



# AHI

**ANNUAL REPORT**

# 2011

American Hellenic Institute  
American Hellenic Institute Foundation



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## Introduction

Dear Members and Friends:

It affords me great pleasure to present the 2011 AHI Annual Report. I am humbled to have completed my first year as AHI president, a position to which I was appointed in January 2011.

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 2011, AHI issued 92 press releases detailing our numerous policy and cultural activities. These activities included: the 36th Annual Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner; the landmark 10th annual "Future of Hellenism in America" conference; the 8th Annual Awards Dinner in Athens; our annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" on Capitol Hill; our annual trips to Greece and Cyprus, including our Study Abroad Program and historic first visit to Israel; and our numerous public policy conferences and forums.

Following the 2010 debut of the documentary *Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure* that aired on PBS, we embarked on an ambitious series of "Town Hall Screenings" throughout North America in 2011. With the "Town Hall Screenings" we worked to elevate awareness of the Cyprus issue to greater heights with the aim to secure the documentary's airing on PBS affiliates. In October, it aired on Maryland Public Television to an audience of 20,000 viewers.

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 a significant number of congressional staff persons in 2011. When appropriate, AHI showcased commentaries, letters, and op-ed pieces critical of Turkey's foreign policy positions as well as crafting our own op-eds and letters to the editor

to mainstream and Greek American media outlets. We also continued to keep our audience informed with our Policy Statements, Capital Report, and foreign policy forums.

Our "Noon Forum" series continued to address policy, historic and cultural themes to create awareness and educate audiences about Greek American issues. Topics examined the significance of the Battle of Crete, OXI Day, and Smyrna.

Furthermore, we had a parade of visiting dignitaries from Greece and Cyprus visit Hellenic House. This included Cypriot Foreign Minister Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, several ministers and deputy ministers, military officials, U.S. State Department officials and scholars. Moreover, AHI leaders held important meetings with leading diplomats and Department of State officials, including new U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel Smith and U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Francis Ricciardone, Jr.

We accomplished all of these initiatives thanks to the dedication of AHI's Board of Directors and Policy Fellows and assistance of our staff.

## 2012: A Crucial Election Year; Intensifying Foreign Policy Challenges

AHI will look to build upon the exciting new programs and initiatives that we offered in 2011. 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. We aspire to do so amid ongoing challenging economic times. We will continue to seek your support as we strive to meet our basic mission as advocates for the rule of law.

In 2012, our foreign policy challenges will be as intense as ever. We will see increased UN pressure and involvement in the direct negotiations taking place on the Cyprus issue. Although 2011 saw a little progress with respect to religious freedom in Turkey, the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Patriarchate

continues and Turkey remains on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's "Watch List." Turkey's dubious and troublesome foreign policy direction, which includes Turkish aggression in the Aegean and bellicose threats against Israel and Cyprus as they explore for oil and gas reserves within their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), is ongoing. The FYROM name-recognition issue remains at a stalemate, and Greece's economic condition remains in crisis. All require our collective attention and action.

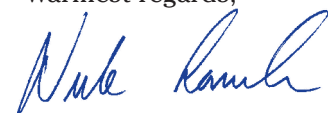
Of course, 2012 is an election year. AHI will work diligently to introduce our policy positions to all candidates for federal office—challengers and incumbents alike. This includes presidential candidates too. In the lead-up to November, we must ensure that our issues remain at the forefront of the Obama 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 programs such as our study abroad initiative for college students or our outreach to the Jewish American community while exploring additional ways to encourage growth in commerce, trade, and investment between the United States and Greece and Cyprus.

I am deeply grateful and appreciative of the members, officers and staff for their dedication. Everyone worked together to make 2011 another productive year. Alongside our own activities in Washington, AHI's 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,



Nick Larigakis, *President*

## ADMINISTRATION

### AHI Announces New President

The American Hellenic Institute announced longtime executive director, Nick Larigakis, as its new President and Chief Operating Officer, effective January 1, 2011. Larigakis succeeded AHI President Aleco Haralambides, who remained on the AHI Board of Directors.

As President and COO, Larigakis continues much of his duties as executive director, a position he has held since 1992. Larigakis is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of AHI and its affiliated organizations. He directs all aspects of strategic planning, policy analysis, public affairs programming, government relations, financial development, and media communications. Larigakis' responsibilities also include working with the U.S. Congress on U.S.-Greece-Cyprus relations where he has provided witness testimony to several congressional committees and as liaison to the grass roots community, traveling throughout the U.S. to educate the public about AHI's public policy issues and other aspects of its mission. As a result, he has been interviewed by mainstream, Greek-American, and Greek media outlets on issues affecting U.S. policy in the eastern Mediterranean.



*AHIF President,  
Spiro Spireas*

#### **Dr. Spireas Named AHI Foundation President**

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) announced the selection of Dr. Spiro Spireas as its president, effective January 1, 2011. Dr. Spireas succeeds AHI Foundation President and AHI Founder Gene Rossides, who will remain on the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Dr. Spireas, New Hope, Pa., is the owner, founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Sigmapharm Laboratories, an emerging specialty pharmaceutical company operating out of Bensalem, Pennsylvania, and engaging in the development, manufacture and marketing of unique generic and branded pharmaceutical products. He is the inventor and author of more than 80 international and domestic patents and 200 scientific papers, books, and other publications in the fields of industrial pharmacy, pharmaceutical technology, biopharmaceutics, pharmacokinetics and analytical chemistry.

Dr. Spireas holds a Master's and a Doctorate Degree in Pharmaceutics and Industrial Pharmacy from St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y., and a B.S. Degree in Pharmacy from the Hellenic National University of Athens, Greece. In addition, Dr. Spireas is very active in the Greek Orthodox Church. He currently serves as the Parish Council President of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Trenton, N.J., and he is a member of the Metropolitan Council of the Greek

Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey appointed by His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos. On October 30, 2010, Dr. Spireas was installed as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

## PUBLIC POLICY: AN OVERVIEW

### 2011 Policy Statements on Greek American Issues

In March, the American Hellenic Institute released its 2011 Policy Statements, which present issues affecting the Greek American community as they pertain to United States relations with Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey. In essence, the statements set the course for AHI's policy direction for the year. The policy statements are distributed to high-ranking government officials and policymakers. They also serve as a guide when communicating positions to U.S. policy makers and the media. The positions are based on the best interests of the United States.

The policy statements were approved by a record number of membership-based organizations including: American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), American Hellenic Council of California, Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), Cyprus Federation of America, Evrytanian Association of America "Velouchi," Hellenic American National Council (HANC), International Coordination Committee-Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA), Pancretan Association of America, Pan-Pontian Federation of U.S.A and Canada, Panepirotic Federation of America, and United Chios Societies of America and Canada.

### Greece-Turkey Relations

AHI closely monitors Greece-Turkey relations to keep key U.S. government officials apprised of developments that affect U.S. interests in the eastern Mediterranean. 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.

In sum, the threat of *casus belli* still stands and a considerable number of formal complaints were made by Greece over continued violations by Turkey of the Greek airspace and territorial waters.

## The Cyprus Problem

AHI supports a settlement of the Cyprus problem through negotiations based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation in a state with a single sovereignty and international personality, incorporating the norms of a constitutional democracy embracing key American principles, the EU acquiscommunitaire and EU Founding Treaty, UN resolutions on Cyprus, the pertinent decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and of other European Courts – as is the best interests of the United States.

One of AHI's primary objectives is to keep the Cyprus issue, the basis for a solution, and the ongoing violations of religious freedom and destruction of cultural heritage in Turkish-occupied Cyprus at the forefront of the policy debate in Washington. Fundamental to this approach are AHI meetings 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.

Additionally, AHI continues to push for greater public and governmental awareness of the issue. AHI accomplishes 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. However, it was AHI's series of "Town Hall Screenings" of the one-hour documentary "Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure" that has helped to keep the Cyprus issue in the public's eye. The documentary also aired on Maryland Public Television in October 2011. Finally, AHI's commitment to the Cyprus issue is demonstrated by two annual visits to Cyprus and AHIF continues to introduce a younger generation of Greek Americans to Cyprus and Greece with its second annual Foreign Policy Study Abroad Program.

## FYROM Name-Recognition

The FYROM name-recognition issue is included in the AHI Policy Statements, which call 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 statements also advocate for a position that FYROM will not join NATO and the European Union until the name dispute is resolved.

Throughout 2011, AHI embarked on initiatives to raise awareness to help end the misappropriation of the name "Macedonia" by the Former Yugoslav Republic of "Macedonia" (FYROM). For example, AHI ensured the issue was raised in letters to Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton prior to their visits to Greece. In Congress, AHI submitted written testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on

Foreign Operations that opposed U.S. aid to FYROM and applauded favorable language on the FYROM issue that appeared in a foreign relations reauthorization bill.

## 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 2011 Policy Statements. 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 2011 AHI continued to raise awareness of religious restrictions in Turkey and called for action on several occasions, including in letters sent to Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton before their visits to Turkey. In Congress, AHI applauded favorable language on the issue that appeared in a foreign relations reauthorization bill and passage of a congressional resolution that urged Turkey to safeguard its Christian heritage. Additionally, AHI President Nick Larigakis participated at a panel discussion "The Theological School of Halki: Past, Present, and Future" held by the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England Cultural Events Committee.

## Public Policy in Action

### *Letters, Statements & Action Alerts*

AHI sent four letters to the Obama administration and Congress in 2011 to advocate on behalf of the Greek American community. 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.

### *LETTERS*

- **May 2:** AHI sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton condemning the demolition of the Chapel of Saint Thekla, a 200-year-old Orthodox Christian church located in the village of Vokolida in Turkish-occupied Cyprus.
- **July 12:** AHI sent a letter to Secretary Clinton in anticipation of her trip to Turkey (July 15-16) and Greece (July 17-18). The letter presented issues of concern to the Greek American community that exists in southeast Europe and the eastern Mediterranean.

- **July 19:** AHI writes specific members of Congress expressing concern over their support of a policy that urges the Obama administration “to take a taxpayer bailout of Greece through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) off the table.” AHI aimed to clear-up any misperception the legislators had about Greece’s economic crisis.
- **November 21:** AHI sent a letter to Vice President Joseph Biden in anticipation of his trip to Turkey (December 1-3) and Greece (December 4). The letter presented issues of concern to the Greek American community that exists in southeast Europe and the eastern Mediterranean.

## STATEMENTS

- **February 2:** AHI applauded a statement by Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) that called the disruption of Christmas liturgy at Agios Synesios by security services in the Turkish-occupied Cypriot town of Rizokarpaso “appalling” and the act “should be roundly condemned by people of good will.” He also called for the removal of restrictions on religious freedom in occupied Cyprus. Moreover, Senator Cardin expressed concern about the State Department’s tendency to “downplay” the difficulties faced by Orthodox Christians to hold services in occupied Cyprus.
- **March 16:** AHI welcomed House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen’s (R-FL) reiterated support for the reunification of Cyprus, the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and Greece’s “good faith efforts” to resolve the name dispute with FYROM following a meeting she had with Chairman of the Hellenic Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense Konstantinos Vrettos on March 15, 2011.
- **March 24:** AHI statement issued in support of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce competition to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in Greece.
- **March 29:** AHI rebutted a briefing paper published by the International Crisis Group (ICG) on February 22, 2011. The ICG briefing paper “Cyprus: Six Steps toward a Settlement” disregarded the rule of law and recommended more concessions from the Republic of Cyprus, which is the victim of Turkish aggression.
- **May 2:** AHI condemned the demolition of the Chapel of Saint Thekla, a 200-year-old Orthodox Christian church located in the village of Vokolida in Turkish-occupied Cyprus. It also commends the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom’s statement on the issue.
- **May 13:** AHI congratulated Ambassador of Greece to the United States Vassilis Kaskarelis upon being selected “Diplomat of the Year” by the prestigious World Affairs Council. Ambassador Kaskarelis accepted the honor on May 4, 2011, in Los Angeles. He

was selected among 180 of his peers currently serving in the United States.

- **July 8:** AHI notified the community of an op-ed by Ambassador Donald K. Bandler titled “The US and EU have a role to play in Cyprus reunification” that appeared July 7, 2011, in The Hill.
- **July 20:** AHI commemorated the 37th anniversary of Turkey’s invasion of the Republic of Cyprus. AHI also announced the release of a two-minute video trailer for the documentary “Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure” which can also be seen on YouTube.
- **July 28:** AHI highlighted the article “Cyprus: The Long Decline of International Law” by Henrik R. Clausen, which was published online at EuropeNews on July 21, 2011. Clausen’s piece provided a detailed, yet concise account of the history of Cyprus.
- **August 3:** AHI applauded passage of a bill by the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs that included favorable provisions on Cyprus, FYROM, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in addition to an amendment that urges Turkey to end religious discrimination, cease all restrictions on gatherings for religious prayer and education, and return illegally confiscated church property.
- **September 19:** AHI announced that Maryland Public Television will air the one-hour documentary, “Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure,” Mon., Oct. 17, 2011, 10 p.m.
- **September 23:** AHI applauded House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen’s (R-FL) September 22 statement cautioning Turkey on its threats to U.S. commercial ships off the coast of Cyprus.
- **November 7:** AHI released its assessment of the European Commission’s 2011 report on progress made by Turkey in preparing for European Union membership. The 2011 report covers a period ranging from early October 2010 to September 2011.
- **November 8:** AHI welcomed the effort of congressional lawmakers to block the sale of U.S. arms to Turkey with the introduction of joint resolution that disapproves of the issuance of an offer letter for the proposed \$111 million sale of the arms. U.S. Reps. Shelley Berkley (D-NV) and Eliot Engel (D-NY) sponsored H.J.Res.83 on November 3, 2011.
- **November 14:** AHI statement on Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s remarks to the American-Turkish Council on October 31, 2011 expresses appreciation for certain issues of importance to the Greek American community she raised and disappointment for not applying the rule of law to Turkey’s foreign policy as she did to its economy.
- **November 18:** AHI thanked the efforts of legislators who led opposition to H.R. 2362, the Indian Tribal

Trade and Investment Demonstration Project Act of 2011, in the House Committee on Natural Resources. The bill aimed to facilitate economic development by Indian tribes and encourage investment by Turkish enterprises.

- **December 15:** AHI condemned rejection of bishop's request to conduct liturgy at historic monastery in Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus on November 30, 2011.
- **December 16:** AHI mourned the passing of Author/ Essayist, Journalist Christopher Hitchens, a past recipient of the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award for his pursuit of the rule of law and justice for Cyprus and Hellenism through his writings and speeches.
- **December 16:** AHI applauded passage of H.Res.306 by the U.S. House of Representatives that urges the Turkey to end religious discrimination, cease all restrictions on gatherings for religious prayer and education, and return illegally confiscated church property.
- **December 29:** AHI applauded passage of a bill in the lower house of the French Parliament that would impose a fine and jail time for anyone who would deny the Armenian Genocide.

## ***ACTION ALERTS***

All chapter presidents, team leaders, members and friends were urged to take action on the following:

- **April 5:** Contact their U.S. representatives requesting that they co-sponsor H.Res.180, a resolution introduced March 17, 2011 by U.S. Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) that urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- **July 8:** To view the PBS programs "This is America Visits Cyprus" and "This is America Visits the Ancient World" that aired in the metro Washington DC and New York City viewing areas.
- **July 19:** Contact members of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee and ask them to support the Berman-Royce amendment (H.Res.306), which asks for Congress to put pressure on Turkey to safeguard Christian heritage and return confiscated Christian church properties.
- **July 25:** Contact their U.S. representatives requesting that they co-sponsor H.R.2597, also known as the American-Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act.
- **December 13:** Contact their U.S. representatives and ask them to support H.Res.306, which was scheduled for a vote on the House floor.

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**



*Screening of Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Hamilton, NJ*



*Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) participates in a panel discussion following a screening in Clearwater, FL.*

### **AHI Launches Series of "Town Hall Screenings" for Cyprus Documentary**

AHI launched a series of "Town Hall Screenings" of the one-hour documentary "Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure" throughout North America in 2011. The documentary sheds light and scrutinizes U.S. foreign policy toward Cyprus surrounding the 1974 Turkish invasion. The goal is to create awareness of the documentary's significance and encourage communities to urge their PBS affiliates to air the program.

The "Town Hall Screenings" were held in the following cities: Clearwater, Fla.; New York City, N.Y.; Boardman, Ohio; Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, Calif.; Portland, Ore.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Athens, Greece; Mexico City, Mexico, Trenton, N.J.; Chicago, St. Louis, and Norfolk, Va. At all venues, a panel discussion followed the screening.

- Each event could not have been possible without the local support from a whole host of Greek and Cypriot American organizations, local Orthodox churches, government officials, and generous individuals who are leaders of their respective communities. Please reference the individual press releases about each screening for acknowledgments at [www.ahiworld.org](http://www.ahiworld.org).

The documentary has aired on Maryland Public Television (October 17, 2011) and Detroit Public Television (September 13, 2010). Nearly 20,000 viewers, or 13,000 households, watched it on MPT.

"Cyprus Still Divided" finally reveals the web of domestic politics, the realpolitik of Henry Kissinger, and repeated refusal of successive U.S. presidents to demand that the rule of law and fundamental human rights be upheld in Cyprus. For example, the documentary presents a recently declassified 1974 memorandum that clearly indicts Secretary of State Kissinger, who wrote, "There is no American reason why the Turks should not have one-third of Cyprus."

The documentary was produced by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, George Veras and was made possible by the support of the American Hellenic Institute Foundation. A trailer is available for view on YouTube.



## LEGISLATIVE & POLICY INITIATIVES



*AHI President Nick Larigakis with Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs*

### AHI Meets House Foreign Affairs Chair

AHI President Nick Larigakis visited Capitol Hill to congratulate and welcome members of Congress to Washington to start the 112th Congress on Jan. 5, 2011. Among the members who

took the time to meet with President Larigakis was U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee. He congratulated the congresswoman on her re-election and rise to become chairman. Rep. Ros-Lehtinen has demonstrated support for the Greek American community's positions on issues and has been a recent vocal critic of Turkey's foreign policy direction. In addition, Larigakis had a friendly exchange with U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), who is a longstanding member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and co-chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

### AHI Meets New U.S. Envoy to Turkey

AHI President Nick Larigakis met with new U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Francis J. Ricciardone, Jan. 13, 2011, at the U.S. Department of State. President Larigakis congratulated the ambassador on his new position and discussed U.S. policy toward Turkey and its impact upon issues of importance to the Greek American community. Moreover, Larigakis expressed concern over Turkey's wayward foreign policy direction. AHI's Policy Statements and a copy of the documentary "Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure" were presented to the ambassador.

### AHI Meets Deputy Asst. Secretary of State

AHI President Nick Larigakis met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasian Affairs Tina S. Kaidanow, March 30, 2011, at the U.S. Department of State. President Larigakis discussed U.S. policy in the eastern Mediterranean, the Cyprus issue, the FYROM name-recognition issue, and religious freedom for the Ecumenical

Patriarchate. With respect to a Cyprus solution, Larigakis emphasized that the U.S. should call for the removal of Turkish troops and settlers and exert pressure on Ankara to not manipulate the ongoing direct talks. Also attending the meeting from the Department of State were Senior Greece Desk Office Christopher Snipes and Cyprus Desk Officer Adam Scarlattelli. AHI's Policy Statements were also presented.

### Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day



*(L-R): Nick Larigakis, Amb. Pavlos Anastasiades, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Amb. Vassilis Kaskarelis*



*Nick Larigakis, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) with group of students from St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda, MD*

AHI celebrated the 190th anniversary of Greek Independence Day by hosting its annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day" on April 6, 2011. 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).



Members of Congress who addressed the audience included (in order of appearance): U.S. Reps. Albio Sires (D-NJ), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Brad Sherman (D-CA), Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee; Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and Michael Grimm (R-NY). The members' statements can be found at [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org).

Special guest speakers were Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Vassilis Kaskarelis and Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Pavlos Anastasiades. Representatives from the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) joined AHI and the Greek American community in the celebration. Traditional Greek dances were performed by the Return to Origins Greek Folk Dance Troupe and the national anthems performed by the Greek School of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Bethesda, Md.

## AHI Submits FY12 Foreign Aid Testimony to House Appropriations Panel

AHI submitted testimony to the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies on the Obama Administration's foreign aid proposals for FY2012 on April 14, 2011. In the best interests of the United States, AHI's testimony opposed: 1) any military assistance the administration will request for Turkey until Turkey removes its troops and illegal Turkish settlers in Cyprus; 2) aid the administration will request for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM); and 3) any reduction that might be introduced in the aid levels for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. In addition, the testimony strongly opposed the \$7.5 million reduction of Economic Support Fund (ESF) funding for Cyprus. The FY2012 proposed level of funding is \$3.5 million. However, AHI testified that it supports continued ESF funding for Cyprus as long as it is tied exclusively to bi-communal projects of the island as mandated by U.S. law. The law states U.S. funds are to support only "measures aimed at reunification."

## AHI Delaware, Oregon Chapters Meet with Legislators



(L-R): Alex Christy, Congressman Kurt Schrader (D-OR), Bill Aspros, Dr. George Anadiotis



AHI Delaware members and constituents share a moment with Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) following their June meeting

Members of the Delaware and Oregon chapters of AHI met with members of U.S. Congress to discuss policy issues of importance to the Greek American community in June 2011. Dr. George Moutsatsos, AHI-Delaware Chapter president, Spiros Mantzavinou, the chapter's vice president, and Constantine Caras, who is chairman of Leadership 100, met with U.S. Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) on June 29, 2011. Members of the AHI-Oregon Chapter met with U.S. Reps. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA) on June 9, 2011 and June 28, 2011, respectively. The AHI members who met with Rep. Schrader were: Alex Christy, Bill Aspros, and Dr. George Anadiotis. Christy and Anadiotis were joined by E. John Rumpakis and John Somarakis for the meeting with Rep. Beutler.

## Congressional Briefing Observes 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cyprus Invasion



Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee

AHI observed the 37th anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus by hosting a congressional briefing to discuss the current state of affairs on the island on Capitol Hill, July 13, 2011.

The briefing, held in cooperation with the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, featured: U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), co-chair, Hellenic Caucus and member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-chair, Hellenic Caucus; U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), who introduced the AHI-backed bill H.R.2597 that sets forth two distinct

and separate processes by which U.S. nationals can seek the fair rental value of their property in Turkish occupied Cyprus; and U.S. Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ).

Also making presentations were: Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Pavlos Anastasiades; Dr. Van Coufoudakis, dean emeritus, School of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University-Purdue University and rector emeritus, University of Nicosia; Alexis Ghalanos, mayor of the occupied city of Famagusta and former speaker of the Cyprus House of Representatives; and AHI Foundation 2011 Foreign Policy Program Participant Dina Baroudos, who recounted her experience on the study abroad trip to Cyprus.

### **Bill to Return Property to U.S. Citizens Introduced**

U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) introduced a bill backed by AHI—H.R.2597, the American Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act—on July 20, 2011. If passed, H.R.2597 will set forth two distinct and separate processes by which U.S. nationals can seek the fair rental value of their property in Turkish occupied Cyprus. The bill has 7 co-sponsors as of January 27, 2012. Moreover, AHI President Nick Larigakis commended the efforts of the Greek American constituents of Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI) who organized an event under the banner of the American Hellenic Congress on September 27, 2011 and cited it as an example of effective grassroots advocacy that yielded the congressman's eventual co-sponsorship of the bill.

### **AHI President Meets with U.S. Ambassador in Athens**

On July 25, 2011, AHI President Nick Larigakis met with U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel B. Smith at the U.S. Embassy in Athens to review Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's July visit to Greece and Turkey. Pertaining to Greece, Larigakis stated Secretary Clinton's words of support for Greece and the reform measures the country has taken were welcomed. He added that the secretary's recognition of Greece's partnership on the core issues of importance to the alliance and Greece's contributions to the values that the U.S. and Greece share were positive statements.

### **AHI Meets with State Department Officials**

On October 12, 2011, AHI met with State Department officials, including Kathleen H. Allegrone, director, Office of Southern European Affairs; James P. Merz, deputy director, Office of Southern European Affairs; Senior Greece Desk Officer Christopher Snipes; and Cyprus Desk Officer Lindsay Coffey. In addition, AHI raised the issues of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, FYROM name-recognition, and H.R. 2597, the American Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act, to the State Department officials. AHI Board of Directors Secretary Nicholas G. Karambelas and AHI Director of Media Relations and Research Analyst Demetra Atsaloglou accompanied Larigakis.

## *Awards Dinners*

### **AHI Hosts Gala Affair in Athens, Honors UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador**



*Mrs. Marianna Vardinoyannis receiving the AHI National Public Service Award*

The Seventh Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner was held June 1, 2011. More than 220 AHI friends and supporters attended the dinner at The Grande Bretagne despite the civil unrest that occurred that evening in Syntagma Square. Unfortunately, the civil unrest in the square prevented the evening's honoree, Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, who is a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and president of the Marianna V. Vardinoyannis-ELPIDA Hospital, from attending. However, an opportunity to present her with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award availed itself at a scheduled meeting at the Vardinoyannis-ELPIDA Hospital on June 2. Mrs. Vardinoyannis has spent more than 20 years dedicated to helping children with cancer. Mrs. Vardinoyannis congratulated AHI for its longstanding mission and work in promoting U.S relations with Greece and Cyprus.



Honorees (L-R) American College of Greece represented by Dr. David Horner, Dr. Takey Crist, Congresswoman Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Michael Constantine, Larry Michael

## AHI Honors Community Excellence at 36th Awards Gala



Master of Ceremonies Jane Monzures



Guests at the 36th Anniversary Awards Dinner

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) hosted its 36th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner, March 12, 2011 at The Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C.

AHI honored a distinguished set of awardees based upon their important career or institutional achievements and contributions to the Greek American community or community at-large. The 2011 honorees were: The American College of Greece, U.S. Rep. Shelley Berkley, Nevada's First Congressional District; Larry Michael, The "Voice of the Washington Redskins;" Michael Constantine, actor, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding;" and Dr. Takey Crist, a leader in Women's Healthcare and community activist. Jane Monzures, host, WGN's "Living Healthy Chicago" was the evening's emcee. (Please visit [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org) for the honorees' remarks.)

Opening the evening's program were AHI President Nick Larigakis and AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiro Spireas, both of who offered greetings. They reviewed the initiatives and programs that AHI and AHIF provide the community. AHI Board of Directors Secretary Nicholas Karambelas introduced Emcee Monzures.

As part of the weekend's festivities AHI hosted a dinner, in cooperation with the National Museum of Natural History, commemorating the Republic of Cyprus at the National Museum of Natural History on March 11. As part of the evening's program, the exhibition "Cyprus: Crossroads of Civilization" was showcased.



(L-R): Maria Yannas, Dimitrios Panagos

AHI also hosted two book presentations on Saturday morning, March 12. Dimitrios Panagos presented his book "Archbishop Demetrios: The First Decade 1990-2009," which is a masterful compilation of stunning images from the Ministry of His Eminence's first ten years. Maria Yanna offered the second book presentation on her first book project "Portraits of Prominent Greeks in the U.S.A.," which she describes as a unique record of today's achievers and tomorrow's legacy.



Dr. Alan Simmon

## LEADERSHIP VISITS TO GREECE & CYPRUS



*AHI delegation in Cyprus with Presidential Commissioner George Iacovou*



*AHI delegation in Cyprus with UN Mission's to Cyprus Communication Officer at the old airport in Nicosia*



*AHI Delegation in Greece with Demetri Dollis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs*



*AHI delegation in Greece at the Ministry of Defense*

An AHI delegation successfully completed the organization's annual leadership trip to Greece and Cyprus from May 22 to June 2, 2011. The two-week trip aimed to strengthen relations with both countries and to work on issues of mutual concern through substantive meetings with high-ranking government and religious officials, and business leaders.

During its stay in Cyprus from May 22 to 26, the delegation met with: American Ambassador to Cyprus Frank Urbancic, Minister of Foreign Affairs Markos Kyprianou, Minister of Defense Costas Papacostas, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Antonis Paschalides, Presidential Commissioner George Iacovou, Director of the Presidential Diplomatic Office Ambassador Leonidas Pantelidis, Chief of the National Guard Lt. Gen. Petros Tsalikidis, and Advisor to the Mayor of Nicosia Katia Apegitou. In addition, the delegation met with His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II and Governor of the Central Bank Athanasios Orphanides. Also in Cyprus, the AHI delegation was hosted to a luncheon by Miltos Miltiadou, senior press and information officer in the Press and Information Office of the Republic of Cyprus, on May 23; and to a dinner by Ambassador Andreas Kakouris, director of the Office of the Foreign Minister, and Mrs. Androula Lanitis, director of the press and information division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on May 25.

Highlights of the delegation's busy itinerary in Greece from May 27 to June 3 included meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense, and a presentation of the Medal of the Hellenic Parliament to AHI President Nick Larigakis by the President of the Hellenic Parliament Phillipos Petsalnikos. The itinerary also included a screening of the documentary "Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure" at Panteion University's Institute of International Relations on May 30.

In Athens, AHI met with: American Ambassador to Greece Daniel B. Smith, President of the Hellenic Parliament Phillipos Petsalnikos, Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs Spyros Kouvelis and Dimitris Dollis, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on National Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Greeks Abroad Konstantinos Vrettos, and Director General of the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad Petros Panagiotopoulos. The delegation also met with several directorates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who are responsible for Cyprus, Turkey, FYROM, and North America; and several directorates at the Ministry of Defense, including Major General Christos Vaitsis, director of the Strategy and Policy Division, Hellenic National Defense General Staff.

**Delegation Participants:** In Greece, AHI President Nick Larigakis was accompanied by: Kostas Alexakis, member, AHI Board of Directors; Costas G. Alexandrides, professor emeritus, Georgia State University; Demetra Atsaloglou, AHI director of media relations and research analyst; Theodore G. Spyropoulos, World Council of Hellenes (SAE-USA) president and AHIF board member, and his wife, Mrs. Erika Wilhelmine Knickmann Spyropoulos; and Stavros K. Veletsis, AHI member. In Cyprus, AHI Member Leon Andris joined Larigakis, Alexakis, Atsaloglou, and Veletsis.

## Annual Year-end Trip Features Israel Leg



*Nick Larigakis with His Beatitude Theophilos III, Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine*



*Nick Larigakis visits the camp of the 31st Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Feres*



*Nick Larigakis (middle) with guards at the dividing line on the bridge where Greece and Turkey border*



*Attendees at a luncheon hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel B. Smith (center)*

AHI President Nick Larigakis embarked on a year-end trip to Greece and Cyprus that aimed to strengthen ties between the Greek American community and Greece and Cyprus in sectors such as government, commerce, and defense. This year's trip, which spanned from November 27 to December 9, 2011, integrated the AHI's first-ever official visit to Israel to meet with officials.

President Larigakis visited Cyprus November 27 to 29. Meetings with Government Spokesman Stefanos Stefanou

and President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou, highlighted the visit. In addition, two luncheon meetings, one with Ambassador Andreas Kakouris, director, Division of Cyprus Question and Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and a second with Mr. Miltos Miltiadou, senior press and information officer, Office of Press and Information, were held. Other meetings of note were with: Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer, U.S. embassy in Nicosia, Director of the Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Division Androula Lanitis, and Professor Constantinos Christofides, rector, University of Cyprus.

### *Landmark Visit to Israel*

A historic AHI official visit to Israel occurred November 30 to December 1, 2011. There, President Larigakis met with: Ambassador Yoram Ettinger (ret.), former minister for Congressional Affairs, Israeli Embassy in Washington and current CEO of Second Thought: An American Israel Initiative, a think-tank organization; Mrs. Anat Shlein, head, International Department, Research Section, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mrs. Irit Lilian, department head, Western Europe Division, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Eli Lev, economic development, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Professor Efraim Inbar, head, BESA Center for Strategic Studies.

A two-hour dinner meeting with Mr. Bini Zomer, director, Corporate Affairs, Israel Office, Noble Energy focused on the energy firm's current efforts to explore for oil and gas reserves in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone. The firm's exploration off the coast of Cyprus has been conducted despite threats issued by Turkey to the firm, and U.S. allies Cyprus and Israel. Representatives from B'nai B'rith International helped to arrange the meetings.

Larigakis also visited Knesset (Israeli Parliament) where he met with several members of Parliament. Moreover, he received a private tour of YadVashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority. On December 1, President Larigakis met with His Beatitude Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine Theophilos III and visited the Embassy of Greece in Tel Aviv and the Western Wall.

### *Larigakis Meets Top Leaders across Greek Sectors*

AHI President Larigakis visited Greece December 2 to 9, 2011 where a visit to the Evros prefecture, a regional Hellenic military camp located in East Macedonia and Thrace that borders Turkey, on December 4, 2011; and an AHI-hosted presentation featuring American Ambassador Daniel Smith on December 8, 2011 highlighted the Greek portion of the itinerary. Furthermore, in an initiative crucial to achieving President Larigakis' goal to explore ways to strengthen commercial ties between the United States and Greece was a luncheon hosted by Ambassador Smith for President Larigakis at the ambassador's residence with 16 business leaders and heads of various chambers of commerce on December 7.

During his visit to the Evros prefecture, Larigakis attended the Saint Barbara celebration at the camp of the 31st Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Feres, a town 30 kilometers

northeast of Alexandroupolis City. (St. Barbara is the patron saint of the artillery.) He also visited the Platoon Post near the bridge that connects Greece and Turkey and borderline on the bridge where he met with the guards.

In another highlight, Ambassador Smith spoke about recent developments in U.S.-Greece relations during a presentation and reception hosted by AHI in cooperation with the AHI-Athens Chapter at the Hotel Grande Bretagne. More than 180 persons attended.

In Athens, President Larigakis' itinerary included a series of meetings with various sectors in Greece, including: government/public, commerce, non-profit, and media. The meetings were with: Mr. Panos Protopsaltis, privatization programme coordinator, Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund; Mr. Epaminondas Farmakis, COO, Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Mr. Dimitris Giannakakis, director, A2 Cyprus Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Chrysoula Aliferi, director, A7 Division on North American Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Maria Louisa Marinaki and Francisco Kostellenos, directors, A3 Division on Southeastern Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Aristotelia Peloni, journalist, *Ta Nea*, and Hon. Olga Kefaloyianni, Member of Parliament, New Democracy.

An hour-long meeting with General of the Hellenic Army Michail Kostarakos, chief of staff, Hellenic National Defense, proved to be an eye-opening experience. During the meeting at the Greek Pentagon, Larigakis witnessed several violations of Greece's sovereignty by Turkish jets and ships.

Larigakis also met with Ambassador of the State of Israel to Greece AryeMekel. He visited Hellenic Parliament for a joint meeting with Hon. Dinos Vrettos, chairman, Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense; and Hon. Ilias Karanikas, chairman, Parliament Committee for Greeks of the Diaspora. In addition, a working luncheon was held with PhotiniTomai-Constantopoulou, director, Service of Diplomatic and Historical Archive, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## MEDIA RELATIONS



In 2011, AHI issued 92 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

President Larigakis submitted a letter to the editor to *The Washington Post* on March 24, 2011 rebutting a statement made by Turkey's Ambassador to the U.S.

Namik Tan. In a March 15, 2011 letter to the editor to *The Post*, Ambassador Tan stated "Freedom of expression and media are safeguarded by Turkish legislation" as part of his defense of the country's record to protect journalists. Larigakis contended that the U.S. Department of State and European Union would differ, citing statements released by both entities that expressed "...concern about recent police actions against journalists in Turkey." He also challenged Ambassador Tan's statement that "The rule of law is a fundamental tenet of Turkish democracy," citing Turkey's blatant violation of the rule of law in Cyprus, the suppression of religious freedom in Turkey, and frequent violations of Greece's sovereignty in the Aegean.

### AHI Op-Eds, Commentaries, and Media Placement

In 2011, eight op-eds were written by AHI Founder Gene Rossides and AHI President Nick Larigakis that appeared in numerous Greek American publications including: *Greek News*, *The Greek Star*, *Hellenic News of America*, *The Hellenic Voice*, and *The National Herald*, among others. Topics ranged from an analysis of U.S. relations with Greece and Turkey, to Greece's strategic importance, to reflective pieces on advocacy efforts of the Greek American community.

#### *Larigakis Interviewed by Greek News*

Additionally, AHI President Nick Larigakis provided an in-depth interview to *Greek News* Journalist Vicki James Yiannias that was featured as a double-page spread in the publication's April 4, 2011 edition. In the interview, Larigakis discusses the importance of the PBS documentary "Cyprus Still Divided" and what the community can do to create awareness about it. He also provided his thoughts on developments in the eastern Mediterranean.

#### *National Herald Columnist References AHI*

Andy Dabilis' column "The Myth of Greece Lies Within the Greeks," appearing in the July 2-8, 2011 edition of *The National Herald*, referenced AHI with specific references to an April 25, 2011 op-ed written by AHI President Nick Larigakis titled "Does Anyone Care?"

#### *AHI Letter Referenced during State Dept. Press Briefing*

On July 14, AHI's July 12 letter to Secretary Clinton was referenced by a senior state department official in a diplomatic press corps briefing en route to Istanbul. The official confirmed "regional issues with Turkey" would be raised by the secretary in meetings with Turkish officials. A reporter referenced AHI's letter, which prompted the official's reply.

#### *Students' Study Abroad Experiences Published*

Throughout 2011 the personal experiences of the students who participated on AHIF's Foreign Policy Study Abroad Program were published in various publications and web media from their academic institutions, Greek American newspapers, and organizational newsletters.

- Roula Adonakis, a Master of Public Administration

candidate at Wayne State University, had her account published in the University of Michigan's Department of Classical Studies' newsletter.

- Constance V. Baroudos, a graduate student from California State University, Fullerton, had her experience recounted in the university's online publication, *Inside CSUF*.
- Aspasia (Sia) Bartell, a second-year MBA student from the University of Washington, Foster School of Business, had her account published in The Foster School's blog, *Foster Unplugged*. She also had her experience published in the *AHEPA Mentor*, the bi-monthly official newsletter of the AHEPA Firewood District 22 Family which covers Washington state and Oregon.
- Yiannis Konstandinos Floropoulos, a graduate assistant who is studying Law and Governance at Montclair State University, had his account published in the fall 2011 edition of the official publication of AHEPA John G. Thevos District 5, *AHEPA Voice*, which covers New Jersey and Delaware.
- Six essays authored by participants were published in *The Hellenic Voice*, *The Hellenic News of America*, and *Greek News*. They were: Alexi Antoniou, Constance Valarie Baroudos, Joanna Kocani, Alexandros LaBua, Cassandra Papas, and Margaret Skourlis.

## CONFERENCES & FORUMS

### Panelists Affirm Greece's Strategic Importance to U.S.



(L-R): Panelists Dr. Achilles G. Adamantiades, Amb. Patrick N. Theros, Doug Bandow, Gene Rossides

AHI hosted the policy seminar "Greece's Strategic Importance to the United States" on May 3, 2011 in Washington, DC, featuring two panels of experts.

The first panel featured: Dr. Ted Galen Carpenter, vice president, Defense and Foreign Policy Studies, Cato Institute; Dennys S. Plessas, vice president, Business Development Initiatives for Europe, Middle East at Africa, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co./Lockheed Martin International S.A.; and Capt. J. Stephen Hoefel, U.S. Navy (ret.). John Sitalides, principal, Trilogy Advisors LLC, moderated the panel.

The seminar's second panel featured: Doug Bandow, senior fellow, Cato Institute; Achilles G. Adamantiades, energy and environment consultant; and Gene Rossides, founder of AHI. Ambassador Patrick N. Theros, principal, Theros & Theros LLP and former U.S. ambassador to Qatar, moderated the panel.

Introductory remarks for the policy seminar were provided by Ioannis Vrailas, deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of Greece, who represented Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis; and Col. Taxiarchis Sardellis, defense attaché at the Embassy of Greece. They both stressed Greece's strategic importance due to its location, ability to provide peace and security in the region, and for decades of fighting side-by-side with the United States.

### The Holocaust in Greece during WWII Recounted



Dr. Harry Dinella

AHI hosted a Noon Forum on "The Holocaust in Northern Greece during World War II" featuring AHI Foundation Fellow Dr. Harry Dinella on April 14, 2011. Dr. Dinella is a former U.S. Army foreign area officer for Greece. His presentation recounted the fate of the Jewish community in Nazi-occupied Greece, which numbered approximately 80,000 in 1941 and eventually lost 87 percent of its population. He also explored the roles of the German military, Greek authorities and resistance groups, and prominent local community leaders during this period of history.

### Forum Commemorates 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete

AHI hosted a forum at Hellenic House on May 16, 2011 titled "Reassessing Operation Mercur: The Significance of the Battle of Crete, May 1941," featuring Dr. Alexandros Kyrou, associate professor of history and director of the East European and Russian Studies Program at Salem State University. The forum commemorated the 70th anniversary of the 1941 battle between the Allies and Axis forces on Crete. According to Kyrou, the Battle of Crete is historically significant because of the considerable delays it caused on Operation Barbarossa, forcing the Germans to engage the Red Army in the Russian winter and thus contributing to its eventual failure.

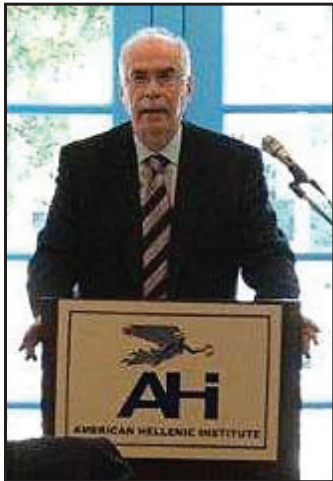
### Cyprus's New Strategic Importance Examined

AHI hosted a forum at Hellenic House on September 20, 2011 titled "Cyprus: Defining a New Strategic Role," featuring Dr. Farid Mirbagheri, professor of international relations and dialogue chair in Middle Eastern Studies, University of Nicosia, Cyprus. The forum was held in cooperation with Strategy International (Thessaloniki). According to Dr. Mirbagheri, Cyprus's traditional significance has long been defined by its geographic location, its democratic ideals, its ability to house military bases for a nation like Great Britain, and its economic relationship with Russia. However, it is Cyprus's latest developments with respect to gas and oil exploration, in cooperation with U.S. firm Noble Energy, and its emerging relations with Israel that define Cyprus's new strategic role.

## Forum Commemorates 89th Anniversary of Smyrna Catastrophe

AHI hosted a forum titled, "Greeks from Asia Minor: Remembrance of Things Past" presented by Alice James, professor of anthropology at Shippensburg University and visiting research associate at the Asia Minor Study Center in Athens, Greece. The forum was held September 27, 2011 at AHI's Hellenic House to mark the 89th anniversary of the Smyrna Catastrophe of 1922. In her presentation, James spoke about the research she has conducted since 1989 on Chios, with a special emphasis on the Asia Minor refugees that settled there.

## AHI Forum Examines Greek Economy under Axis Occupation



*Professor Michalis Psalidopoulos*

AHI hosted a forum titled "The Greek Economy under Axis Occupation, 1941-1944" featuring Professor Michalis Psalidopoulos, holder, Constantine G. Karamanlis Chair in Hellenic and Southeastern European Studies, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; and professor, Department of Economics, University of Athens. The forum was held November 4, 2011 to commemorate the 71st anniversary of Oxi Day.

## HELLENIC HOUSE VISITORS



## Cyprus' Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Visits AHI



*(L-R): Kostas Alexakis, Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades, Gene Rossides, Ambassador Nicholas Emiliou, Nick Larigakis, Panicos Papanicolaou, Dimitris Hatzigargyrou*

The Permanent Secretary of the Republic of Cyprus's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nicholas Emiliou, visited Hellenic House on Feb. 14, 2011. The permanent secretary thanked AHI on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus for its contributions to keep the Cyprus problem on the policy agenda and in the public forum. His Excellency Pavlos Anastasiades, ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the

U.S.; Mr. Dimitris Hatzigargyrou, director, Permanent Secretary's Office; First Secretary of the Embassy of Cyprus Solon Savva, and Panicos Papanicolaou, president, Cyprus Federation of America accompanied Ambassador Emiliou. AHI Founder and Board of Director Gene Rossides and Board Member Kostas Alexakis also participated. President Larigakis led the discussion.

## AU's Conflict Resolution Program Visits Hellenic House



*Students from American University's International Relations and Conflict Resolution Program visit AHI*

Students from American University's International Relations and Conflict Resolution Program visited the Hellenic House on Feb. 23, 2011. The 27 students in the program hail from across the United States and six other countries. American University's International Relations and Conflict Resolution Program is directed by Assistant Professor Eleftherios A. Michael, Ph.D. In April, he led the students on a delegation to Greece, Cyprus and Turkey where they studied the role of Greece and Cyprus in the quest for lasting peace and stability in the region, Greek-Turkish relations, and the consequences of the invasion and occupation of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey.

## AHI Welcomes Greek Minister of Culture & Tourism



*(L-R): James Marketos, Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis, Nick Larigakis, Pavlos Geroulanos, Ted Pedas, James Pedas, Gene Rossides*

Greece's Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr. Pavlos Geroulanos, visited Hellenic House on March 17, 2011. Ambassador of Greece to the United States Vassilis Kaskarelis accompanied Minister Geroulanos. AHI Board of Directors Members Gene Rossides, James Marketos, along with AHI supporters Ted Pedas and Jim Pedas, participated. President Larigakis led the discussion.



## Greece's National Defense & Foreign Affairs Chair Visits

The Hellenic Parliament's Chairman of National Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Konstantinos Vrettos, visited Hellenic House on March 16, 2011. Ambassador of Greece to the United States



(L-R): Ambassador of Greece, Vassilis Kaskarelis, Nick Larigakis and Konstantinos Vrettos

Vassilis Kaskarelis and Aristidis Strimbakos, first secretary (political), Embassy of Greece, accompanied Chairman Vrettos. The AHI Board of Directors hosted an intimate dinner for Chairman Vrettos and his wife the previous evening.

## New American DCM to Cyprus Visits Hellenic House

Andrew J. Schofer, new deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus, visited AHI on July 6, 2011. Cyprus' geostrategic importance and the United States' position on the current status of settlement negotiations were among topics discussed. U.S. Department of State Cyprus Desk Officer Adam Scarlatelli accompanied DCM Schofer. AHI Founder Gene Rossides, Board of Directors Secretary Nick Karambelas, and Demetra Atsaloglou, director of media relations and research analyst, participated.

## Mayor of Occupied City of Famagusta Visits AHI



(L-R): Nick Larigakis, Ambassador Anastasiades, Gene Rossides, Mayor Ghalano, Mr. Hadjikakou and Mr. Ioannou

The Honorable Alexis Ghalanos, mayor of the occupied city of Famagusta and former speaker of the Cyprus House of Representatives, visited AHI's Hellenic House on July 13, 2011. Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades, Simos Ioannou, leader, AKEL Party, Municipal Council of Famagusta, and Mr. Constantinos Hadjikakou, leader, Democratic Rally Party, Municipal Council of Famagusta, accompanied Mayor Ghalanos. AHI Founder Gene Rossides and AHI Director of Media Relations and Research Analyst Demetra Atsaloglou attended the meeting.

## Cyprus' Foreign Minister Visits AHI



(L-R) Kostas Alexakis, Nick Karambelas, Nick Larigakis, Ambassador Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Gene Rossides, Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades, Kypros Giorgallis

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Cyprus Dr. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis visited Hellenic House on December 19, 2011. Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades, ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States, and Mr. Kypros Giorgallis, director, Office of the Foreign Minister, accompanied the foreign minister. The foreign minister discussed issues of mutual importance and briefed AHI about the current status of the Cyprus issue and on energy development in the eastern Mediterranean. AHI President Larigakis, Founder Gene Rossides, Board of Directors Secretary Nicholas G. Karambelas, Board Member Kostas Alexakis, and Director of Media Relations and Research Analyst Demetra Atsaloglou attended the meeting.

## GENERAL NEWS

### AHI, AHIF Leaders Meet Archbishop Demetrios



Leaders of AHI and AHIF present his Eminence Archbishop Demetrios with a gift following their meeting

Leaders of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) and AHI Foundation (AHIF) met with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America on Friday, February 11, 2011. AHI President Nick Larigakis and Founder Gene Rossides were joined by AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiro Spireas at the meeting. Archbishop Demetrios thanked AHI and AHIF for their roles in the community, working on issues that serve to strengthen relations between the United States and Greece and Cyprus as well as its advocating for religious freedom.

## AHI Celebrates Greek Independence at White House

AHI celebrated Greek Independence Day at the White House on March 25, 2011. AHI President Nick Larigakis and Secretary Nicholas Karambelas attended the ceremony at which President Barack Obama and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios provided remarks. Also invited but could not attend the ceremony were AHI Founder and Board Member Gene Rossides and AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiros Spireas.

## AHI President Participates at Halki-themed Forum

AHI participated at a panel discussion “The Theological School of Halki: Past, Present, and Future” held by the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England Cultural Events Committee on March 31, 2011. AHI President Nick Larigakis was a panelist speaking on the topic “Halki—U.S. Position and Responsibility.” He was joined on the panel by Historian and Philanthropist Christos Papoutsy, George Rockas, Esq., who served as chair of the International Religious Freedom Conference, Brussels; former Rhode Island State Senator Lou Raptakis, and Professor Michalis Psalidopoulos, C. Karamanlis Chair in Hellenic & Southeastern European Studies, Tufts University. Greek Consul General of Boston Elias Fotopoulos offered remarks. Mrs. Mary Papoutsy served as moderator and His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios oversaw the panel discussion.

## AHI Hosts Eighth Annual Golf Classic



*Participants gather before teeing off in the 8th Annual AHI Benefit Golf Tournament*

AHI hosted its Eighth Annual Golf Classic at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, VA, on October 17, 2011. Celebrity appearances were made by Larry Michael, Voice of the Washington Redskins, and Christine Brennan, sports columnist at *USA Today*, both of who appeared at a morning panel discussion about current events and issues affecting the sporting world. The Tournament Sponsor was Calamos Investments. The first place team was comprised of: Peter Marketos, Michael Moore, Thomas Pellicane, and Duane Jahner. Second place honors went to: Michael Abbenante, Paul Hersh, Brigen Winters, and A.J. Leimenstoll. The third place team included: Roger Parks, George Sifakis, Kay Tyler, and Yianni Sianis.



## Students Complete Foreign Policy Study Trip to Greece and Cyprus



*Student delegation with Honorable Yiannakis Omirou, President of the Cyprus House of Representatives*



*AHI student delegation with the President of Greece, Karolos Papoulias*

For the third year in a row, the American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) College Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus took place from June 8-23, 2011. Thirteen students from across the United States participated. They received first-hand experience about the foreign policy issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, relations with the U.S., and the interests of the U.S. in the region. The trip began with briefings in Washington on June 8-10, followed by a series of policy briefings and cultural activities in Cyprus from June 12-16, and in Athens from June 17-23.

The thirteen students selected to participate were: Irene Adamopoulos, St. Edward's University; Alexi Antoniou, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law; Constance Baroudos, California State University, Fullerton; Aspasia Bartell, University of Washington Jackson School of International Studies; Ariane Centrella, University of Connecticut; Yianni Floropoulos, Montclair State University in New Jersey; Joanna Kocani, Georgetown University; Alexander LaBua, Columbia University; Cassandra Papas, American University; John Petsagourakis, University of Pennsylvania; Margaret Skourlis, Queens College; Maria Trakas, DePaul University College of Law; and Anastasia Tserkonis, Clark University. Nick Larigakis, AHI president, led the trip along with his assistant, Maria Stavrou.

“The experience certainly changed my life, and gave me a cause worth fighting for. The issues in Greece and Cyprus are serious, and they need more of a voice in the United States. I intend to become a part of that voice, as I know the other students will as well. Hopefully together we can begin to make a difference, and begin to bring these issues to the notice of the American people as well,” said Ariane Centrella.

The program is open to Greek American and Cypriot American college students in good academic standing who are studying political science, international relations, history, and/or foreign affairs.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Future of Hellenism Conference



(L-R): Panelists Aris Chronis, Constance Baroudos, Aphrodite Bouikidis, Andrew Kaffes

AHI Foundation hosted its landmark Tenth Annual Conference on the Future of Hellenism in America, keeping the discussion of the promotion and preservation of Hellenism at the forefront of the community. This year’s conference was held in Washington, DC at The Capital Hilton, November 18-19, 2011. Featuring more than 20 prominent speakers from across the country, conference presentations analyzed key issues including the future of Greek American organizations, the political process and lobbying, religious and ethnic identity, promoting Hellenic values through business, Greek education, and perspectives from young Greek Americans. Speakers also identified how Hellenism could be promoted in the future through these channels.

At a dinner hosted the evening before the conference on November 18, AHI President Nick Larigakis opened the conference and welcome remarks followed from: Dinner Chairman Kostas Alexakis, chairman, Public Sector Solutions and AHI board member; Conference Chairman and AHI Founder Gene Rossides, and AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiro Spireas. Ambassadors to the United States Vassilis Kaskarelis and Pavlos Anastasiades, of Greece and Cyprus respectively, also offered greetings.

The dinner’s Keynote Speaker was Professor Dan Georgakas, who also received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism in America. Professor Georgakas, who is the director of Greek American Studies, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY, spoke on the topic “The Now and Future of Greek America.”

The conference covered the following topics:

- Greek Education in America (Panel I)
- The Greek American Community and the Political Process (Panel II)
- Upholding Hellenic Heritage through culture and education (Luncheon Keynote Address)
- Are Greek American Organizations Meeting the Needs of the Community (Panel III)
- Current Perspectives on Current Challenges (Panel IV)
- Looking to the Next Generation of Greek Americans (Panel V- A)
- A Perspective from Young Greek Americans (Panel V- B)
- Discussion: Where do we go from here?

The conference was held in cooperation with the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA), which was a Major Benefactor for the conference, and co-sponsored by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, a Conference Benefactor. Other sponsors included Conference Benefactors James and Theodore Pedas, Drs. Spiro and Amalia Spireas, and Ted G. Spyropoulos; and a host of individual sponsors. To view the conference’s proceedings, please visit [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org).

## AHIF Announces New Publication

AHIF announced the release of its new publication “U.S. Relations with Turkey and Its Impact on Greece and Cyprus.” The 102-page volume includes the papers presented at two seminars, including *U.S. Relations with Turkey and Its Impact on Greece and Cyprus* on April 14, 2010 and *U.S. Policy Toward Greece, Turkey and Cyprus: Developments and Prospects in the Obama Administration* on April 26, 2010.

The papers include:

- “A Chill in the Air: Relations with Washington’s Turkish ‘Ally’ in the 21st Century,” by Ted Galen Carpenter
- “Loose Cannon: Washington’s Turkish ‘Ally’ in the 21st Century,” by Ted Galen Carpenter
- “U.S. Policy Toward Greece, Turkey and Cyprus: Developments and Prospects in the Obama Administration,” by Doug Bandow
- “Black Sea Watershed: How Turkey’s New Axis With Russia Affects U.S. Interests in the Eastern Mediterranean and South-Eastern Europe,” by Gregory R. Copley
- “Did Turkey Declare War on Israel...and the West?” by Gregory R. Copley (May/June 2010 Defense and Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy)
- “U.S.-Turkish Relations—The Continuity of Past Policies,” by Dr. Van Coufoudakis
- “The Greek-Turkish Dispute in the Aegean Sea and the Role of the U.S.,” by Theodore C. Kariotis
- “How Should the U.S. Deal With an Ally Like Turkey?” by Eugene T. Rossides

## AHI Business Network

AHI highlights the professional accomplishments of its members through various communications vehicles 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 2011, AHI's "Member Spotlight" section featured: Artist Euripides "Rip" Kastaris, Fashion Designer and Entrepreneur Elle Sakellis, and Ioannis Vrailas, former deputy chief of mission, Embassy of Greece in Washington and current deputy head of the EU Delegation to the United Nations (UN) in New York.



## LEADERSHIP, AWARDS & STAFF NEWS

### AHIF President Honored at Hermes Expo



*AHIF President Dr. Spiro Spireas receiving his honor from Hermes Founder Paul Kotrotsios. To their right is Christos Stratakis, Chairman, U.S. Greece Business Advisory Council*

AHI participated at the 20th Hermes International Expo at the Tropicana in Atlantic City, N.J., April 2-3, 2011. At the expo's awards gala, AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiro Spireas, who is the founder and CEO of Sigmapharm Laboratories, was honored. In addition, President Larigakis participated at the expo's "Professional Growth and Youth Mentor Fair" as one of four speakers to address an audience of young professionals on the importance of the mentoring process. The other three participants were: AHIF President Dr. Spireas, U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), and Aris Melissaratos, former secretary of Business & Economic Development for the State of Maryland.

The mentor fair also provided a forum for specialized workshops and a networking session. Moreover, at the awards gala President Larigakis accepted an award on behalf of U.S. Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL), who is the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues. Larigakis also addressed a breakfast forum hosted by the expo on the need and challenges of the Greek American community on April 3.

### AHI President Honored by Hellenic Parliament



*AHI President Nick Larigakis receives the Medal of Hellenic Parliament from Parliament President Phillipos Petsalnikos*

AHI President Nick Larigakis received the Medal of Hellenic Parliament on May 27, 2011 during AHI's delegation trip to Greece. President of the Hellenic Parliament Phillipos Petsalnikos presented him with the award. "I was deeply touched, humbled and honored to receive the Medal of Hellenic Parliament from its president, Mr. Petsalnikos," said Larigakis.

### Internship Program Prospers

AHI's internship program is designed for college students who are interested in learning more about US-Greece-Cyprus relations and how foreign policy is formulated in Washington, DC. Students who are chosen for the program spent weeks to months working on various assignments comprising of research projects, attending events in area think tanks and in congress, and assisting with an assortment of educational events sponsored by AHI.

AHI's interns were: Vicki Mihailidis, University of Maryland, College Park; Kara Dimitriou, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; Emily Nancy Long, Temple University; and Christiana Metaxas, John Jay High School, Cross River, N.Y. Several AHI interns were also selected to participate in the AHIF College Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus. In addition, several visiting scholars interned at AHI, including: Loizos Kapsalis, Cambridge University; Vassilis Paliouras, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; Chryssanthi Guillon, University of Panthéon-Assas; Danae Kyriakopoulou, University of Oxford.

