



REPORT



Volume 45 Number 256

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE

January 2018

AHI, AHEPA HOST PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS IN HONOR OF U.S. VISIT



AHI President Larigakis and AHEPA Supreme President Hollister present Prime Minister Tsipras with a painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

AHI and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA) hosted a dinner in honor of Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' visit to the U.S., Oct. 16, 2017, at the Willard Inter-

Continued on page 2

AHI PRESENTATION IN ATHENS FOCUSES ON GREECE AS STRATEGIC PARTNER



Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt, U.S. Ambassador to Greece presents the Keynote Address.

AHI hosted a panel presentation featuring U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt as keynote speaker, Nov. 29, 2017, at the Hotel Grande Bretagne, Athens, Greece. Ambassador Pyatt, and four panelists, which included Greece's Deputy Defense Minister Dimitris

Continued on page 13

ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS OFFICIATES AHIF E. JOHN & CLEO RUMPAKIS LIBRARY REDEDICATION CEREMONY



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and AHI President Nick Larigakis in front of the sign identifying the AHI Foundation E. John & Cleo Rumpakis Library situated at the front entrance to the Hellenic House.

AHI held a ceremony to rededicate the AHI Foundation library in honor of E. John and Cleo Rumpakis, October 27, 2017. His Emi-

Continued on page 12

LARIGAKIS CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH AHI

Colleagues, family, and friends came together to commemorate the 30th anniversary of American Hellenic Institute (AHI) President Nick Larigakis's leadership and accomplishments at the Institute. The cele

Continued on page 15

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

AHI General News	2
AHI In the News	6
Hellenic House Visitors	7
Noon Forums	7
Statements and Announcements	8
Letters to Government Officials	9
AHI Foundation News	9
Features	12

AHI, AHEPA HOST PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS

Continued from page 1



Prime Minister Tsipras delivers remarks.

Continental, Washington, D.C. Prime Minister Tsipras was in the midst of a five-day visit to the United States, which included a meeting and joint press conference with President Donald J. Trump, Oct. 17.

In remarks, Prime Minister Tsipras discussed the importance of U.S. investment in Greece, the opportunities to enhance U.S.-Greece defense cooperation, and the critical role the Greek American community can play in the U.S.-Greece relationship.

Prime Minister Tsipras described members of the community as the best ambassadors, and added, “You represent the values of freedom and democracy.”



AHI members share a moment with Prime Minister Tsipras.

AHI President Nick Larigakis and Supreme President Carl R. Hollister also offered remarks. They welcomed Prime Minister Tsipras to Washington and wished the prime minister, and his diplomatic corps, fruitful deliberations. Both presidents also remarked upon the opportunities to bolster the U.S.-Greece relationship across various sectors and emphasized the importance of continued foreign direct investment in Greece to Greece’s economic recovery.

Emanuel L. Rouvelas, partner, K&L Gates, and AHI and AHEPA member, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Government officials in attendance included: U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt, Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Leonidas Pantelides, U.S. Representative John Sarbanes, Greek Foreign Minister



Dignitaries seated with AHI President Larigakis, Prime Minister Tsipras, and Supreme President Hollister included: Libra Group Chairman & CEO George M. Logothetis (at left) and U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt (at right).

Nikos Kotzias, Greek Minister of Defense Panos Kammenos, and Greek Minister of Digital Policy, Telecommunications, and Media Nikos Pappas.

AHI HOSTS HELLENIC NAVY CHIEF FOR MARITIME SECURITY PRESENTATION



Vice Admiral Tsounis presents Nick Larigakis with a memento.

AHI hosted a reception and presentation with Vice Admiral Nikolaos Tsounis, chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, at the Hellenic House, November 8, 2017. The presentation served as an integral part of the vice admiral’s Washington, D.C. visit during which he also met with his counterparts at the Pentagon.

Vice Admiral Tsounis made the case for elevating the U.S.-Greece partnership by stressing Greece’s commitment to regional security.

“Despite the geopolitical turmoil in the region and regardless of its recent fiscal condition, it [Greece] remains a democratic, stable and secure country,” he said, adding, “Greece could act as the primary interlocutor between East and West” because of Greece’s close cooperation with both Israel and the Arab world.

The vice admiral concluded his presentation, calling on the U.S. to invest its “political capital” in Greece. He reiterated the Hellenic Navy would continue to be fully operational, and a model of stability, despite continued budget constraints.

The invitation-only event was attended by thirty-five persons. Sev-



Nick Larigakis, Vice Admiral Tsounis, and Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus, U.S. Congressman Gus Bilirakis (FL-12).

eral high-profile public officials and private sector representatives were in attendance, including: U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL); Ambassador Tom Miller, former U.S. ambassador to Greece; Ambassador Tom Korologos, former U.S. ambassador to Brussels; Deanna DeSante, deputy director, OSD European Policy, Department of Defense; Colonel Panagiotis Kavidopoulos, defense attaché, Embassy of Greece; and Dennys Plessas, vice-president of Business Development Initiatives Europe, Middle East, & Africa, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, among many others.

“We appreciated the opportunity to host Vice Admiral Tsounis for a very informative presentation about the importance of improving Greece’s maritime security in the eastern Mediterranean and strengthening bilateral relations with the United States,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “The event occurred at a highly pertinent time for the U.S.-Greece relationship, following the recent visits to Washington of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, who is the chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff.”

AHI, LEXINGTON INSTITUTE HOST GREECE’S NATIONAL DEFENSE CHIEF FOR POLICY DISCUSSION



Admiral Apostolakis presents a memento to AHI President Nick Larigakis.

Lexington Institute, a nonprofit public-policy think tank, in cooperation with AHI, hosted a high-level policy luncheon discussion for Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, chief of the Hellenic National



Vice President & General Manager of the F-16/F-22 Integrated Fighter Group at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, Mr. Roderick “Rod” McLean speaks with Admiral Apostolakis.

Defense General Staff, on the occasion of the admiral’s visit to Washington, D.C., October 23, 2017, at the Capital Hilton. More than 30 policy experts from the public and private sectors, including officials from the White House, Pentagon, and Department of State; as well as representatives from the defense and security industries and think-tanks, attended the invite-only event.

Admiral Apostolakis commended the Lexington Institute and AHI for their successful roles to strengthen U.S.-Greece relations.

“I give to both the Lexington Institute and the “American Hellenic Institute the credit for their successful efforts to build a special bond of partnership and friendship between the United States and Greece,” he said. “Mr. Larigakis has been very active with his initiatives and he has really helped promote our bilateral relations.”

The admiral also took the opportunity to share the concerns of Greece and its Armed Forces as well as his perspective on relations with the United States.

“Our close neighborhood is full of challenges that are interlinked. You are perfectly aware of the situation in Syria and Libya, as well as how much the East Med is affected by the terrorist threat and refugee flows,” he said. “My country is placed at the center of this volatile region and we remain very concerned about the security issues.”

Admiral Apostolakis added, “Greece, being a stable country and maintaining competent Armed Forces, plays a crucial role as stability and security provider.”

“We had a substantive discussion about Greece’s geostrategic importance, its vision for enhanced defense cooperation with the United States, and its national security challenges in an increasingly uncertain part of the world,” Larigakis said. “The event was extremely timely, coming soon after the visit of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to Washington. On behalf of AHI, I thank our colleagues at Lexington Institute, Chief Executive Officer Merrick “Mac” Carey and Vice President Constance Douris. It was a pleasure to work with them to make the event a productive one.”

AHI HOSTS LT. GEN. STEFANIS FOR WORKING DINNER

AHI hosted a private dinner for Lieutenant General Alkiviadis Stefanis, chief of the Hellenic Army, September 20, 2017, at Metro 29 Diner, Arlington, Va. Lt. Gen. Stefanis became the first Greek military

AHI GENERAL NEWS



Nick Larigakis (L) and Larry Michael (R) present Lt. Gen. Stefanis (C) with a custom Washington Redskins jersey.

officer to be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the National Defense University. The induction is an extremely high honor for foreign military officials.

According to AHI President Nick Larigakis, the working dinner focused on the significant contributions of the Greek Armed Forces to NATO and U.S. interests in the region. Also, Larigakis and Larry Michael, senior vice president of Media for the Washington Redskins, presented Lt. Gen. Stefanis with a custom Redskins jersey for his love of professional sports. Lt. Gen. Stefanis presented Larigakis with a commemorative cadet (Evelpis) from the Greek Military Academy to thank AHI for its efforts.



Dinner guests discuss U.S.-Greek military relations with special guest Lt. Gen. Stefanis.

Thirty guests attended, including: Dean Popps, former acting United States Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology; Dimitrios Angelosopoulos, Counselor & Consul, Embassy of Greece in US; Major General Vasilios Garmpis, NATO HQ IMS L&R Division at Brussels, Belgium; Defense Attaché Col. Panagiotis Kavidopoulos, Embassy of Greece; Merrick “Mac” Carey, CEO, Lexington Institute; Emanuel “Manny” Rouvelas, partner, K&L Gates, Ambassador Tom Korologos, former U.S. Ambassador to Belgium; Col. Scott Miller, Army attaché, U.S. Embassy in Athens, Greece; Wendy Stancer, Greek desk officer, U.S. Department of State; and Rohit Nepal, deputy director of Southern European Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

AHI COMMEMORATES SMYRNA TRAGEDY

AHI and St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, Va., commemorated the tragic 1922 fire of Smyrna with a private screen-

ing of “The Promise” at the church, Oct. 11, 2017. The film, a powerful historical drama starring Christian Bale, Oscar Isaac, and Charlotte Le Bon, is set in 1914-1915 and depicts the Turkish genocide of 1.5 million Armenian Christians. The extermination of Armenians during World War I was the dark precursor to the Greek holocaust of Smyrna in 1922, which signaled the end the centuries-old Christian presence in Asia Minor.

AHI commemorates the Smyrna catastrophe each year in memory of the hundreds of thousands who perished and suffered and as a public challenge to deniers of the genocide against Asia Minor’s Greek, Armenian, and Syriac Christians.

AHI President Nick Larigakis, and James Stoucker, a long-time AHI member and president of St. Katherine’s parish council, provided greetings. AHI Board Member James Marketos introduced the film.

Following the screening, Marketos, Rev. Dr. Stefanos Alexopoulos, assistant professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, The Catholic University of America; and Dr. Robin Darling Young, associate professor of Spirituality, The Catholic University of America, were panelists for a discussion about the topic.

AHI MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF CYPRUS INVASION WITH CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING



Cypriot Ambassador Leonidas Pantelides.



Nick Larigakis, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, and Ambassador Mavroyiannis.

AHI marked the 43rd anniversary of Turkey’s illegal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus by hosting a congressional briefing to discuss the state of affairs on the island on Capitol Hill, July 19, 2017. The brief-

AHI GENERAL NEWS

ing allowed prominent members of Congress to convey their viewpoints and perspectives on the Cyprus issue and prospects for a solution after the collapse of the Conference on Cyprus in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. The legislators also discussed opportunities for the United States to work on this matter.

Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, the Chief Greek Cypriot Negotiator, who was one of the central figures at the Conference on Cyprus; Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Leonidas Pantelidis; and Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos, all attended and addressed the audience. AHI President Nick Larigakis moderated the briefing.



Congresswoman Maloney, Ambassador Mavroyiannis and Nick Karambelas.

The briefing, held in cooperation with the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, featured: U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-chair, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues; U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), former chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), U.S. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Brad Sherman (D-CA), member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats; Ted Deutch (D-FL), co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance, and member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; and Brad Schneider (D-IL), as speakers.

Ambassador Mavroyiannis: Failed talks a “big disappointment”

In his address, Ambassador Mavroyiannis thanked AHI and the work of the U.S. Congress for their continued work and support regarding Cyprus. He expressed the importance of U.S.-Cyprus bilateral relations, highlighting that Cyprus is an important partner to the U.S. and “is working to be a reliable and serious partner on a global scale, especially regarding Cypriot membership within the European Union.”

Turning to the issue of the Cyprus problem, Ambassador Mavroyiannis was well positioned to discuss developments following the Conference on Cyprus in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. He highlighted several ongoing issues that proved detrimental to securing successful peace talks: the continued arms embargo on the Republic of Cyprus, the occupied nation, and the oxymoron considering the lack of arms embargo on Turkey, the occupying nation; the continued presence of 40,000 Turkish troops on the island; Turkey’s claim to the right to intervention in Cyprus; and Turkey’s claim to “control the island.” Mavroyiannis stated the recent failed talks were a big disappointment and were “indicative of the difficulties between Cyprus and Turkey.”

Cypriot Ambassador: Cyprus’ valuable work as a U.S. partner will continue

Ambassador Pantelidis, in his remarks, reflected on the problematic nature of the talks, especially as Turkish troops continue to occupy 37 percent of the island. Nevertheless, the ambassador emphasized the work of the embassy to ensure the Republic of Cyprus is viewed as an important, valuable player and partner in the region for the United States, acting as a bridge-builder and geostrategic partner and is not just perceived through the lens of the Cyprus problem.

Greek Ambassador: Greece remains committed to reunification

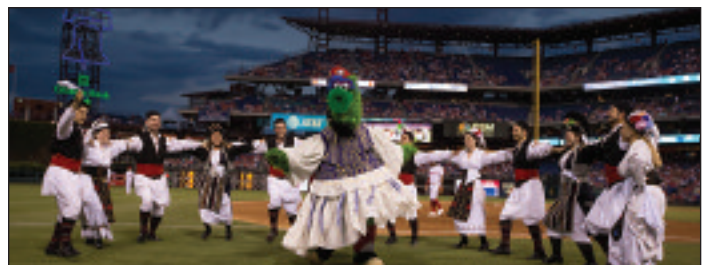
Ambassador Lalacos added the Greek government remains committed to the successful reunification of the Republic of Cyprus. Moreover, the Greek government continues to support President Anastasiades and the lawful authorities of the Republic of Cyprus. In particular, the security and guarantees chapter of the negotiations is where Greece holds firm: “Greece has been clear on its position for years in that it wants Cyprus to be a fully independent country without international third-party guarantors, alongside wanting all foreign troops removed from the island.”

For additional excerpts of remarks, please visit www.aheworld.org.

AHI ORGANIZES FOURTH GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT AT PHILLIES GAME



The Phillie Phanatic visits the VIP Suite to entertain the fans. (photo credit: CosmosPhilly)



The Pan-Macedonian Dance Group dancing around The Phillie Phanatic on the field during the 5th Inning.

AHI organized its Fourth Annual Greek Heritage Night held in cooperation with Major League Baseball’s Philadelphia Phillies, June 20, 2017, at Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, Pa. Approximately 600 persons from the Tri-State Philadelphia area were in attendance to see the Philadelphia Phillies take on the St. Louis Cardinals.

“On behalf of AHI, I sincerely thank the Philadelphia Phillies, especially the unbelievable unwavering efforts of the Phillies’ Director of Publicity, John Brazer, and Director of Group Sales, Vanessa Map-

AHI GENERAL NEWS

son, without whose support the event could not have been a success,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said. “I am also deeply grateful to the Greek American communities of the Tri-State Philadelphia area who came out in droves to support Greek Heritage Night and proudly displayed their Hellenic pride. Finally, the event could not have been a success without the incredible backing of certain individuals and entities that helped to promote it and to sell tickets.”

Ambassador of Greece to the United States Haris Lalacos threw out the ceremonial First Pitch. The popular Phillies mascot, The Phillie Phanatic, sported an Evzone costume. The Phanatic and The Pan-Macedonian Dance Group, under the direction of Ioanna Yiantzos, performed Greek dances upon the Phillies’ field during the 5th Inning. The Pan-Macedonian Dance Group also preformed pre-game at the main entrance gate. Miss Elena Iliadis sang the National Anthem.



Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Haris Lalacos throws out the First Pitch.

“Congratulations to AHI for organizing, for yet another baseball season, a very successful Greek Heritage Evening with the Phillies,” Ambassador Lalacos said. “More than 20,000 spectators in the stadium and many more TV viewers spent three hours with Greek music, dancing and scenery. Kudos for a tremendous outreach effort.”

A promotional video about Greece, made possible by the Press Office of the Embassy of Greece, was played on the ballpark’s Jumbotron. Greek Heritage Night also featured a Greek cuisine stand.

14TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC, SPORTS PANEL DISCUSSION HELD



Sports panel discusses important topics in today’s news.

AHI hosted its Fourteenth Annual Golf Classic at Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Va., Oct. 16, 2017. Fifty-four golfers participat-

ed. Celebrity appearances were made by: Christine Brennan, journalist, *USA Today*, Jim Daopoulos, *ESPN* rules analyst and former NFL official; George Wallace, sports director, *WTOP* Radio; and Tommy Greene, the *Comcast SportsNet* pre- and postgame studio analyst for the Philadelphia Phillies and former MLB pitcher. The Tournament Sponsor was Calamos Investments. Peter Bota served as Tournament Chairman.



14th Annual AHI Golf Classic participants.

The first-place team was comprised of: Chris Christou, James Tomaseski and Allen Lyubinsky. Second-place honors went to: Nick Chimicles, Jerry Couvaras and Tommy Greene. The third-place team included: George Sifakis, Peter Marketos, Michael Wagner, and Leif Ackerman. Mike Wagner earned Closest-to-the-Pin honors and Longest Drive went to James Tomaseski.

AHI President Nick Larigakis said, “We especially appreciate the support of tournament sponsor, Calamos Investments, under the leadership of Chairman and Global CIO John Calamos; and the participation of Christine Brennan, Jim Daopoulos, George Wallace, and Tommy Greene, who took the time from their busy schedules to present an enjoyable panel discussion.”

In addition, Larigakis expressed appreciation to Tournament Chair Peter Bota.

AHI IN THE NEWS

[AHI Legal Counsel Appears on CGTN America to Discuss Greece’s Debt Crisis](#)

Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., AHI legal counsel, and partner in Sfikas & Karambelas LLP, appeared on *CGTN America’s* “Global Business America” program, June 15, 2017, to discuss developments with Greece’s debt crisis with *CGTN’s* Rachele Akuffo.

In the interview, Karambelas explained the strict measures that Greece has taken to secure the release of 8.5 billion euros from their creditors. He stressed the importance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staying in deal. Karambelas added the agreement provided very little clarity on debt relief. The issue will be punted until December 2017 or January 2018 after the German elections, he told Akuffo. He observed that the measures should be balanced against how they increase commerce and that budget surpluses, econometric models and GDPs are not the same as commerce. AHI is reviewing U.S. government programs which may assist Greece to increase commerce, Karambelas also noted.

Watch the interview at www.aheworld.org.

VISITORS TO HELLENIC HOUSE

VISITORS TO HELLENIC HOUSE

AHI Welcomes Cypriot Member of Parliament Neofytou to Hellenic House



AHI President Larigakis with Cypriot MP Neofytou.

Member of the Cypriot House of Representatives, Averof Neofytou, who chairs the House's Economics and Budget Committee, visited Hellenic House to meet with AHI representatives, June 5, 2017.

"We thank Chairman Neofytou for taking time from his itinerary in Washington to meet with us," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "We appreciated the opportunity to discuss policy issues affecting U.S.-Cyprus relations, especially against the backdrop of the visit of Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades to Washington for an important series of events."

In addition to serving as the chairman of the Economics and Budget Committee, Mr. Neofytou serves as: President of the governing Democratic Rally (DISY) party, leader of the Cypriot delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA).

The discussion focused on a wide array of topics, including: AHI's work to keep Cyprus on the agenda of policymakers in Washington, AHI initiatives that serve to strengthen U.S. relations with Cyprus, and regarding the Cyprus settlement talks, the upcoming Conference in Geneva. Also, AHI shared its recently-released letter to the House Foreign Affairs Committee calling for a hearing to reassess relations with Turkey.

In addition to President Larigakis, Konstantinos Polykarpou, Consul at the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, attended the meeting.

AHI Welcomes Public Officials to Hellenic House



Mr. Eftychios Damilakis and Nick Larigakis.



(L-R) Rhode Island Senator Leonidas Raptakis, Georgia Representative Chuck Efstrotation, AHI President Nick Larigakis, Wyoming State Senator Stephan Pappas.

Rhode Island State Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis, Georgia Representative Chuck Efstrotation, and Wyoming State Senator Stephan Pappas, visited Hellenic House to meet with American Hellenic Institute (AHI) President Nick Larigakis, October 24, 2017.

State Senator Raptakis serves as the vice chair on the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs, Committee on Judiciary, representing the 33rd district of Rhode Island. State Representative Efstrotation is an administration floor leader and represents the 104th district of Georgia. State Senator Stephan Pappas represents the 7th district of Wyoming. M.N.A. Gerry Sklavounos is a député who represents the Laurier-Dorion riding in the Quebec Assemble National, attended a luncheon afterwards.

In addition to the meeting with Greek American and Greek Canadian legislators, President Larigakis met with Mr. Eftychios Damilakis, advisor to Member of Hellenic Parliament Vassilis Leventis, October 17, 2017. MP Leventis is the president of the Union of Centrists Party.

NOON FORUM

AHI Examines "The Cyprus Crisis: A Declassified Dossier"



Gregory Graves displays his research to those in attendance.

AHI hosted a Noon Forum on the topic, "The Cyprus Crisis: A Declassified Dossier," featuring Gregory Graves, an AHIF Graduate fellow and Ph.D. candidate at George Washington University, September 26, 2017.

In his presentation, Graves expanded upon the thirty-one volumes

STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

of research he has conducted on the Cyprus crisis during the past year. The dossier includes compilations of day-to-day declassified documents from the U.S. government and other foreign archives. Graves indicated that his research will help historians to develop a comprehensive understanding of the Cyprus crisis by providing a chronological dossier of declassified documents. He refrained from introducing his own biases, choosing instead to provide the facts regarding U.S. policy decisions during the crisis, which will allow others to draw their own, more informed opinions.

STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AHI Applauds Senate Bill's Increased Funding for Greece's IMET Program

AHI applauded an increase in the funding level for Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) program that the Senate Committee on Appropriations approved in its Fiscal Year 2018 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill on September 7, 2017. U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies, successfully advocated for the increase, which would appropriate \$425,000 for Greece's IMET program if enacted. The \$425,000 funding level is \$275,000 above the Trump administration's recommended funding level.

"Greece is a frontline state in the fight against terrorism and is important to United States security interests in the region," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "AHI has advocated for increased military cooperation between longtime NATO allies, Greece and the United States, and this investment in Greece's IMET program will go a long way toward enhancing that cooperation."

Larigakis added, "We sincerely appreciate the advocacy of Senator Van Hollen. The investment in Greece's IMET program that is in the bill would not have been possible without his personal time and investment. We call for the Senate's passage of the bill and its enactment."

In addition, Senator Van Hollen, and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), offered an amendment that prohibits U.S. taxpayer dollars from funding the sale of weapons to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's security detail. The amendment passed via voice vote.

AHI Announces New Hire: Constantine Politis

AHI is pleased to announce the hire of Constantine Politis as the Institute's Legislative Assistant and Special Projects Coordinator.

"We are excited and fortunate to have Constantine join our staff," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "The legislative experience he gained through his internships on Capitol Hill will be a tremendous asset to our mission."

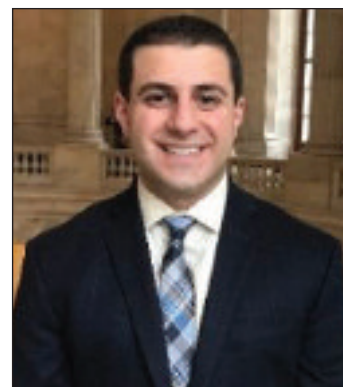
Constantine holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Denison University in Granville, Ohio. He also obtained a minor in History and a concentration in Public Policy.

I am excited to work for AHI," Politis said. "The Institute has played a pivotal role in strengthening the bonds between the United States and Greece and Cyprus. I look forward to contributing to AHI's mission and grow its influential network."

Politis previously served as a policy intern for Congressional Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairman, U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), where he

gained valuable legislative experience. He worked closely with Congressman Bilirakis' staff on a number of issues of importance for the Greek and Cypriot American community.

In addition, Politis was involved with policy throughout his tenure at Denison. Most notably, the Denison student government body appointed him to serve on the Campus Affairs Council where Politis worked directly with the university's vice



Constantine Politis.

president to find innovative ways to improve campus life. He helped to bring both the Denison College Republicans and Denison Orthodox Christian Fellowship to campus, where he served as co-president and vice-president, respectively. He also served as a Political Science Department fellow and writing tutor, and he was a member of the Moot Court team.

Politis received his introduction to European politics through a semester-long program centered in Copenhagen, Denmark. The program included field studies to the European Union and NATO headquarters in Brussels as well as to the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

Politis is a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., where he attended Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church.

Statement on 43rd Anniversary of Invasion of Cyprus

In a July 18 statement, AHI remembered the solemn 43rd anniversary of NATO member Turkey's brutal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus, a member of the European Union. An excerpt is below:

For 43 years, the Republic of Cyprus, and its people, have endured an illegal occupation by 40,000 Turkish troops, and massive violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by Turkey. AHI calls for the immediate removal of all Turkish troops that occupy the Republic of Cyprus. Also, during the occupation, Turkey continues to violate U.S. law on an ongoing basis by transferring American-made weapons from mainland Turkey to Turkish-occupied Cyprus. Congress must put a stop to this illegal transfer of weapons or otherwise it is complicit in breaking its own laws. Additionally, Turkey's illegal occupation of Cyprus has had an impact upon The Committee on Missing Persons's ability to access certain Turkish military installations on Cyprus to excavate the remains of Cypriots missing since the tragic events that occurred on the island for proper identification. Approximately 926 Greek Cypriots, including four American citizens of Cypriot heritage, remain missing and a large majority of these cases remain unresolved.

Furthermore, Turkey's threats and inflammatory rhetoric toward Cyprus are unacceptable. In addition to the Turkish troops illegally occupying the Republic of Cyprus, Turkish threats against Cyprus have been clearly evident...

To read the statement in its entirety, please visit www.aheworld.org.

LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

AHI's Newest Publication: *The Rule of Law Lobby: Grassroots Mobilization and the U.S. Arms Embargo on Turkey—1974-1978*



AHI is pleased to announce its newest publication, “The Rule of Law Lobby: Grassroots Mobilization and the U.S. Arms Embargo on Turkey - 1974-1978,” by Van Coufoudakis, Ph. D. and Serge Hadji, Esq. The volume focuses on the grassroots mobilization in the Greek American community following Turkey’s illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus on July 20, 1974 through the lifting of the U.S. Arms Embargo in 1978.

The mobilization events highlighted in the annotated Chronology recount how Greek Americans reacted to the invasion of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974. In addition to protesting vociferously and providing humanitarian assistance, the Greek American community gradually coalesced into a lobby under the newly unfurled banner of the “Rule of Law.” This led to the remarkable accomplishment of cutting off military aid to Turkey under an arms embargo imposed by the U.S. Congress.

The annotated Chronology summarizes the activities of the “Rule of Law” lobby from its genesis in 1974 following the Turkish invasion to the lifting of the arms embargo on Turkey late in 1978. The chronicle is based primarily on political reporting—all from public sources—on the ongoing developments, and contemporaneous illustrations. A brief annotated Bibliography supplements the historical record.

Learn more about the authors and how to purchase the book by visiting, <http://aheworld.org/bookstore.html>.

LETTERS TO OFFICIALS

AHI Writes to President Trump Ahead of Meeting with Prime Minister Tsipras

AHI sent a letter to President Donald J. Trump ahead of his meeting with Prime Minister of Greece Alexis Tsipras at the White House, October 16, 2017.

In the October 12, 2017 letter, AHI President Nick Larigakis shared AHI’s perspective on the U.S.-Greece relationship, contending the U.S. should have a “special relationship” with Greece based upon Greece’s strategic location in southeastern Europe where the U.S. has important political, economic and military interests. Larigakis cited examples of how Greece advances U.S. security interests in the region, including its participation in counterterrorism exercises with the United States. Moreover, through Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, Crete, Greece has been critical to the delivery of U.S. troops, cargo, and supplies, providing access and extending the U.S. and NATO’s reach into the Middle East and North Africa.

President Larigakis stated that defense cooperation between the United States and Greece is strong. However, he added there is room for enhancement, including bolstering investment in Greece’s International Military Education and Training (IMET) program and working

toward achieving the capital improvements necessary to the facilities at NSA Souda Bay.

In addition, AHI’s letter addressed Greece’s economy and identified what the U.S. can do to continue to help with its recovery.

AHI FOUNDATION NEWS

NINTH ANNUAL AHIF FOREIGN POLICY TRIP TO GREECE, CYPRUS A SUCCESS



White House Press Briefing Room.



Nicos Christodoulides, Cypriot Government Spokesman briefs students at the Presidential Palace.



Energy briefing with Ambassador George Zodiatis, Dr. Stelios Nikolaides, and Evi Neophytou.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus completed its ninth year as ten students from across the United States participated in the two-week program held June 21 to July 7, 2017.

AHI FOUNDATION NEWS



A desecrated Orthodox Church in the Turkish occupied area.



President Pavlopoulos entertains questions from the students prior to their official photo.



UNFICYP Major Robert Schutz at the Old Nicosia Airport.



Lieutenant Commander Dimitris Bogiatzis, Commander of the H.S. Psaras frigate.



Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras with the students at the Megaro Maximou.

The student participants were: Elizabeth Tzimopoulos Conway, who graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University in 2017 with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science; Christopher Coombs, who graduated from the University of Utah as a double major in History and Political Science and is currently attending Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts to pursue a Masters in Divinity; Giana Damianos, a Dean's List student at Indiana University who is majoring in Economics and Political Science and minoring in Psychology; Theofilos Koulianos, a graduate student attending Duke University's Fuqua School of Business who will be studying in Shanghai beginning in January 2018; Theodore Pedas, a sophomore at Yale University who is a prospective Global Affairs major with a concentration in International Security;

Stavros Piperis, who is a junior at Boston College studying Political Science and is a member of the department's Honors Program; Nico Bamberger Priskos, a 2017 graduate from the University of Utah where he double majored in Entrepreneurship and Political Science, along with a minor in International Studies; Paraskevie Ramfos, a sophomore and honors student at the University of Alabama, majoring in International Studies and minoring in French and Public Policy Studies; Stephanie Tanzi, an honors student at the College of Charleston, who is an Arts Management major and who participates at the school's Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community program; and Luke Tassopoulos, who is a fourth-year student at the University of Virginia, currently pursuing a B.A. in History as well as a Religious Studies minor.

During the two-week 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 foreign 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 Turkish-occupied area. In Greece, the students also took a day-trip to visit Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay, Crete, where they toured the NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI) and received a briefing.

"For the ninth consecutive year, the trip has provided a wonderful opportunity to lead an exceptional group of students to Cyprus and



U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt welcomes students to his residence for a briefing on U.S. interests and initiatives in Greece.

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.”

“Foreign policy came to life as we explored pressing issues facing the Republic of Cyprus and Greece,” Participant Elizabeth Tzimopoulos Conway said. “It is one thing to read about foreign policy in a textbook or newspaper, yet another thing entirely to watch it unfold before your eyes. In Cyprus, we witnessed firsthand the consequences of the Turkish invasion of 1974—desecrated Greek Orthodox Churches, pillaged villages, and the abandoned ghost city of Famagusta. Despite the invasion and its devastating effects, however, we witnessed a nation that wishes to be known for more than just the Turkish conflict.”

Added Participant Theodore Pedas, “The trip provided a unique degree of access in our meetings and tours. People who live incredibly busy lives, in immensely specialized fields, allowed us firsthand glimpses into their worlds. This intimacy provided striking moments, such as: seeing a live Turkish violation of Greek airspace when we were at the Ministry of Defense in Athens, talking to a pilot at Souda Bay who had just the day before engaged in a dogfight, or seeing the bones of the missing people from the invasion in a lab in Cyprus. These ‘in-the-moment’ experiences provide a certain power that one cannot get from an article or briefing.”

For a full review of the trip’s itinerary, please visit www.aheworld.org.

AHIF HOSTS 16TH ANNUAL FUTURE OF HELLENISM IN AMERICA CONFERENCE

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF) hosted its Sixteenth 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 Wilmington, Del., at the DoubleTree Hotel, Nov. 17-18, 2017.

Featuring nearly 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 busi-



Nick Larigakis and Nick Chimicles present John Vasiliou with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in America.

ness, Greek education, and perspectives from young Greek Americans. Speakers also identified how Hellenism could be promoted in the future through these various channels.

AHIF held the most successful conference dinner to date, with more than 150 persons in attendance, November 17. AHI President Nick Larigakis officially opened the conference and welcome remarks followed from Conference Chairman Mr. Nick Chimicles, Esq. and greetings from Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, who represents Delaware at large; George Rassias, Partner at Schmidt, Kirifides & Rassias served as Master of Ceremonies. Ambassador Haris Lalacos, Greek Ambassador to the United States delivered the Keynote Address, “The Role of Greece in Promoting Hellenism Abroad.” The Invocation and Benediction were given by Rev. Presbyter Christos Christofidis of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Wilmington.



Dimitri Dandolos, President of the Board of Directors, accepts the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award in recognition of its contribution to public education and the advancement of Hellenic paideia in America on behalf of the Odyssey Charter School of Wilmington from Nick Larigakis and Nick Chimicles.

Georgia Halakos and John Vasiliou received AHI’s Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in America. The Odyssey Charter School of Wilmington received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award in recognition of its contribution to public education and the advancement of Hellenic paideia in America.

The conference was organized into four panels: Current Perspective on Current Challenges, Engagement in Our Community & How We Compare, The Changing Nature of the Greek American Community, and Looking to the Next Generation of Greek Americans. U.S. Sen.

AHI FOUNDATION NEWS



Nick Larigakis, President of AHI and Nick Chimicles, Conference Chairman present Georgia Halakos with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award for the Promotion of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in America.



Elizabeth Tzimopoloulos Conway and Elias Gerasoulis.



(L-R) Dimitri Halakos, Dr. George Tsetsekos, Nick Larigakis, Senator Chris Coons, Ambassador Haris Lalacos, Nick Chimicles.

Chris Coons (D-DE), a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, addressed the audience. He discussed how he led a delegation to Crete to enhance his knowledge of NSA Souda Bay. He also talked about the need to restart efforts to find a Cyprus solution, and he cited Turkish President Erdogan's belligerence. The conference's opening keynote speaker, Professor Dan Georgakas, director of Greek American Studies, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY, presented on the theme, "The Now and Future of Greek America" Dr. Van Coufoudakis, former dean, professor emeritus, Indiana University-Purdue University College of Arts and Science, spoke on the theme "Keeping Hellenism Alive in 21st Century America: Challenges, Opportunities, and Threats" as the conference's luncheon keynote speaker.

AHIF hosted the conference in cooperation with AHEPA Chapter 95, Wilmington; AHI-Delaware Chapter, Hellenic News of America, Hellenic University Club of Wilmington, and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church community of Wilmington.

"We sincerely appreciate the support from our many generous sponsors," AHI President Nick Larigakis said. "Thanks to their support, the Conference on Hellenism remains a success on an annual basis."

Additional Conference Sponsors included: Gus Andy, James and Theodore Pedas, Constantine Galanis. Heritage Sponsors: Tsimas Management and the Tsionas Family. Hellenic Hosts: Nick Chimicles, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Wilmington, DE, James Lagos, Pat's Pizza, Seasons Pizza, Winner Ford (Tom & Georgia

Hatzis). Supporters included: Anagnostis Matulas, Dr. George Moutsatsos, Astra Foods, PK's Food, Opa Opa and George Rassias.

For more in-depth coverage of each of the conference's panel discussions, please visit www.aheworld.org.

LIBRARY REDEDICATION CEREMONY

Continued from page 1



(L-R): President Larigakis, Archbishop Demetrios, and Ambassador Lalacos cut the ceremonial ribbon.

nence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, presided over the ceremony.

"We sincerely thank His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, who travelled from New York to preside over the ceremonies. His Eminence's blessing, wisdom, and contribution to the Orthodox portion of the library were appreciated greatly," AHI President Nick Larigakis said.

Archbishop Demetrios offered remarks following the ceremony. His Eminence spoke about the significance of the word, "Institute," and its Greek meaning, "Thesmos," which is "an institution that has a character of value that is beyond normal things."

In addition, His Eminence spoke about the library's significance and the books His Eminence donated to it: "This place could be a very good place for archival research. I am talking from experience from the Archdiocese. During my eighteen years, there have been at least five or six doctoral dissertations written based on the archival material of the Archdiocese. Here you have this excellent material on Cyprus and so many other issues related to the American-Greek relationship.

FEATURE ARTICLES

AHI PRESENTATION IN ATHENS

Continued from page 1

Vitsas, all spoke on the topic, “Greece as Strategic Partner in the Eastern Mediterranean.” More than 200 persons attended.

AHI President Nick Larigakis opened the panel discussion with welcome remarks that focused on AHI initiatives that serve to strengthen the United States-Greece relationship.

“AHI is committed to promoting Greece’s role as a reliable source of stability and peace in the region,” Larigakis said. “AHI programs have promoted the strategic relationship between the United States and Greece by virtue of hosting Greece’s military leaders for presentations to important representatives of the defense sector in Washington, for example.”

He added, “Greece is also important ally because of its shared strategic interests and values with the United States as evidenced by the access Greece provides to NSA Souda Bay and by Greece’s commitment to energy security, working with Israel, Cyprus, and Egypt in this regard.”

Ambassador Pyatt spoke in greater detail regarding the U.S.-Greece strategic partnership during his keynote address.

“I approach today’s topic, Greece as a Strategic Partner in the Eastern Mediterranean, from a very optimistic point of view,” Ambassador Pyatt said in his remarks. “We are certainly at a high point in terms of Greece-U.S. relations, as we heard from President Trump in October that the United States considers Greece to be a pillar of stability in this volatile region, a trusted partner and ally, and a potential energy hub for Europe.”

The ambassador spoke about the security relationship between the United States and Greece, which includes military cooperation; Greece’s contributions to energy security in the region, the people-to-people relationship that is important facet to the U.S.-Greece strategic partnership, and the United States’ support for Greece’s economic recovery.

About AHI, Ambassador Pyatt said: “AHI is one of the shining examples I often use of how Greece’s large American diaspora community can most constructively work with Greece and help us strengthen our bilateral relationship. I would count some of the programs that Nick and Tom talked about as important examples: AHI’s indispensable support for Prime Minister Tsipras’ recent visit to Washington, the tremendous programs that Nick and the team put together for Admiral Apostolakis, General Stefanis, Admiral Tsounis, all of our key partners...But these are examples of AHI’s truly unique role as a facilitator of the strategic relationship between the United States and Greece.”

Panel Presentation



View of attendees.



The guests in attendance at the AHI Foundation E. John & Cleo Rumpakis Library ceremony.



Nick Larigakis shows His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America an example of the thirty one volume set of declassified documents on the Cyprus invasion of 1974, compiled by Gregory Graves.

Mr. Rossides has been a symbol of this type of things being himself a history expert. On this occasion we would like to offer a contribution to this institution.”

“We are deeply grateful to E. John and Cleo Rumpakis for their very generous gift to the AHI Foundation Library which has been rededicated in their honor,” Larigakis said. We thank them for their contribution to the pursuit of the education of young adults and scholars, alike, in the awareness and promotion of Hellenism. With the reopening of the library, the AHI Foundation will be able to provide a resource to the community to learn about Hellenism through our significant ancestral history.

During the library’s restoration process, President Larigakis stated AHI was able to “properly catalog, restore and present roughly 2,500 books, 1,600 journals and unclassified government publications, and 400 historical documents and special collections in the Institute’s possession, thereby creating a remarkable library that will serve the community as one of the most unique collections on Greece, Cyprus and the southeast Mediterranean.”

This task was performed with the extensive help of Gregory Graves, an AHI Foundation Graduate fellow, and Ph.D. candidate at George Washington University, who has been dedicated to studying the 1974 Cyprus invasion.

FEATURE ARTICLES



Panel from left to right: Deputy Minister Dimitris Vitsas, George S. Koumoutsakos, General Fragoulis Fragos, George Economou, and Athanasios Ellis, Moderator.

The panel presentation that followed Ambassador Pyatt's keynote address featured: Hellenic Deputy Minister of National Defense Dimitris Vitsas, General Fragoulis Fragos, former chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff and former Minister of Defense; George S. Koumoutsakos, shadow minister of Foreign Affairs, New Democracy party and member of Parliament; and George Economou, AHI-Athens president. Tom Ellis, senior international correspondent and columnist, *Kathimerini*, moderated the panel discussion.

Economou presented his remarks first, expounding on the thesis that Greece and Cyprus, together, are "par excellence strategic allies" of the West in the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

In his presentation, Deputy Minister Vitsas explored how the United States-Greece relationship can yield further fruitful cooperation: "Our goal is to serve our common objectives through initiatives, such as the upgrading of the Souda base within a long-term cooperation project, the exploitation of our energy resources, and the enhancement of the Alexandroupoli's port as the energy and commercial gate between two continents. Last, but not least, it is important to encourage new productive investments and cooperation between Greek and American businesses."

General Fragos described the rise of Greece's geostrategic value as "rapid" despite its socio-economic crisis. He addressed Greece's geostrategic importance through the prism of energy production, even demonstrating how energy resources found around Greece and Cyprus historically, dating back to the Trojan War, have been vital. The former defense minister also spoke about the significance of NSA Souda Bay to the United States' security interests in the region. Finally, Fragos provided a presentation that detailed where instability in the Middle East resides and how Greece, in cooperation with Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Cyprus, can ensure stability.

In his presentation, Koumoutsakos described Greece as being "... at the crossroads of three continents..." and Greece "...is a pivotal state with great strategic potential." He also took the opportunity to present the New Democracy party's views about the future path of Greece's foreign policy. In particular, Koumoutsakos stated another priority will be given to developing Greece's four-way strategic partnership with Cyprus, Egypt and Israel that will allow for stability in the eastern Mediterranean.

AHI President Meets with Government Officials



Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff hosts Nick Larigakis for a meeting at the Ministry of Defense.

In Athens, President Nick Larigakis met with several government and military officials, including: Minister of Tourism Elena Kountoura, Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff; Lieutenant General Christos Christodoulou, chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff; Director of the Prime Minister's Diplomatic Cabinet Evangelos Kalpadakis; and Ambassador Kathrine Boura, director, A7 Directorate for North America at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, President Larigakis met with several private sectors leaders to discuss Greece's economy and business environment.

To VIMA Interviews Larigakis



Lieutenant General Christos Christodoulou, Chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff hosts Nick Larigakis for a meeting at the Ministry of Defense.

During his visit, one of Greece's most widely-read newspapers, *To VIMA*, interviewed President Larigakis. The exclusive interview appeared in the newspaper's Sunday edition, which is widely circulated. Larigakis reviews AHI's mission, goals and initiatives. He also discusses AHI's policy priorities and how the Institute is addressing those priorities in the current political environment. Larigakis also provides his thoughts on Greece's role in an instable region.

One AHI initiative Larigakis highlighted to address sparking interest and involvement by the Greek American community in policy mat-

FEATURE ARTICLES

ters was the AHI Foundation's College Student Foreign Policy Trip to Greece and Cyprus program.

"We are perhaps losing touch with the [foreign policy] issues that we are discussing here because the younger generations do not have firsthand experience about them, and therefore, do not realize their importance. With our AHI Foundation program, we believe we are making a difference by bringing students into contact with government officials from the United States, as well as Cyprus and Greece."

When asked about AHI's message to key audiences in Washington, and elsewhere, Larigakis said, "We educate government officials, think tank representatives, and journalists, about how Greece and

Cyprus contribute to stability and peace in the region, which contrasts with Turkey. Greece is forming alliances with Israel and Cyprus, and remains a stable ally of the United States, with common values, while Turkey is creating alliances with Russia and Iran."

Larigakis added, "For example, we discuss how important NSA Souda Bay, Crete, is to American interests in the region. We have to continue to raise awareness about the Cyprus problem and the ongoing occupation by 43,000 Turkish soldiers on the island. We send policy letters to the President and his cabinet when high-level Greek, Cypriot, or Turkish government officials visit Washington, and we do the same whenever high-level U.S. administration officials visit those three countries."

LARIGAKIS CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH AHI

Continued from page 1



AHI President Nick Larigakis and AHI Founder Eugene Rossides.



Eugene Rossides, Nick Karambelas, Kosta Alexakis, Nick Larigakis.



Nick Larigakis, Panayiota Larigakis, Constantine Larigakis.

bratory event hosted by the AHI Board of Directors was held at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, Va., October 27, 2017.

Among the dignitaries who offered congratulatory remarks and testimonials to Larigakis's three decades of work were: His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America; Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Haris Lalacos, Andreas Nikolaidis, deputy chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Washington; AHI Founder Eugene Rossides, and AHEPA Executive Director Basil N. Mossaidis.

"Tonight, we celebrate 30 years of a man's leadership and accomplishments," AHI Board Member and Master of Ceremonies James

Marketos said. "To be sure, 30 years at any one place these days is no mean achievement just by itself. But we're not here just to celebrate his longevity at AHI."

Marketos continued, "Nick is the public face of AHI. He knows the issues thoroughly. He's a forceful advocate. He's built alliances across the Greek-American spectrum and beyond it."

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, conveyed congratulatory greetings on behalf of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

"All these things we have been doing by drafting resolutions, drafting critical positions...and AHI has been doing that when there was a need for Greece... As the Archdiocese of America, and as the Ecumenical Patriarchy, we declare our deep gratitude for what AHI has been doing for 30 years, its beyond words what has been done," Archbishop Demetrios said.

Moreover, Ambassador Lalacos and Deputy Chief of Mission Nikolaides each shared congratulatory greetings from the heads of their respective governments, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades, respectively.

"And a very good example of this [strength of Greece's Omogenia] is the American Hellenic institute. We heard about the limited resources and certainly the very limited clerical human resources the institute has, however it is very well known to all of you. What some of you may not know is the extent of the impact and the recognition

FEATURE ARTICLES

that the American Hellenic institute enjoys in Greece,” Ambassador Lalacos said.

Nikolaides said, “But at difficult times, the fact that we had AHI and its unwavering support, it meant a lot for us [the people of Cyprus].”

AHI Founder Rossides spoke to Larigakis’s dedication to AHI’s mission and the cause: “Talking about a guy that is there all the time, day in and day out, thinking about our issues and working every way he can to promote them. You don’t find that often. He is a man with integrity and movement up on the Hill and movement in the Congress, movement in the State Department and at the White House; he has become a respected member of the Washington policy establishment and that is not easy to do but he’s done it. He’s built the organization and the building and the people there to some degree we didn’t have before. I want to say, ‘Thank you, Nick,’ and ‘God bless you.’”

Furthermore, in his remarks, AHEPA Executive Director Mossaidis extended congratulatory greetings from Supreme President Carl Hollister. Mossaidis stated there is no one more “tenacious” on the issues than Larigakis. “...the continuity you have provided the AHI for the last 30 years has been spot on when it comes to the message so for that I applaud you and all your hard work you have done,” Mossaidis said.

Colleagues’ Accolades

In addition, Marketos read several congratulatory messages and greetings, including from: Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis, chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff; U.S. Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis’s Congressional Record entry to mark the anniversary; U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, Rhode Island State Senator Lou Raptakis, who provided a Rhode Island Senate Citation that congratulated Larigakis; B’nai B’rith International CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin, R. Barbara Gitenstein, Ph.D., president, The College of New Jersey, which is Larigakis’s alma mater; and The Philadelphia Phillies.

Remarks from the Audience

The speaking program featured an “open mic” opportunity for colleagues, family, and friends to offer off-the-cuff congratulatory remarks. Among those who did were: Larry Michael, “Voice of the Redskins;” AHI Board Treasurer and Volunteer Legal Counsel Nickolas G. Karambelas, Esq., Hellenic News of America Publisher and Hermes Expo Founder Paul Kotrotsios, who presented a montage of

photographs that captured Larigakis’s 30 years at AHI; Colonel Panagiotis Kavidopoulos, defense attaché, Embassy of Greece in Washington; Dean Sirigos, American Community Schools; Professor Polyvia Parara, Department of Classics, University of Maryland; and AHI-Athens Member George Mermelas. Larigakis’s brother, Constantine; and his daughter, Panayiota, also provided emotional, heartfelt remarks.



Paul Kotrotsios presents Nick Larigakis with a gift to remember thirty years.



Nick Larigakis presents a memento to thank His Eminence.

© 2018 AHI Report. All Rights Reserved.
Published by the American Hellenic Institute, Inc.

American Hellenic Institute

Membership Information: 1-800-424-9607
Contributing Editors: Nick Larigakis
Peter Milios

1220 16th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-785-8430 • 800-424-9607
Fax: 202-785-5178 • E-mail: info@ahiworld.serverbox.net
Visit us on the Web at <http://www.ahiworld.serverbox.net>