



REPORT



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AHI VISITS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE FOR FIRST TIME ON ANNUAL TRIP ABROAD



AHI Delegation with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

A delegation from the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) successfully completed the organization’s annual leadership trip to Greece and Cyprus where it held substantive meetings with high-ranking government, religious, and political officials with the purpose of strengthening relations and addressing issues of mutual concern. For the first time, AHI visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

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SIXTH ANNUAL AHIF FOREIGN POLICY STUDENT TRIP A SUCCESS



Students being briefed by UNFICYP Officer, Captain Tomas Ciampor, Military Public Information Officer, at the Old Nicosia Airport.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus completed its sixth year as nine students from across the United States participated in the two-week program held June 20 to July 4, 2014.

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AHI FOUNDER AWARDED HIGHEST ACCOLADE DURING BOOK TOUR OF CYPRUS, GREECE



President of the Cypriot House of Representatives Omirou presents AHI Founder Rossides with the highest award the House can bestow upon an individual.

American Hellenic Institute Founder Eugene T. Rossides received the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the Republic of Cyprus House of Representatives, Oct. 8, 2014. President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou presented a medal to Rossides as a token of gratitude for a lifetime of dedication to Cyprus and its cause.

“As the protagonist in convincing the U.S. Congress to impose an arms embargo in Turkey following the 1974 Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus and as the frontrunner in the fight in Congress to uphold the rule of law in American foreign policy, Mr. Rossides has

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AHI VISITS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE FOR FIRST TIME

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chate to have an audience with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on May 9, 2014. The two-week trip occurred May 5 to 16, 2014.

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

AHI Works to Address Many Issues Facing Cyprus



Delegation with the President of the House of Representatives, Yiannakis Omirou.

The AHI delegation received multiple briefings from Cypriot and American officials on the resumption of settlement talks for Cyprus under UN auspices and the Joint Declaration of February 11, 2014; Cyprus’ efforts to explore for hydrocarbon reserves in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); and the lingering impact of Cyprus’ banking crisis. All throughout the delegation’s meetings in Cyprus, AHI was commended for its past advocacy and current steadfast efforts to keep the Cyprus issue highly visible with key policymakers in the Obama Administration and in the U.S. Congress.

During its stay in Cyprus the delegation met with U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus John Koenig, President of the House of Representatives Yiannakis Omirou, Minister of Energy, Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Yiorgos Lakkotrypīs, Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, the chief negotiator for the current settlement talks; Cyprus’s Deputy Spokesperson Victoras Papadopoulos, Senior Economic Officer at the Ministry of Finance Kyriacos Kakouris, and Commissioner to the Presidency for Humanitarian Affairs Kate Cleridou. Additional meetings were held with ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, including a working luncheon with Tasos Tzionis, deputy permanent secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and director, Division of Cyprus Question and Turkey.

Meetings were also held with elected officials and political figures, including: Prodromos Prodrommou, deputy chairman, Foreign and European Affairs Committee of Parliament; and Andros Kyprianou, secretary general, AKEL.

Athens: U.S. Ambassador, Defense Minister Top Meeting Agenda



Meeting with Defense Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos.

Meetings with U.S. Ambassador to Greece David Pearce, Greece’s Defense Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos, Deputy Foreign Minister Kyriakos Gerontopoulos and extensive briefings with foreign ministry officials, were highlights of the delegation’s itinerary in Greece. The itinerary also included the 10th Annual AHI Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner at the Grand Bretagne Hotel on May 14, 2014.

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

AHI met with representatives of Hellenic Parliament on May 8, including: First Deputy Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament and Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs Ioannis Tragakis, President of the Parliament Special Permanent Committee for Greeks of the Diaspora Savvas Anastasiades, and President of the Parliament Committee of Foreign Affairs and Defense Kostas Tsiaras. AHI also met with Alexis Tsipras, president and leader of the opposition party, SYRIZA.

The delegation also met with Deputy Foreign Minister Gerontopoulos, Ambassador Anastassis Mitsialis, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; and several directorates of the ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for various countries and regions, including: Ambassador Alexandros Ant. Couyou, A4 Directorate for Turkey; Katia Georgiou, minister plenipotentiary director, A2 Cyprus Directorate; Ambassador Giorgos Avgoustis, Balkans Directorate; Ambassador Ioannis Rizopoulos, director, A7 Directorate for North America; and Argyro Papoulia, deputy director and first counselor, A7 Directorate of North America.

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Historic Visit to Ecumenical Patriarchate

The AHI delegation departed Athens for a day-trip to Istanbul to meet with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I at the Ecumenical Patriarchate on May 9.

“It was a historic meeting for AHI,” Larigakis said. “We sincerely thank Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his hospitality and the generous amount of time he afforded us to discuss the ongoing plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and prospects for resolutions to several outstanding issues, including the reopening of the Halki Theological Seminary.”

Delegation members were also honored by the Patriarch’s generous invite to lunch following their meeting. In Istanbul, AHI also met with the United States Consul General Chuck Hunter and Consul General of Greece Ambassador Nikolaos Mathioudakis.

AHI Hosts Milestone 10th Awards Dinner



From left: George Economou, President, AHI-Athens Chapter; Olga Bournozi, master of ceremonies; Panos Panagiotopoulos, Minister for Culture and Tourism; Ambassador David Pearce; Nikolas P. Tsakos; Nick Larigakis; Ilias Malevitis, President, AHI-Greece; Vice Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis H.N., Chief, Hellenic Navy General Staff; Dr. Stamatis Krimigis, chairman of the Maria Tsakos Foundation.

The Tenth Annual AHI-Athens Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner was held May 14. Captain Panagiotis N. Tsakos, founder, Tsakos Group of Companies, was the honoree. U.S. Ambassador to Greece David Pearce addressed the audience. More than 220 AHI friends and supporters attended the dinner at The Grande Bretagne.

“Our honoree has demonstrated excellence in his career,” Larigakis said. “We truly admire his professional achievements and his contributions to society and community service.”

Nikolas Tsakos, who accepted the award on behalf of his father, recounted Captain Tsakos’s immigration story to America from Chios and his love for America in remarks.

“It has been 60 years since my father first visited the United States on the Liberty vessel, designed by the U.S. Government, after the war... My father instilled his love for America in me and my sister from a very young age. And I have [done the same] in my children.”

“America brings out the best in all of us. It [combines]...Greek activity with the American hard-working mentality. I believe that the Greeks and especially the Greek Americans are the best examples of [our best] traditions. For that, it is a great honor to receive

this award, on behalf of my father...”

In his address, Ambassador Pearce spoke about the state of U.S.-Greece relations and the United States’ desire to see Greece emerge from its economic crisis, “stronger, a stable country playing a stabilizing role in southeastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean.” Greece’s location, he added, “makes it a key partner for us in a very important neighborhood.”

Olga Bournozi of Capital Link served exceptionally as Master of Ceremonies. Ilias Malevitis, president, AHI-Greece; George C. Economou, president, AHI-Athens Chapter; Panagiotis Madamopoulos-Moraris, director of Development; and AHI Members Katerina Papatthanassiou and Sylvia Gavalla contributed to the dinner’s success.

In attendance were dignitaries: Ambassador Pearce, Panos Panagiotopoulos, minister for Culture and Tourism; Adonis Georgiadis, minister of Health; Lieutenant General Christos Manolas, chief, Hellenic Army General Staff; Vice Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis H.N., chief, Hellenic Navy General Staff; and Dr. Stamatis Krimigis, chairman, Maria Tsakos Foundation.

“We are delighted this special event, now in its tenth year, continues to grow. We would like to thank the AHI-Athens Chapter for its hard work,” Larigakis said.

AHI Delegation Participants

On the trip, AHI President Nick Larigakis was accompanied by: AHI Board Members Kostas Alexakis, Dr. George Tsetsekos and Leon Andris; AHI Foundation Board Member Gus Andy, and AHI Legislative Director Georgea Polizos.

AHI PARTICIPATES AT VICE PRESIDENT’S CYPRUS BRIEFINGS

Vice President Joe Biden held a briefing to review the historic visit to Cyprus he took on May 21-22, 2014 with Greek American community leaders at which American Hellenic Institute President Nick Larigakis participated. The briefing took place June 6, 2014 at the Vice President Ceremonial Office, Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

“We thank Vice President Biden for meeting with community leaders for a second time in over a month about his visit to Cyprus,” Larigakis said. “During discussion, I raised several key points about Cyprus for their consideration and in the best interests of the United States. Both briefings were productive and informative, and I am hopeful that the vice president will continue to be actively engaged on Cyprus going forward.”

Vice President Biden held a similar briefing prior to departing to Cyprus at which President Larigakis also participated on May 16, 2014.

AHI FOUNDER HOSTED BY AMERICAN HELLENIC COUNCIL

The American Hellenic Council hosted AHI Founder Eugene T. Rossides for a presentation on his newly-released book "Kissinger & Cyprus: A Study in Lawlessness," at the University of Southern

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California, September 21, 2014. A book-signing and Q&A session were also held.

“We thank the American Hellenic Council for providing a timely forum for Mr. Rossides to speak about his new book and how it relates to the current situation in Cyprus today,” AHI President Nick Larigakis, who also made a presentation about the current state of affairs between Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and the United States, said.

“We also appreciate the efforts of the USC-Hellenic Students Association and Cypriot Consul General Kyprianides, who helped to make the event a success.”

Rossides made his presentation before American Hellenic Council members, students, and friends. In addition, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and USC President C.L. Max Nikias, were in attendance.

AHI-SPONSORED GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT AT PHILLIES GAME A HOME RUN



From left: Dr. Spiro Spireas, Amb. Panagopoulos, John Brazer, Nick Larigakis, Nicholas Chimicles.



The Phanatic dancing in a foustanella with the Pegasus dance troupe of the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrios in Upper Darby.

AHI sponsored a “Greek Heritage Night,” held in cooperation with Major League Baseball’s Philadelphia Phillies, May 28, 2014 at Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, Pa. It was a tremendous suc-

cess. Approximately 1,000 persons attended Greek Heritage Night to help the Phillies stage a ninth inning rally to beat the Colorado Rockies, 6 to 3.

At the baseball game, Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos threw out the ceremonial first pitch. The popular Phillies mascot, *The Phillie Phanatic*, sported an Evzone costume custom made by the *Phanatic’s* seamstress, Kim Hanley. During the middle of the fifth inning, *The Phanatic* led the Pegasus Dancers, a Greek dance troupe under the direction of Mela Akranis from Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Upper Darby, Pa. A two-minute promotional video about Greece, made possible by the Embassy of Greece, was played on the ballpark’s Jumbo-tron.

Thanks to the efforts of Phillies Director of Publicity John Brazer, Ambassador Panagopoulos and AHI President Larigakis appeared on two popular morning radio shows: the first hosted by Chris Stigall on *WPHT 1210-AM* (heard by 300,000 listeners) and the second hosted by Angelo Cataldi on *SportsRadio WIP 94-FM* (heard by 600,000 listeners).

In addition, AHI Board Member George Tsetsekos organized a series of outreach events for Ambassador Panagopoulos with business, civic, and community leaders from Philadelphia. AHI Board Member Tsetsekos and AHI Member Tassos Efstratiades hosted a luncheon in honor of the ambassador at the Union League with prominent Greek Americans from the Philadelphia area in attendance.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CYPRUS INVASION OBSERVED WITH CAPITOL HILL PRESENTATION BY AHI FOUNDER



Eugene Rossides signing copies of his book for event attendees.

AHI commemorated the 40th anniversary of Turkey’s invasion of the Republic of Cyprus with a Capitol Hill breakfast and book presentation on “Kissinger & Cyprus: A Study in Lawlessness” by AHI Founder and former Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Treasury Eugene Rossides. The book presentation featuring Rossides was held at the Rayburn House Office Building, July 9, 2014.

In his presentation, Rossides explored four themes found in his book: 1) then National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger’s

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responsibility for the Cyprus tragedy of 1974 and its aftermath; 2) Cyprus's importance as a strategic, economic, and political asset to Europe and the U.S.; 3) Turkey's actions as a rogue state; and 4) the Rule of Law and the United States.

"Rossides' work is timely," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "As Cyprus settlement negotiations are taking place, it is important for people to understand and familiarize themselves with the historical context of the issue and the perspective from which the Republic of Cyprus approaches these settlement talks. In this vein, the book provides a solid foundation for the reader."

Dignitaries present were: U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-founder and co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Caucus; U.S. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. George Chacalli, and several congressional staff members.

General News

Washington Lawyer Magazine Publishes AHI Legal Counsel's Guide on TTIP



Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., partner in Sfikas & Karambelas LLP

Washington Lawyer published an article authored by Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., partner in the firm Sfikas & Karambelas LLP and volunteer legal counsel to AHI. Entitled "A U.S. Lawyer's Guide to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)," the article appeared in the July/August 2014 issue. *Washington Lawyer* is the official publication of the District of Columbia Bar.

The TTIP is a proposed comprehensive free trade agreement between the United States and the European Union. Mr. Karambelas sets forth the legal framework of the proposed TTIP and the fundamental legal issues raised by the TTIP. He notes that the final TTIP agreement will fundamentally change the ways in which the United States and the European Union conduct business.

"There are significant potential commercial and economic benefits for the United States as well as for Greece and Cyprus. Nick's expertise is clearly evident in the article. It will serve as an excellent legal resource for attorneys who practice in the area of international trade and commercial law," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "We value Nick's knowledge and his commitment to a viable and constructive TTIP as the negotiations progress."

AHEPA Honors Rossides at Supreme Convention



Rossides delivers his acceptance remarks.

AHI Founder Eugene T. Rossides became the first recipient of the AHEPA-Stamos Family Lifetime Achievement Award at the organization's National Athletic Awards Luncheon held at the 92nd Annual AHEPA Supreme Convention, New Orleans, La., July 24, 2014. The award is established for presentation only to inductees of the AHEPA Athletic Hall of Fame for their achievements and contributions to society during their post-athletic career.

Inducted into the AHEPA Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989, Rossides was an All-American Quarterback at Columbia University in the 1940s. He forwent a career path in the National Football League and chose instead a career in law. Rossides went on to become an assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Treasury in the Nixon Administration before founding AHI in 1974.

"I am deeply humbled and grateful to receive this inaugural honor," Rossides said. "I commend AHEPA for recognizing that athletes can achieve success and contribute to society beyond the gridiron or hardwood."

Also at the AHEPA Supreme Convention, the AHEPA Hellenic Cultural Commission hosted AHI Founder Eugene Rossides for a presentation on his newly-released book "Kissinger & Cyprus: A Study in Lawlessness," July 24.

AHIF Foreign Policy Student's Interview of Cypriot Gov't Spokesman Published

Alexcia Chambers, a 2013 participant on the American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus, interviewed Nikos Christodoulides, spokesman for the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, for the global affairs magazine, *Diplomatic Courier*. The interview, "Cyprus: The Original Russia-Crimea Debacle," appeared in the September 11, 2014 issue.

"We are excited that the interest and enthusiasm Alexcia gained as a participant of our study abroad program has carried over and she has taken it to the next level as a correspondent for the highly reputable publication, *Diplomatic Courier*," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "We look forward to providing many more students, like Alexcia, with the same opportunity to experience and learn more about the history and politics of the eastern Mediterranean region."

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Chambers has plans to publish an e-book about recent developments in Cyprus in the near future. She is studying International Relations at The College of William & Mary.

AHI Questions Washington Times' Relationship with "TRNC," Requests Meeting

AHI sent a letter to Mr. Thomas McDevitt, chairman of the board, the *Washington Times*, requesting a meeting to discuss the nature of the newspaper's relationship with the illegal entity of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus." AHI President Nick Larigakis wrote the Oct. 24, 2014 letter in response to five propaganda pieces about the "TRNC" published through the newspaper's Advocacy Department on a single day, September 30, 2014.

"We were deeply disturbed by the *Washington Times*' role in the distribution of blatant propaganda on behalf of an illegal entity, the "TRNC," Larigakis said. "We have several questions about the purpose of the *Washington Times*' Advocacy Department and the newspaper's relationship with the "TRNC" through this department."

Record Number of Golfers Compete at AHI's Annual Golf Classic; Sports Panel Discussion Held



Sports panelists from left: John Brazer, director of Publicity, Philadelphia Phillies, Christine Brennan, journalist, *USA Today*, and Larry Michael, Voice of the Washington Redskins.

On October 20, 2014, AHI hosted its Eleventh Annual Golf Classic at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, Va. A record number 64 golfers participated. Celebrity appearances were made by Larry Michael, Voice of the Washington Redskins, Christine Brennan, journalist, *USA Today*, and John Brazer, director of Publicity, Philadelphia Phillies, who appeared at a morning sports panel to discuss current events and issues affecting the sporting world. The Tournament Sponsor was Calamos Investments.

The first place team was comprised of: Mike Mathews, Mike Gleeson, Dave Riddle and John Hockman. Second place honors went to: John Brazer, Dickie Noles (former pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies), Tommy Greene (former pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies) and Scott Nickel (Philadelphia Phillies' director of corporate sales). The third place team included: Chris Christou, Allen Lyubinsky, Thomas J. Anthis and Jaime Moreno.



Tournament participants.

Larigakis expressed appreciation to Tournament Chair Leon Andris, to all of the tournament sponsors, and to Golf Coordinator Adriana Sifakis, who organized the tournament.

POLICY CONFERENCE

AHI Explores Cyprus Issue at 40 Years



Panelists from left: Doug Bandow, Nick Karambelas, Professor Andreas Theophanous, and James Marketos.

AHI hosted the policy conference titled, "The Cyprus Issue: Forty Years Later," featuring two panels of experts who examined various aspects of the topic on September 30, 2014 at the Capital Hilton, Washington, DC. The audience also received greetings and remarks from Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. George Chacalli, Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos, and AHI Founder Eugene Rossides.

"2014 has brought developments to the Cyprus issue that warrants our examination and analysis," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "These developments included the resumption of settlement talks, a bolstered U.S.-Cyprus relationship, Vice President Biden's historic May visit, the sustained trilateral relationship between Cyprus, Greece, and Israel; and Turkey's national election and its impact on settlement talks."

The first panel featured: Professor Andreas Theophanous, department head, European Studies and International Relations, and president, Center for European and International Affairs, University of Nicosia; Nicholas Karambelas, Esq., AHI legal counsel; and Doug Bandow, senior fellow, Cato Institute. James Marketos, Esq. partner, Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe, LLP, and AHI board member, moderated the panel. The second panel



From left: Gene Rossides, Ambassador Chacalli, Ambassador Panagopoulos, Nick Larigakis.

featured: Daniel Lawton, deputy director, Office of Southern European Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Ambassador Patrick Theros, principal, Theros & Theros LLP; and John Sitolides, principal, Trilogy Advisors LLC. AHI President Nick Larigakis moderated the second panel. Each of the panelists brought their unique perspective and expertise to the conference topic.

A vibrant Q&A session followed each of the two panels as well as the opening remarks by Ambassadors Chacalli and Panagopoulos and historical background provided by Rossides.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Hill Publishes AHI President's Rebuttal to Turkish Cypriot's Op-ed

The Hill, a newspaper with a focus on the U.S. Congress, published a guest blog rebuttal on its website authored by AHI President Nick Larigakis. The rebuttal, titled "Response to Turkish Cypriot's Opinion Piece," appeared on the website's Congress Blog, which is *The Hill's* forum for lawmakers and policy professionals, on July 23, 2014. AHI President Larigakis wrote the commentary in response to a July 21 op-ed written by Mr. Ahmet Erdengiz.

In response to the op-ed, Larigakis set the record straight on Turkey's illegal invasion of Cyprus on July 20, 1974, the establishment of a pseudo-state in the north by Turkey in 1983, and the defeat of the flawed Annan Plan in 2004. He concluded by asserting that a firm and lasting settlement may be within reach, but only if Turkey plays a constructive role and does not manipulate the settlement process.

"Turkey can start by removing its occupation troops and colonists from the island," Larigakis concluded. "Turkey can let the Cypriots themselves come to an agreement to reunify Cyprus. Turkey's interests are not that of the people of Cyprus. Turkey's interests are that of Turkey."

Washington Times, The Washington Post Publish AHI Editorial Submissions

Two prominent newspapers each published editorial submissions authored by AHI President Nick Larigakis in September.

First, *The Washington Times* published Larigakis' Letter to the Editor titled, "Turkey to Blame for Cyprus Division," Sept. 4,

2014. He wrote the letter in response to an August 22, 2014 rebuttal to a Victor Davis Hanson op-ed written by Mr. Ahmet Erdengiz. Larigakis set the record straight on Turkey's illegal invasion of Cyprus on July 20, 1974, the myth of Turkish Cypriot "isolation," and the defeat of the flawed Annan Plan in 2004. He concluded by asserting that Turkish intransigence is at fault for the current stalemate of settlement talks, and not, as Mr. Erdengiz claims, the Greek Cypriots.

"Turkish intransigence stymies confidence-building measures," Larigakis wrote. "Turkey must not manipulate the settlement process, but instead, play a constructive role. Sadly, Turkey's interests are not that of the people of Cyprus. Turkey's interests are that of Turkey."

On Sept. 16, 2014, *The Washington Post* published in its hard copy edition President Larigakis' editorial submission under the heading "Taking Exception" on its opinion page, granting it added weight. The submission, titled "Greece deserves respect for holding to its word," called out Post Editorial Writer Charles Lane for taking a sarcastic swipe at Greece's ability to meet NATO's mandated minimum standard on defense spending in his Sept. 3, 2014 op-ed, "The U.S. needs to get serious about defense spending."

Lane wrote, "In the run-up to this week's North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit, much has been made of the fact that the United States is one of just a handful of the 28 member states that spends more than 2 percent of its gross domestic product on defense—along with Britain, Estonia and Greece, and the latter qualifies only because its GDP has collapsed even faster than its military budget."

In his editorial submission, Larigakis called Lane's characterization of Greece "an unnecessary sarcastic swipe" and cited several ways in which Greece has, and continues to be, a reliable NATO ally and vital to the projection of United States strategic interests in the region via NSA Souda Bay, Crete. He also stated for the record Greece's percentage of GDP spent on defense, which is nearly 2.3 percent.

The Washington Times Publishes AHI's Letter to the Editor on FYROM

The Washington Times published AHI's letter to the editor, "Republic of Macedonia Eroding Good Relations," September 12, 2014. (AHI note: The title of AHI's Letter to the Editor submission was determined by the Editorial Board of the *Washington Times* and not at the suggestion of AHI). AHI Legislative Director Georgea Polizos wrote the letter in response to a September 1, 2014 op-ed column by Luke Coffey titled, "U.S. must help usher Macedonia into NATO over Greek objections."

Polizos addressed Coffey's inaccuracies by first setting the record straight on Alexander the Great's Hellenic heritage. She then corrected Coffey's false statement that the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) makes "no territorial pretensions toward any neighbors" by citing several examples of FYROM's long-term policies, under the administration of Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, that have advanced extreme nationalism and provocation against Greece.

"These acts are a breach of the U.N.-brokered Interim Accord,

erode efforts to build trust and good neighborly relations and do not embrace policies compatible with NATO or European Union standards,” Polizos wrote.

OP-EDS

The Current U.S. Interest in Cyprus: “Trust, but Verify”

AHI released an op-ed written July 30, 2014, by AHI President Nick Larigakis titled, “The Current U.S. Interest in Cyprus: ‘Trust, but Verify.’” The op-ed received placement in: *The National Herald*, *Financial Mirror*, *Famagusta Gazette*, *The Greek Star*, and *Greek Reporter*.

On the heels of unprecedented engagement on the Cyprus issue by the Obama Administration, which included Vice President Joe Biden’s historic visit to Cyprus in May, Larigakis’ op-ed reflected on what has transpired and explored the meaning behind the high-level engagement. Although he believes these are all extremely important actions demonstrated by the Obama Administration, Larigakis argued that additional signs must be observed from the administration and from Turkey that would indicate progress toward a just and viable solution to the Cyprus issue is taking form.

Larigakis added the community must remind policymakers of Vice President’s Biden’s encouraging remarks, “Because as historic and important as the recent flurry of comments and visits have been, we need to be vigilant and adopt President Reagan’s slogan, ‘Trust, but verify!’”

STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AHI Applauds Committee Passage of Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act

AHI applauded passage of legislation by the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs that requires an annual report from the State Department on the status of stolen, confiscated or unreturned Christian properties in territories controlled by Turkey. H.R.4347, the Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act, also included language from U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis’ (R-FL) congressional resolution that calls the Government of Turkey to facilitate the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay.

U.S. Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, introduced H.R.4347 with the support of U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs. The legislation passed by voice vote.

“We thank Chairman Royce for spearheading this legislative initiative with the bipartisan cooperation of Ranking Member Engel, and we applaud the House Foreign Affairs Committee for passing it,” President Nick Larigakis said. “We also commend Congressman Bilirakis for working with the committee to ensure that his language to reopen the Theological School of Halki was included and adopted. We call on the House of Representatives to bring the legislation to the Floor for passage.”

An effort to strip H.R.4347 of any mention of the Theological School of Halki, language pertaining to Turkish-occupied Cyprus,

or requirement for State Department reporting by an amendment offered by U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) failed by voice vote.

“For far too long, Turkey has suppressed and stifled religious freedom for all minorities within its borders,” Larigakis said. “This is clearly evident by annual reports issued by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and the State Department. It is time for Turkey to make serious advances with respect to religious freedom, starting with the reopening of Halki Theological School. It is a major disappointment that certain legislators, such as Congressman Connolly, fail to see this fact, and instead, become apologists for Turkey’s dismal religious freedom record.”

Statement on ECHR Judgment in Cyprus v. Turkey

AHI issued a statement on the European Court of Human Rights’ May 12, 2014 judgment that has ordered Turkey to compensate 90 million Euro in damages to the victims of its 1974 invasion of the Republic of Cyprus (CYPRUS v. TURKEY).

“The American Hellenic Institute praises the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights and shares the views of many who declared it an unprecedented ruling by the Court.

“The judgment is yet another indictment of Turkey’s violation of international law and the rule of law when it illegally invaded the Republic of Cyprus forty years ago this July. Today, Turkey, a NATO nation, continues to illegally occupy the Republic of Cyprus, a member nation of the European Union, a body to which Turkey claims it aspires to join.

“The judgment sends a clear message about adhering to the rule of law in Europe. In typical Turkey fashion, Turkey has ignored this message. The Turkish government has indicated it will not pay the compensation to the victims of its brutal invasion of a sovereign country that killed innocent civilians, left nearly 1,500 persons missing, raped women, forced Greek Cypriots from their homes and property, and committed mass destruction of property, including churches. Again, Turkey ignores its responsibilities to the international community.”

U.S. Commission’s International Religious Freedom Report Downgrades Turkey

AHI called the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom’s (USCIRF) downgrade of Turkey from a status of “other countries and regions monitored” to a “Tier 2” designation in its 2014 Annual Report a step in the correct direction. The commission released its annual report on April 30, 2014.

“We view the commission’s Tier Two designation for Turkey as a step in the correct direction following 2013’s very disappointing designation,” President Nick Larigakis said. “The commission’s 2014 designation is a more accurate reflection of Turkey’s treatment of religious minorities. However, we believe the 2014 report does not go far enough as many outstanding issues remain.”

Larigakis added, “Despite very limited progress, the Turkish government continues to tolerate assaults upon its many minority populations, including the Greek Orthodox Christian minority and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. All outstanding issues remain unresolved, including the illegal closure of the Greek Orthodox

AHI STATEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Halki Patriarchal School of Theology and the Turkish government's interference in the Ecumenical Patriarchate's and Greek Orthodox community's internal governance, among others. These are all actions that violate the founding principles and laws of the United States. In addition, we welcome the report's inclusion of the 'persistent rumors' of Hagia Sophia's conversion to a mosque and the disheartening impact it has had on Christian communities. However, we are disappointed the report is silent on the conversation of the historic Church of Saint Sophia of Trabzon from a museum to a mosque in 2013."

Furthermore, at the direction of H.Res.1631, which passed the House of Representatives on September, 28, 2010, the commission includes in its report on Turkey the violations of religious freedom in Turkish-occupied Cyprus. Although this section is not as specific as it has been in previous reports, it notes that minority communities were denied access to places of worship and cemeteries "that are within the boundaries of Turkish military zones or bases."

"The inclusion of the treatment of religious minorities in Turkish-occupied Cyprus is appreciated," said Larigakis. "However, there clearly could have been more detail about the desecration of Cyprus's religious heritage in the Turkish-occupied area."

AHI Welcomes Biden's Continued Promotion of Religious Freedom, Cyprus Position

AHI welcomed Vice President Joe Biden's continued promotion of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and his ongoing engagement on U.S.-Cyprus relations as demonstrated in remarks made at the 42nd Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, July 9, 2014.

"We congratulate Vice President Biden's for his strong and straightforward support for religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and his forthright position on Cyprus," President Larigakis said. "The vice president's remarks at the Clergy-Laity Congress demonstrated his active engagement on these issues as evidenced by his raising them in conversations with Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan. We also applaud his public position that Turkish troops should be removed from Cyprus."

In remarks, Vice President Biden conveyed unequivocal support for the right of the Greek Orthodox Church and the Ecumenical Patriarchate to control its destiny, free of the influence of any government.

On Cyprus, the vice president said: "The matter of the fact is that the Government of Turkey, in my view, is coming to understand, not for any noble reasons, but for practical reasons, that the status quo on the island does not benefit them economically, militarily and politically. And there is significant potential benefit for Turkey in a bizonal, bicomunal federation."

Biden continued as he reflected on his May visit to Cyprus: "I opened up and made clear the U.S. position that although it was a Cypriot negotiation, there was and is and can only be one government, one Cypriot, Greek Cypriot government, on the island, with no Turkish troops on the island."

Larigakis would like to see additional signs that the vice president's statements are indeed the policy of the administration as

well as signs that Turkey will cease its intransigence on these issues and play a constructive role.

"In this regard, the United States government must continue to put pressure on Turkey, and we must do our part as a community to remind policymakers of Vice President's Biden's encouraging remarks."

The vice president also spoke about United States support for Greece during the latter's economic crisis and the ways the two NATO allies cooperate on security measures.

AHI Statement on 40th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus with the illegal use of U.S.-supplied arms and equipment in violation of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the United Nations Charter, the NATO Treaty, and customary international law. Turkey occupied about four percent of Cyprus during the initial phase of its invasion. Turkish pilots flying American planes dropped American-made bombs, including napalm bombs, on Greek Cypriot communities.

Furthermore, on August 14, 1974, three weeks after the legitimate government of Cyprus was restored, Turkey launched the second phase of its invasion of Cyprus. As a result of its two-phase invasion of Cyprus, Turkey grabbed 37 percent of Cyprus's sovereign territory, killed innocent civilians, raped women ages 12 to 71, forced 170,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes and properties, and committed mass destruction of Cyprus' cultural and religious heritage, including an estimated 500 churches and religious sites belonging to Christian and Jewish communities. In its 2014 annual report, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom held Turkey responsible for its actions in the area of Cyprus it occupies. As a result of Turkey's invasion, approximately 1,600 Greek Cypriots and five American citizens of Cypriot heritage went missing and a large majority of these cases remain unresolved.

For 40 years, the Republic of Cyprus, a member of the European Union, and its people, have endured an illegal occupation and massive violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by Turkey, a NATO ally of the United States. Moreover, Turkey's threats and inflammatory rhetoric toward Cyprus are a disappointment. In addition to the 43,000 illegal Turkish troops occupying the Republic of Cyprus, Turkish threats against Cyprus have been cast because of Cyprus' exploration for hydrocarbon reserves in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which it is well within its sovereign right to do. AHI also cites Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdo_an's November 2013 comment, "There is no country named Cyprus. There is the local administration of south Cyprus" as evidence of Turkey's incendiary rhetoric.

Therefore, the problem, as well as the solution to the Cyprus issue, rests in Ankara.

For the remainder of the statement, visit www.aheworld.org.

AHI Applauds Foreign Relations Chairmen's Letter to President on Cyprus

AHI applauded U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), chairman,

AHI LETTERS & ACTION ALERTS

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and U.S. Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, for sending a letter to President Barack Obama that urges the administration to increase attention to the goal of reunifying Cyprus. The letter was sent July 14, 2014 on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974.

“We applaud Chairman Menendez and Chairman Royce for their strong letter that sends a clear message to President Obama that it’s time to end forty years of division by enhancing the United States’ support for reunification efforts for Cyprus,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “We are also pleased the letter touts Cyprus’s contributions in counterterrorism and nonproliferation efforts which demonstrate Cyprus’ role as a reliable ally and partner to the United States in the region.”

In the letter, the Chairmen wrote, “*Reunification would allow Cyprus to fully realize its potential as a stable and predictable democracy and a regional leader anchored in the western security architecture that is capable of bolstering European energy security.*”

AHI Announces New Hire



Stephen Kakouris.

In October, AHI announced the hire of Stephen Kakouris as the organization’s Office Manager.

“We are thrilled to have Stephen join our staff on a full-time basis,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “Stephen contributed to AHI’s policy work as an Intern and his background in International Studies will be an asset to our efforts.”

Stephen holds a Bachelor of Science in International Studies: Conflict Analysis and Resolution and a minor in Leadership Studies from George Mason University, Fairfax, Va. During his studies, he conducted extensive research on the Cyprus Problem, an issue about which he is passionate.

“I look forward to this incredible opportunity to work with an institution that does such important work for the Hellenic Community in the United States,” Kakouris said. “It has been an amazing learning experience so far and I am grateful to be a part of the team.”

Stephen was born in New York City and has lived in Cyprus, Dublin, Brussels, and Maine. He enjoys traveling and spent a summer working on a cruise ship that visited over forty Greek islands and Israel.

LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

AHI to Biden: “Grave Concern” over Turkey’s Escalation of Tensions

On October 23, 2014, AHI sent a letter to Vice President Joe Biden to express grave concern about recent actions taken by Turkey in the eastern Mediterranean that have raised tensions and the lack of a public denouncement of Turkey’s actions by the Obama Administration and the U.S. Department of State.

“We strongly believe Turkey’s provocative actions in the eastern Mediterranean, which we condemn, endanger the work Vice President Biden has invested toward a Cyprus solution,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “We have several concerns foremost of which is the silence of the Obama Administration on this matter, which is deafening. The United States must denounce Turkey’s actions to quell tensions in the eastern Mediterranean caused by Turkey.”

Turkey has sent warships into the area and issued a NAVTEX stating it would begin seismic surveys. On Oct. 21, 2014, Turkey sent a survey vessel, accompanied by a warship and two support vessels, into Block 3 of Cyprus’ EEZ.

ACTION ALERTS

June 20, 2014

AHI Chapter Presidents, Congressional Contact Team Leaders, Members and Friends were urged to contact U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Members in support of H.R.4347, Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act, which includes Halki Resolution.

IN MEMORIAM

AHI Mourns Passing of Champion of Hellenism Ted G. Spyropoulos



Champion of Hellenism Ted G. Spyropoulos.

AHI mourned the passing of Mr. Ted G. Spyropoulos on Sept. 25, 2014, in Chicago.

“Ted Spyropoulos was an extraordinary Hellene,” AHI Founder Gene Rossides said. “Ted’s passing leaves a tremendous void in the Diaspora. I admired his passion for Hellenism and his

AHI MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

unselfish work on behalf of Hellenic causes. Our deepest sympathies, thoughts and prayers are with his family.”

“Ted Spyropoulos will always be remembered fondly by the American Hellenic Institute and its members for his unwavering devotion not just to AHI, but to any and all Hellenic organizations that shared his passion for Hellenism,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “Ted thrived on championing Hellenic issues, promoting the values of education, and preserving the Greek language, and we owe it to him to keep his passion alive. He left an indelible mark on the community. May his memory be eternal.”

At the time of his passing, Spyropoulos served as Vice Chairman of the Board of the American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) and was a major benefactor of many AHI events, conferences, and forums.

AHI Mourns Passing of a Founding Member; Longtime Friend of the Institute

AHI mourned the passing of Mr. James Lardas, Pittsburgh, Pa., who died Aug. 25, 2014.

“We are saddened with the news of Mr. Lardas’ passing,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “He was a founding member of AHI and a cherished lifelong member and support of the Institute. May his memory be eternal.”

Larigakis added that in addition to being a strong supporter of the Institute’s efforts in Washington, Lardas helped tremendously with grassroots efforts as well.

AHI also mourns the passing of Mrs. Paraskevi Morlock, Alexandria, Va., a longtime friend of the Institute, who passed away November 7, 2014. May her memory be eternal.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

AHI Member **Paul Kotrotsios** was honored in September with a Service Award by The Press Club of the Philadelphia Suburbs. He is an outgoing Board Member of The Press Club. Kotrotsios is the Founder and Publisher of the Hellenic News of America <www.hellenicnews.com>, which has been connecting and engaging the Greek-American and Phil-Hellenic communities since 1987. He is also the Founder & President of the Hermes Expo International, which will be held for the 24th consecutive year in March, 2015 in Concordville PA.

AHI member **Vanna Panagoulis** was honored to have a street named in memory of her late husband, Alketas Panagoulis. The street, in Thessaloniki, Greece, is behind the soccer stadium where Panagoulis began his soccer career at age 14. Panagoulis played for, coached and later became president of Aris Thessaloniki F.C.—the only person in the team’s history to hold all three positions. Panagoulis also coached the Greek National and US national teams. He passed away in 2012.

A 13-foot stainless steel sculpture of Poseidon, the work of Greek sculptor George Zongolopoulos, now graces the grounds of George Washington University, thanks to years of effort by AHI member **George Stathopoulos**. Stathopoulos, a GWU alum-

ni, spent years curating the project, which resulted in the Zongolopoulos Foundation donating the statue to the university. In his speech at the dedication ceremony in October, Stathopoulos said, “Placing ‘Poseidon’ in such a prominent place is a wonderful way to promote the cultural heritage of modern Greece”. The sculpture is the first modern Greek sculpture to be placed on public grounds in Washington D.C.

AHI FOUNDER’S BOOK TOUR OF GREECE, CYPRUS

Continued from page 1



Rossides delivers remarks at the book presentation held at the Officer’s Club.

proved an important asset for Cyprus and Greece, but also to the United States,” Omirou said. “His untiring advocacy for human rights, the rule of law and democratic principles make him a cross-border precious role model for generations to come.”

He added, “We are thankful to be able to have Mr. Rossides as a strong ally and reliable partner and advocate for our cause.”

Rossides received the honor while on a book tour of Cyprus and Greece, October 6 to 16, 2014. His latest work is titled, “Kissinger and Cyprus: A Study of Lawlessness.”

In Cyprus, Rossides, accompanied by AHI President Nick Larigakis, met with President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus John Koenig, and Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulidis. At the invitation of the Republic of Cyprus’s Press and Information Office, he gave book presentations at the Press Club and the University of Nicosia, Oct. 8 and 9, respectively. Rossides also was interviewed by several Cypriot media outlets. Finally, they were



President of Greece Papoulias and AHI Founder Rossides discuss Rossides’ latest book and developments in the eastern Mediterranean.

AHI HEADLINE NEWS



Rossides gives a presentation at the Press Club in Cyprus.

guests at the Takis and Louki Nemitsas Foundation Awards Dinner held at the Presidential Palace, Oct. 7.

In Greece, book presentations were made in Athens and Thessaloniki. ELIAMEP (Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy) sponsored the first presentation as part of a larger discussion titled, “The American Role in Cyprus: Past, Present and Future,” which was held at the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oct. 13. DEREΕ – The American College of Greece also sponsored a book presentation on its campus, Oct. 15. While in Athens, Rossides and Larigakis met with President of Hellenic Republic Kostas Papoulias and Deputy Foreign Minister Kyriakos Gerontopoulos. A series of media interviews were also held.

In Thessalonki, Anatolia College and AHI sponsored a book presentation at the Officer’s Club, Oct. 16.

SIXTH ANNUAL AHIF FOREIGN POLICY TRIP

Continued from page 1



Students aboard the HS Papanikolis submarine with Lieutenant Commander Georgios Karagiannis, Commanding Officer.

During the program, the students received firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues affecting Greece and Cyprus, their relations with the U.S., and the interests of the U.S. in the region. Meetings or briefings were held with American embassies, officials from various ministries, including foreign affairs; parliament members, religious leaders, think-tank organizations, and members of academia and the private sector of both countries. In Cyprus, the group visited the illegal Turkish-occupied area.



Meeting with His Eminence Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and all of Greece.

“The trip provided a wonderful opportunity to once again lead such an exceptional group of students to Cyprus and Greece,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “It was rewarding to see them gain firsthand experience about the foreign policy issues that concern U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus. The AHI Foundation looks forward to offering this program annually as support for it has grown and student interest remains at significant levels since the program’s inception.”

The student participants were **Alexandra Veletsis**, University of Miami; **Christiana Metaxas**, Binghamton University, State University of New York; **Evan Frohman**, Northwestern University; **Harry Jacobsen**, University of South Carolina; **Matthew Moramarco**, University of Arizona; **Paulina Likos**, Villanova University; **Peter Milios**, Florida State University; **Tiffani Katherine Wills**, University of Alabama; and **Zacharo Diamanto Gialamas**, senior at George Washington University.

“The AHIF student foreign policy trip gave me the opportunity to study the foreign policies of the United States, Greece and Cyprus firsthand. Travelling to Washington DC, Cyprus, and Greece, and meeting with government officials, private sector organizations, and other individuals such as professors and journalists allowed us to gain insights into the current and past issues concerning each country. I especially enjoyed that we were encouraged to ask questions at the meetings and that those questions turned into lively discussions,” said participant Christiana Metaxas.

“The AHI Foreign Policy trip provided an unforgettable experience which allowed valuable insight into foreign policy and government which would be impossible to attain from any book or lecture,” said student Matthew Moramarco.

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