- Support for the acquisition of library materials on Greece and Cyprus by university schools and other libraries
- Subventions for the publication of books and academic journals with a Greek focus
- Lectures on Greece and Cyprus
- Support of conferences with Greek themes
- Curriculum development grants
- Support of legislative seminars presented by AHI
- Ph.D. dissertation grants for dissertations on topics involving Greece and Cyprus
- Projects promoting Greece and Cyprus on the Internet
- Small research grants for researchers studying Greece and Cyprus
- Travel by Greek visiting scholars for lectures in the U.S.



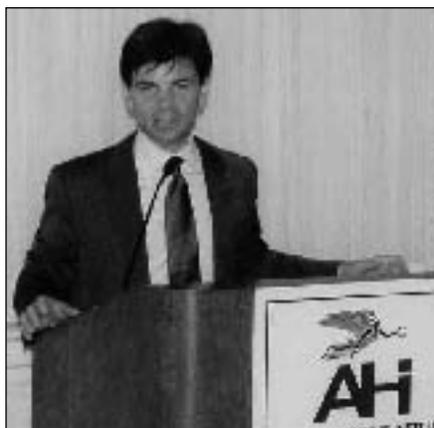
(l-r) Rita Cosby of Fox, Alexis Christoforou of CBS MarketWatch, AHI Executive Director Nick Larigakis, Dorie Klissas of NBC and John Metaxas of CNBC at a New York Business Network event in 2003.



AHI Business Network events have included topics such as "Investing in Greek Real Estate," presented by Dr. Konstantinos Zacharopoulos in 2006.

CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT LEADERSHIP TEAM (CCLT)

AHI has organized a CCLT program which to date has at least one grassroots contact in



George Stephanopoulos speaking at an AHI Business Network luncheon in 2003.

over 400 of the 435 congressional districts and with 98 of the 100 U.S. senators. The goal is to develop at least five contacts with each of the members of the House and Senate.

The CCLT has played a leading role in the success of the bills in Congress. AHI members across the country have participated in letter writing and phone campaigns to their respective members of the House and Senate. AHI has made a special effort to involve the numerous Greek American communities who responded with petitions and letters to their elected officials in a strong show of support. AHI has kept the community informed of actions in Washington and provided information and guidance on reaching their members of Congress.

AHI-BUSINESS NETWORK

Since 1989, the AHI Business Network has hosted numerous luncheons, recep-



Eleni Gage with her father, Nicholas Gage, and AHI staff after her book presentation.

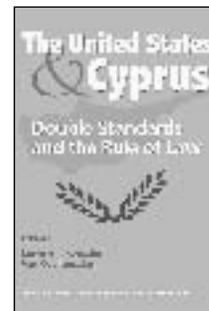
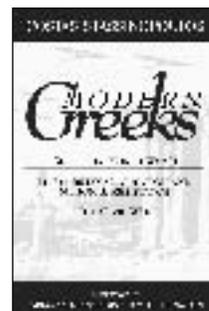
tions and meetings throughout the U.S., Greece, Australia and Canada. The AHI Business Network has successfully brought Greek American businessmen and professionals together to exchange ideas, share business information and extend contacts.

TRADE CONFERENCES

AHI organized the first U.S.-Greece-Cyprus Trade Conference in 1975 and has held a total of 16 such conferences, including nine seminars between 1998 and 2000 titled "Cyprus: An International Business, Shipping and Financial Center." A key part of AHI's program is to strengthen business ties between the U.S. and Greece and between the U.S. and Cyprus. The *AHI Membership Directory* of members around the world, indexed by profession and geographic location, has been used as an everyday tool to generate greater interaction among our members and to stimulate participation in business networking.

LECTURE SERIES

The American Hellenic Institute has hosted a series of Noon Forums, book signings and other events at Hellenic House for discussion of international issues relating to Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as historical and cultural themes. The AHI has also



hosted a number of Capitol Hill Briefings to reach out to Hill staff and policymakers regarding U.S. relations with Greece, Cyprus and Turkey.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

AHIF has developed an active publications program. In 1998, AHIF published the well-received *Truman Doctrine of Aid to Greece: A Fifty-Year Retrospective* jointly with the prestigious Academy of Political Science (APS). Since 1974, fourteen books and pamphlets on U.S. foreign policy and trade issues with Greece, Cyprus and Turkey were published. Publications include the *Handbook on United States Relations with Greece and Cyprus*, the *American Hellenic Who's Who, Doing Business in Greece*, *Modern Greeks* by Costas Stassinopoulos, *Greece's Pivotal Role in World War II and Its Importance to the U.S. Today*, *Blood and Tears: Greece 1940-1949*, by George C. Papavizas, and *The United States & Cyprus: Double Standards and the Rule of Law*. These publications, available to the public, were distributed to the U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch, Greek and Cypriot government officials, university libraries, domestic and Greek media, and to our members. In 2009, AHIF launched an Online Policy Journal.

HOSTING VISITING DIGNITARIES

AHI has hosted a number of receptions, luncheons, dinners and briefings for visiting dignitaries from throughout the United States, Greece and Cyprus in order to promote dialogue and cooperation between these countries.



Round table discussion at Hellenic House in 2006 with former Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance Christos Folias (on left) and AHI's Gene Rossides.

COOPERATION WITH GREEK AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

AHI works in close cooperation with the Order of AHEPA, the Hellenic American National Council (HANC), the Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWC) and the various regional societies. In 1994, President of HANC Ted G. Spyropoulos announced that it designated AHI to coordinate lobbying efforts in Washington with the Congress and the Executive Branch on issues concerning the U.S., Greece and Cyprus.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



AHI interns meet with the Ambassador of Cyprus. (l-r) Max Havanis, Amb. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Adam Dice, Kristina Velys.

AHI offers several internship positions during the year. Interns have the opportunity to work in Washington, and to experience first hand the excitement and practical understanding for how foreign policy is developed in this country. It is an experience that they cherish and appreciate. The interns participate in a variety of activities such as monitoring legislation and congressional hearings, acting



as liaisons with Congressional offices, and conducting research on issues for Congressional testimony, for our *Handbook on U.S. Relations with Greece and Cyprus*, and for other critical areas.

HELLENIC HOUSE

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. George Spyropoulos of Caracas, Venezuela, the Hellenic House, located in an historic building at 1220 16th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. just a few blocks away from the White House, became the new permanent headquarters of AHI and its affiliates on October 1, 1994. Mr. Spyropoulos contributed \$227,000, or thirty percent of the cost of the building. In 2004, the remainder of Hellenic House's mortgage was paid off in full, signifying a new chapter for AHI characterized by new opportunities for growth and expansion of programs in the future.

At the time of the donation of the building, Mr. Spyropoulos stated:

"As we all know, the Institute has grown over the years and has acquired more importance. That's why I considered that it was time it had its own roof as a demonstration of permanency.... However, I do have to say that this roof is fragile and needs your cooperation in order to make it stronger."

The importance of Hellenic House to our operations has exceeded our expectations.