

## Thousands Fill the Streets to Celebrate Greek Independence at NYC Parade



### Poor Weather and Lower Turnout Don't Dampen Enthusiasm

By Christopher Tripoulas  
Special to The National Herald

**NEW YORK.** The overcast skies and gloomy weather reports forecasting rain were not enough to dampen the spirits of the tens of thousands of Greek Americans who came out to Fifth Avenue to watch or march in the annual Greek Independence Day Parade. Although the threat of bad weather did affect parade turnout, the noticeably smaller crowd made up for its lack of numbers with exuberance and enthusiasm.

People of all ages waved Greek flags and patriotism ran high, as shouts and cries on behalf of Macedonia's Greek identity and against the recent provocations made by Greece's northern neighbor FYROM dominated the Parade. Greece's recent veto of FYROM's membership bid at last week's NATO Summit in Bucharest because a mutually acceptable resolution on the latter's name was not yet reached was reiterated throughout the Parade by emcees, speakers, marchers and spectators.

This year's Grand Marshals were, Greek Parliament's President Dimitris Sioufas, Greek-American business man Dean Metropoulos and the National Philoptochos' president Georgia Skeadas.

New York City Mayor Bloomberg, Archbishop Demetrios of America, along with many local, state and federal officials were joined at the head of the parade by a large Greek Parliamentary delegation and this year's parade committee chairman and New York mayoral candidate, John Catsimatidis. The Governments of Greece and Cyprus were represented by Deputy Minister of Employment, Sophia Kalantzakou and Foreign Minister Markos Kyprianou respectively.

Fox 5's Rosanna Scotto and Ernie Anastos and Weather Authority Nick Gregory hosted the event, which was broadcast on My9.

Another highlight was a performance by former "American Idol" contestant Constantine Maroulis.

The Greek American youth had a strong showing at the Parade, with many second and third generation Greek Americans marching and expressing their pride for their ethnic identity.

Many Greek Americans blamed the weather reports for keeping would be spectators home. Fortunately, those in attendance did not have to get their umbrellas out, since the impending storm narrowly missed the New York City area. Others were critical of the Federations of the Hellenic Societies of Greater New York, citing problems with the Parade's organization. Two major complaints were that there were not enough flags along the parade route running down Fifth Avenue - from 59th Street to 82nd Street - and the loudspeakers that were set up covered only half this distance.

Tasos Manassis, a past President of the FHSGNY and former Parade Chairman, chafed up the smaller crowd to the bad weather. "At certain points, there were also very big gaps between the different organizations that were marching," he said. FHSGNY President Nick Diamantidis said that the Parade could have finished earlier, and blamed

Continued on page 5

## Ike Gulas: Convention In Athens Is Overdue

By Mark Frangos  
Special to The National Herald

**NEW YORK** - AHEPA Supreme President Ike Gulas, in New York for the Greek Independence Day Parade and all the events leading up to it, took time out of his hectic schedule to visit The National Herald's offices in Long Island City along with Executive Director Basil Mossaidis.

Mr. Gulas, who was elected as Supreme President last July at AHEPA's convention in Denver, spoke to the Herald about a myriad of topics from his upbringing to the Macedonia issue to the next AHEPA convention in Athens to membership drives.

Mr. Gulas marched during the Greek Parade, first at the opening of the parade with the dignitaries and then doubling back to be with the Ahepans who were marching.

"I was very impressed with the parade," said Mr. Gulas, who was interviewed by UPN 9, the local TV network covering the parade. "I was overwhelmed with the size of it. It was the first parade I attended as Supreme President. It was well worth the wait. I was amazed at the number of participants. The fact that AHEPA was well represented with the float that we had was beautiful and the members that marched together was great. I hope that we can have more integral part in the parade in the future. I think it's important that the Order of AHEPA is involved in it. We're the largest organization. With the Daughters of Penelope, we have over 30,000-40,000 members and

Continued on page 6



### Remembering 1821

**ABOVE:** The Evzones march down Fifth Avenue during the annual Greek Independence Day Parade on Sunday, April 6, 2008, in New York City. This year's parade marked the 177th anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire. **LEFT:** Parade Grand Marshal, Greek Parliament President Dimitris Sioufas (center) walks at the front of the parade with Archbishop Demetrios of America (right). This year's other Grand Marshals were Greek American businessman Dean Metropoulos and National Philoptochos president Georgia Skeadas. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, mayoral candidate John Catsimatidis and a large Greek Parliamentary delegation also marched in the parade.

## Greece Ready to Resume Negotiations with FYROM

By Evan C. Lambrou  
Special to The National Herald

**NEW YORK** - Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, addressing a conference organized by the Economist magazine in Athens this past Tuesday evening, April 8, called on neighboring Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to cooperate with Greece in finding a solution to the ongoing name dispute.

The Greek Premier had previously extended a public invitation to FYROM's political leadership to continue negotiations as soon as possible, within the framework of the United Nations.

Last Friday, April 4, one day after Greece vetoed FYROM's bid to join NATO, Mr. Karamanlis stressed during a post-NATO Summit press conference in Bucharest, that Greece's goal was that its smaller,

land-locked neighbor to the north should have a "clear composite name for all uses," adding that Athens was prepared to participate in a new round of U.N. talks in order to find a name which was acceptable to both sides.

He also reiterated that Greece would not consent to the small Balkan country's NATO entry as long as FYROM insists on calling itself Macedonia - a historically Greek name and territory - and while the name dispute remains unresolved.

Mr. Karamanlis also said relations with the United States, which had been pushing for FYROM's admission to the Alliance, had not been strained as a result of Athens' hardline stance.

"We have a relationship with the United States as allies, but that does not mean we have identical

views. On this specific issue, it is clear that the respective views are different. We went along our own views, and issued a veto. I do not see shadows cast over bilateral relations with America," he said.

**INDISPENSABLE PARTNER**  
Officially, at least, the State Department apparently feels the same way, and recognizes Greece's value as an "indispensable partner."

During the Economist conference this past Tuesday, U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel Speckhard said, "The Balkans have not been a major (Presidential) campaign issue, and I do not expect them to become one as we get closer to the election. But I can tell you that our interests in the Balkans are clear. The United States wants Greece and its neighbor to the north to have strong relations; we want Kosovo to establish itself as a sta-

ble, multi-ethnic, democratic society; we want Serbia to move forward to realize its goals as a member of Europe and its institutions... and, in all these areas, Greece is still our ally - our indispensable partner - and we look forward to continuing our strong cooperation with Greece."

But Mr. Speckhard also said U.S. policy on the Balkans is not going to change. "I expect we will see little change in U.S. policy for this region and our desire to support Europe in taking the lead in fostering stability and integration," he said.

For the time being, however, FYROM is caught between a rock and a hard place, and Greece is apparently turning up the pressure.

According to a recent report in the Athens daily newspaper,

Continued on page 9

## Spectators Brave Chilly Weather at Boston Parade

By Theodore Kalmoukos  
Special to The National Herald

**BOSTON** - The Greek American community of New England held its 14th annual Greek Independence Day parade in Boston on Sunday, April 6. The heavy clouds in the sky along with the 38 degree temperature, a periodic light drizzle and other organizational factors seem to be responsible for the small participation in this year's event. About 68 units representing local Greek Orthodox parishes and associations took part in the parade along with colorful floats and the

Greek American unit of evzones. The highlight of this year's parade were the pupils of the Greek schools dressed in their colorful traditional costumes and holding the Greek and the American flags as a testimony of their Greek American identity and pride. The parade's theme was the issue of the name of Macedonia which the FYROM is trying to steal from Greece. The situation has become so serious, that just last week, Greece's government was forced to veto FYROM's annexation into NATO, much to the chagrin of the U.S.

Grand Marshal in the parade was the Justice Minister of Greece Sotiris Hatziyakis and Metropolitan Methodios of Boston and Boston's Mayor Thomas Menino. Honorary Grand Marshal was Thessalonica's prefecture Panagiotis Psomiadis along with a five member delegation of the Hellenic Parliament comprised by George Orphanos, George Kalaitzis, Panagiotis

Continued on page 5



### Visiting the School of the Future

Greek Education Minister Evripidis Stylianidis visit the High School of the Future in Philadelphia, established in cooperation with Microsoft, on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, during his week-long visit to the U.S.

## Cyprus' New Crossing Meets Trouble

By Menelaos Hadjicostis

**NICOSIA (AP)** - Greek and Turkish Cypriot authorities reopened the divided capital's Ledra Street on Thursday, April 3, but were forced to close it for nearly two hours following a dispute over how to police the street, long considered a symbol of the island's partitioning.

The opening of the street, located in a central Nicosia shopping district, was meant to serve as a catalyst for peace negotiations between Greek Cypriot President Dimitris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat.

But the festive atmosphere quickly soured after the crossing was temporarily closed.

Stefanos Stefanou, a spokesman for the internationally recognized Greek Cypriot government, said Turkish Cypriot police illegally patrolled part of the street by entering

Continued on page 9





Shown l. to r. are Philip Christopher, Georgia Skeadas, John Catsimatides, Cypriot FM Markos Kyprianou, Demetrios Demetriou, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Greek Parliament President Demetrios Sioufas, Demetrios Kalamaras, C. Dean Metropoulos and Nick Diamantidis.

## New York Independence Day Parade Grand Marshals Honored with Liberty Awards at Annual Ceremony

By Demetris Tsakas  
Special to The National Herald

**NEW YORK** – The Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York held its Greek Independence Day gala last Saturday night, on the eve of the Greek Parade in New York, at the Hilton Hotel in Manhattan. The FHSGNY also conducted its annual awards ceremony at the gala, bestowing its Liberty Awards on Demetris Sioufas, President of the Greek Parliament, C. Dean Metropoulos, business executive, and Georgia Skeadas, President of the National Philoptochos Society, a women's benevolent organization operating under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Greek Parliament Members from the Special Permanent Committee of Greeks Abroad were also in attendance, including Nikolaos Tsiartsonis, John Tragakis, Parthena Foutoukidou, Alexandros Demetropoulos, Vasso Papandreou, Christos Papoutsis, Theodora Tsagkri, Ioannis Diamantides, Demos Koumbouris and Spyridon-Adonis Georgiades. Other dignitaries and officials on hand included Archbishop Demetrios of America, new Cypriot Foreign Minister Markos Kyprianou, Greek Deputy Minister of Employment and Social Protection Sophia Kalantzakos, U.S. Congresswomen and founding member of the Greek Caucus Carolyn Maloney, AHEPA Supreme President Ike Gulas, New York State Assemblyman Mike Gianaris, and many representatives from Greek American organizations.

During his acceptance speech,



A scene from last Saturday's Greek Independence gala held by the FHSGNY. Shown to the right are John Catsimatides, Demetris Sioufas, Demetrios Demetriou, Archbishop Demetrios and Nick Diamantidis.

Greek Parliament President Demetris Sioufas conveyed his gratitude for the honor he was receiving and noted that "this honor belongs to all the members of the Greek Parliament. The Greek American Community is our nation's greatest foreign policy asset, and it has proven this over the recent weeks. I hope you continue this noble cause, applying yourselves for the good of Orthodoxy, Hellenism, Greece and Cyprus," he said.

Mr. Sioufas also told the audience

that "we are proud of you, but today, you can also be proud of Greece. For the past 28 years our nation has been a member of the European Union and is ranked among the world's 25 best national economies."

Greek Deputy Minister of Employment Sophia Kalantzakos attended the event as the official representative of the Greek Government, and conveyed the greetings of Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis to the audience. She also spoke to the audience about the timeless messages of the Greek Revolution of 1821, which remain current even to this day, and noted that "we must make these messages a part of our life and learn from them. Our people want to keep up their struggle and will continue to do so."

She also spoke about her family's longstanding ties to the Greek American Community and said that one of her most cherished photos is of her mother, who was 13 years old at the time, marching down Fifth Avenue in the Greek Parade dressed in a traditional Amalia costume. Ms. Kalantzakos hailed the efforts of Greek Americans to advance themselves in American society and said "you have become Greece's best ambassadors in the United States, which is a friend and ally to Greece."

Cyprus' FM Markos Kyprianou, who was representing newly elected Cypriot President Demetris Christofias and the Cypriot Government, said that he felt especially proud because his family traces their origin to both Cyprus and Macedonia. "I consider it both a great honor and responsibility to come from two Greek areas that are still confronted with the danger that exists from those forces hostile to Hellenism," he said.

Foreign Minister Kyprianou went on to briefly recap the basic positions of Greek Cypriots and their

hopes for an end to Turkish occupation of their island. He also expressed his appreciation for the Greek American Community's support of a just resolution to the Cyprus issue.

Greek American business executive C. Dean Metropoulos also received a Liberty Award and talked about the pride he feels for his Greek heritage and the accomplishments of the Greek American Community. He also focused on the leading role Greek Americans are playing in all aspects of American society. "Greek Americans are this country's finest citizens," he said.

National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas spoke about her organization's philanthropic work, and the record-setting contributions they have offered to benefit worthwhile causes in the Greek American Community. Ms. Skeadas said that in the past eight years, the National Philoptochos, which has a membership base of 27,000, has contributed eight million dollars in support of the Church and Greek American Community.

Philip Christopher, President of the International Coordinating Committee for Justice in Cyprus, served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. Other speakers included Archbishop Demetrios, FHSGNY President Nick Diamantidis, and Parade Committee Chairman John Catsimatides. The evening's entertainment was provided by the Pan-Cyprian Association of America choir, led by Constantine Giannoudis.

Mr. Catsimatides expressed special thanks to Alma Bank, Atlantic Bank, Loula Alafogiannis, Philip Christopher, Irene Ladas, Mark Marinakis, Nikos Moyiaris, Katerina Panagiotopoulou, Peter Papanicolaou, John Psaras, Bill Stathakos, Angelo Tsakopoulos and Sotirios Vavaniolos for sponsoring the gala.

## Thousands Take to the Streets to Watch Detroit Greek Parade

By Zlati Meyer  
Detroit Free Press

Men in traditional Greek outfits and women in a variety of flowing dresses and jumpers turned Monroe Street in Detroit into a swirl of color and music on Sunday, April 6 for the Greek Independence Day Parade.

About 7,500 marchers and spectators joined the festivities into Greektown, said Tom Christy, vice president of the Detroit Greek Independence Day Committee.

The annual parade, the seventh since the procession was discontinued in the 1960s, also featured floats, a wooden Trojan horse and an olive tree.

As the crowd enjoying the 62-degree weather listened to festive

Greek music blaring from speakers, troupes of adults and children performed a variety of traditional dances.

"You represent your country," said 12-year-old Alexi Kakaris Porter, a member of the Kefi Dancers of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Southgate. "You have pride in your country. It's fun to get up there and show off your stuff."

The costumed seventh-grader from Grosse Ile carried his group's banner in the parade, but was more excited about the pentozali, a five-step dance from Crete.

"It's my first time dancing in the parade," he said.

The Detroit Free Press published the above on April 7.




### POCKET-LESS PITA BREAD

**Kontos Foods**  
The Leading Company in Flat Breads  
Well known for the Pocket-Less Pita

Manufacturer's of Authentic Ethnic Hand Stretched Flat bread.  
Kontos the first family in fillo dough and fillo products.

FILLO KATAIFI, BAKLAVA, SPANAKOPITA, TYROPITA  
NUT ROLL, MELOMAKARONA  
and the TRADITIONAL MEDITERRANEAN DESERTS.  
Excellent quality and service.

We distribute in USA and Canada.  
Special prices for communities, schools, churches  
festivals and other events



**Kontos Foods, Inc**  
Box 628, Paterson, NJ 07544  
Tel.: (973) 278-2800 • Fax: (973) 278-7943  
Kontos.com



## THE GREEK KITCHEN

www.GreekKitchennyc.com

889 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue @ 58<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10019

Open 7 Days a Week  
11:30AM to 10:30PM

212.581.4300

## GOINGS ON...

■ **APRIL 14**  
**NEW YORK** – The American Hellenic Institute Business Network and the New York Chapter of the American Hellenic Institute cordially invite the community to its monthly Informal Networking Reception for members and guests at Avra Restaurant (141 East 48th Street) on Monday, April 14 at 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Cash bar and complimentary hors d'oeuvres. For more information, e-mail Andonis Neroulas at andonis@att.net.

■ **APRIL 15**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The American Hellenic Institute cordially invites you to a noon forum "Improving U.S. – Russian Relations: A Key to Balkan Stability," presented by Doug Bandow, Robert A. Taft Fellow, American Conservative Defense Alliance, at The Hellenic House (1220 16th St., NW) on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 12 PM. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, e-mail info@ahiworl.org.

■ **APRIL 15**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Georgetown University Hellenic Association cordially invites the community to "Development in the Balkans: Perspectives on the Role of Greece," featuring His Excellency Alexandros Mallias, Ambassador of Greece to the U.S., Andrew S. Natios, former USAID Administrator, Distinguished Professor of Diplomacy, Mortara Center – Georgetown University and John Stitlides, Director, Southeast Europe Project, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C. at the Georgetown University McGhee Library (3rd Floor ICC) on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 6:30-8:30 PM. Dinner included.

■ **APRIL 16**  
**NEW YORK** – The Greek Museum cordially invites the community to "The Odyssey of the Greek-American Immigrant in New York City," a photo presentation given by Katherine R. Bouloukos and Anastasia Nicholas, co-founders of The Greek Museum, The Center for Greek American Heritage at the New York Public Library (127 East 58 Street, off Park Avenue) on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 6 PM. Free Admission.

■ **APRIL 17**  
**BOSTON** – The New England Chapter of the American Hellenic Institute cordially invites the community to "Grassroots Lobbying 101," a seminar on how to effectively approach and inform our U.S. legislators of issues important to the constituency by Nick Larigakis, Executive Director of the American Hellenic Institute in Washington, D.C. at The Radisson Boston Hotel (200 Stuart Street) on Thursday, April 17 at 6-8 PM. Valet Parking is \$10, self parking is \$8. Light reception and cash bar. Sponsors are AHEPA Bay State District #8 and Athens Chapter #24 – Boston, The Alpha Omega Council, Costas & Mary Maliotis Foundation, Elias Papadopoulos, CEO – EKP Consultants and Nina Gatzoulis – Supreme President on behalf of the Pan-Macedonian Association. For more information, call 617-828-7543.

■ **MAY 2 – JUNE 1**  
**NEW YORK** – Theatron Inc. cordially invite the community to the play "39 & Single!" (Despoinis... eton 39!) at The Hellenic Cultural Center Theatre (the intersection of Crescent Street and Newtown Avenue in Astoria) from May 2 – June 1 on Friday and Saturday at 8PM, Sundays at 2:30 & 7:30PM. This bitter-sweet comedy written by one of Greece's foremost teams, Sakellarios and Giannakopoulos, examines an old Greek tradition as it relates to marriage. Tilemachos postpones marrying his girlfriend in order for his older sister, whom he lives with, to marry first. His closest friend convinces him that the fastest way to attract potential husbands is to place an ad in the newspapers. The suitors arrive and are ready to marry but it turns out that the women they meet in Tilemachos' house, are not his sister. This leads to a series of hilarious episodes and farcical encounters. Directed by Larisa Antipa. For more information, call 718-721-7610.

■ **MAY 7**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The American Hellenic Institute cordially invites the community to "International Law and Minority Protection: The Fate of the Greeks of Imbros and Tenedos," a forum presented by Van Coufoudakis, Rector Emeritus, University of Nicosia, Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus Indiana University-Purdue University at the Hellenic House (1220 16th Street, NW) on Wednesday, May 7, at 12 PM. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 202-785-8430.

■ **MAY 17**  
**SAN DIEGO** – The Philoptochos Society of Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church Anthousa Chapter cordially invites the community to "En Vogue," a day of inspiration, fashion, fine dining, shopping and more at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel on the San Diego Bay on Saturday, May 17. Proceeds will benefit the Philoptochos Ministries, Kids'n'Cancer – Camp Agape, a haven where pediatric cancer patients and their families retreat and enjoy special moments together and San Diego Habitat for Humanity, which builds simple decent homes in partnership with deserving San Diego families. The Grand Terrace will transform into a bazaar of unique boutiques that offer one-of-a-kind finds. Delight in the high style show produced by Couture Productions, featuring haute couture with special vocal and musical performances. Guests will banquet upon Chef Manfred Steuerwald's gourmet menu, which he has prepared especially for the day. Be inspired by the Christian philanthropic deeds of four outstanding San Diegans, who will be honored with the Anthousa Award. For more information, call 619-297-4165.

■ **THROUGH MAY 2008**  
**NEW YORK** – The Children's Museum of Manhattan cordially invites the community to "Gods, Myths & Mortals: Discover Ancient Greece," an exhibition which allows children to explore the world of ancient Greece at CMOM (The Tisch Building, 212 West 83rd Street). Your initial tour guides will be the great gods Zeus, Poseidon and Athena as they reminisce about their powers and responsibilities. Learn how the Ancient Greeks believed gods and mortals interacted and take an on-screen personality quiz to determine which mythological character you are most like. Visit the gymnasium (school) and oikos (home) to discover which skills were most valued in Ancient Greek boys and girls. Explore the importance of athletic competition as you arm wrestle ancient Greek counterparts using mechanical arms, or test your leg strength as you learn about ancient jumpers. Become familiar with the ancient Greek alphabet by translating messages from Greek to English. Learn about the heroism of ancient Greek women in myth and daily life and compete with the goddess Athena in a virtual weaving contest. Climb inside a 12 foot tall Trojan Horse before stepping into Homer's great epic poem, The Odyssey, where you will journey through rocky caves and over open seas; escape the crawl-through Cyclops Cave; and sing like a Siren in the Sirens Karaoke Cove. Be prepared to face on-screen dilemmas, your choices will be tracked along the way and your personalized on-screen Hero Record can be e-mailed home. Budding archaeologists can visit the Temple of Zeus at Olympia and assist in the reconstruction of a 3-D temple; learn about column construction, sculptures and the giant statue of Zeus (one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World). For more information, call Janet Ralston at 212-721-1223.

■ **NOTE TO OUR READERS**  
This calendar of events section is a complimentary service to the Greek American community. All parishes, organizations and institutions are encouraged to e-mail their information 3-4 weeks ahead of time, and no later than Monday of the week before the event, to english.edition@thenationalherald.com.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Vote on our website!

You have the chance to express your opinion on our website on an important question in the news. The results will be published in our printed edition next week along with the question for that week.

The question this week is: Are you concerned by the lower turnout of attendees at the major Greek Independence Day Parades of New York and Boston?

Yes  
 No  
 I Don't Know

The results for last week's question: Will the Macedonia name issue ever be fully resolved?  
34.8% Yes  
52.2% No  
13.0% I Don't Know

Please vote at: [www.thenationalherald.com](http://www.thenationalherald.com)

Advertise in The National Herald  
(718) 784-5255 ext 101

# Dignitaries Set the Tone at NY Independence Day Parade Opening Ceremony

By Christopher Tripoulas  
Special to The National Herald

NEW YORK – Manhattan's historic Pierre Hotel was the scene of the reception that preceded the Greek Independence Day Parade which took place on New York's storied Fifth Avenue. The opulent reception hall, which was filled to capacity by a vibrant Greek American audience, provided the perfect atmosphere for politicians from Greece and the United States to publicly celebrate and salute the 187th anniversary of Greek Independence.

Archbishop Demetrios of America summarized the spirit of the event by saying "I have been in this room on many occasions – not for this event, but for other events. There were many heads of state at those gatherings, along with many interesting audiences. However, this audience is always the most interesting of all – and the most vibrant." He credited this to the music accompanying the event, which he quipped "comes from the Hellenic Air Force Band, and so it is naturally uplifting."

Many politicians, including members of the Greek Parliament, U.S. Congress, the New York State Assembly and City Council were on hand to address the audience and pay tribute to the celebration of Greece's independence from 400-plus years of Ottoman rule.

Parade Committee Co-Chairman Matthew Myronis, a former New York State Assemblyman, emceed the event, together with civic leader Tasos Manassis. "It's a great day to be Greek. Each and every time we get together here in New York City and proud America, play our national anthem, and watch our young children sing along in Greek, it speaks volumes about our community. When we come together as a united force, we truly can work wonders and move mountains," Mr. Myronis said.

Mr. Manassis spoke about the significance of the day's celebration. "Today we are paying tribute to the heroes of 1821 and all those who gave their lives to free the Greek people from Turkish tyranny. We are also paying homage to the Greek Orthodox Church and the 'kyrfo scholio' – the secret schools that kept the torch of Hellenism burning throughout those difficult centuries of slavery. We are also paying tribute to the great American Philhellenes who fought in the Greek War of Independence, and those who gave moral and financial support to everyone who fought for Greece's freedom," Mr. Manassis explained, as he asked the audience to observe a moment of silence in memory of the Greek revolution war heroes of 1821.

"In a few minutes the spirit of 1821 will be marching up Fifth Avenue. This same spirit remains alive today yearning for the safety of our Ecumenical Patriarchate. This spirit is still yearning for the removal of Turkish occupying troops from Cyprus. The spirit of 1821 is appalled at those who are trying to steal the name of Macedonia, home of Alexander the Great," Mr. Manassis said, drawing an ovation from the audience.

A large delegation of Greek Parliament members from several Greek parties were on hand to join in the celebration as well. Demetris Sioufas, President of the Greek Parliament, also served as the official representative of the Greek Government at the event. In addition, Mr. Sioufas was one of the Parade's three Grand Marshals, together with the National Philoptochos Society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America – represented by National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas – and Greek American businessman C. Dean Metropoulos.

Addressing Archbishop Demetrios and the other members of the audience, Mr. Sioufas expressed his "congratulations for the events you are organizing which celebrate the spirit of Hellenism, Greece and Cyprus, in addition to the land you live in. I hope that you and your children continue down this path, fighting for principles, values and ideals, just as our forefathers did in 1821. We are proud of you, and today you can show your pride for Greece, Cyprus and the U.S."

Other members of the Greek Parliament who spoke included John Tragakis, Parliamentary Secretary for Greece's governing New Democracy party, Christos Papoutsis, representing the main opposition party PASOK, Demos Koumbouris of the Greek Communist Party, and Adonis Georgiades of LAOS. Other Parliamentarians present included Nikolaos Tsiarstionis, Chairman of the Special Permanent Committee for Greeks Abroad in the Greek Parliament, Parthena Fountoukidou, Alexandros Dermetzopoulos, Vasso Papandreou, Theodora Tsagkri, and Ioannis Diamantides.

Mr. Tragakis told the audience that "a sea of blue and white will overtake Fifth Avenue today. Greece is here. Hellenism is here, in the third largest Greek city in the world. After Athens and Thessaloniki, New York has the largest Greek population of any other city in Greece or abroad. Let us march down Fifth Avenue hand in hand, because as we now demonstrated, when we are united we can accomplish so much."

In his address, Mr. Papoutsis noted that "I am here to convey the greetings of PASOK President George Papandreou. The heart of Hellenism and Orthodox beats among us here today, among all you



AHEPA Supreme President Ike Gulas steps up to the podium during the reception that preceded the Greek Independence Day Parade on Sunday, April 6, at the Pierre Hotel in Manhattan. The reception hall was filled to capacity by an audience longing to get the parade underway.

Greek Americans and Greeks of New York. I want you to know that we are going to always remain on the front line of the battle for our national issues. We are on the front lines fighting for the removal of Turkish occupation forces from Northern Cyprus, freedom in Cyprus and the reunification of the island. We are here to ensure the recognition of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the reopening of its Theological School in Halki. We are here to guarantee that peace and security prevail among the people of the Balkans, without allowing anyone to question that Macedonia is Greek and to doubt Greece's role in guaranteeing that the people of the Balkans will live in peace and security. This is the meaning of the national holiday of March 25 in today's Greece, and I believe that the Greek Americans of New York are going to display it in the grand parade that will follow shortly. I wish you and your families health, strength, inspirations, and above all, faith in the ideals of Hellenism and Orthodoxy."

Demos Koumbouris stated that "I am happy to be here with you today, as I convey the greetings of the Central Committee of the Greek Community Party. I want to say that the revolution of 1821 inspires the struggles of people all over the world for democracy, independence and peace. The words of our national poet Andreas Kalvos ring true, 'freedom requires virtue and boldness.' These words remain current today as they inspire the struggles of peoples for peace, democracy and productive independence."

Adonis Georgiades also addressed the crowd saying "I want you to know that we are not only proud of you Greeks living here in the United States, but that Greece needs you. We need you more than you need us. You are the ones who spearhead the efforts of Hellenism. Since all of us have been following the major issue surrounding Macedonia over the recent weeks, I want to tell you something you can pass on to the U.S. Government. It is so insane that the Government of FYROM wants to claim Macedonian identity as their own. If you read Homer – we are talking about a text that is 3,000 years old – you will see that the words Macedonian and Macedonia are first mentioned there. I am passing on to you a message from Homer that unites us Greeks regardless of where we live, regardless of what party we vote for, regardless of what we believe; 'the best omen is one, to defend your country.' I also want to convey the greetings of my party's President George Karatzafaris, who wanted to be with us today, but we cannot all be everywhere at once. Your Eminence, your ministry makes us proud, as does the work of Ms. Maloney and the other U.S. Congressmen here today."

The other Parade Grand Marshals, Georgia Skeadas and Dean Metropoulos also spoke to the audience. "Today it is my most esteemed honor to participate as a Grand Marshal in this year's Greek Independence Day Parade, as a representative of our most loving and dedicated Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. On behalf of all the women who comprise the Philoptochos Society, I would like to once again thank the Federation of Hellenic Societies for honoring us with this wonderful opportunity. This parade brings together thousands of Greek Americans to honor Greek Independence, culture, family and heritage. Let us march proudly and with much enthusiasm in celebration of our country's heritage, as we share with the world our lasting legacy of freedom and democracy, and our beautiful Orthodox faith," Ms. Skeadas said. Meanwhile, Mr. Metropoulos, who the event's co-emcee Tasos Manassis hailed as one of America's great businessmen, told the audience that "I am very proud to be a Greek American and to be here at this year's Greek Parade with you. I am very proud of the contributions of our people to American society."

Members of the Greek and Cypriot Government were also on hand at the event. Mr. Manassis introduced Sophia Kalantzakos, Greece's Deputy Minister of Employment and

Social Protection. "We in the Greek American Community are very proud of Ms. Kalantzakos because she is one of our own. She has deep roots in our community. Her mother was born in New York and her grandfather, Pericles Lantzounis, served as President of the Federation of American Hellenic Societies," Mr. Manassis said.

"It is very heartwarming that the people here today in the Pierre Hotel have this overwhelming feeling of patriotism for Greece, for Cyprus, for America. God all bless all free countries that have had some kind of oppression throughout the years. I want to pass along the greetings of Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and tell you that in 1821 Greece gave one of the world's truly great battles for freedom, fighting against all odds. However, this struggle did not end in 1821. It continues today with the same fervor and faith in our ideals and values, deeply rooted in the concepts of democracy, freedom and peace. There is one common denominator that is at the root of all of our national issues, and that is that we want to live together with our neighbors in a spirit of peace and mutual respect. We are fighting for this and will continue to do so until we achieve our goal."

Cyprus' new Foreign Minister Markos Kyprianou also greeted the audience, and said that he is conveying "the greetings, love and respect of Cypriot President Demetris Christofias, together with all Greek Cypriots. We are proud of you and it is a great honor for me to be here with you today. We are grateful for all you do for us, and I want to ask you one thing. Do not forget us, because our struggle has not ended yet. Many U.S. politicians from all levels of government were also in attendance to celebrate New York's tribute to Greek independence. U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, a longtime supporter of Greek issues in Congress and cofounder of the Greek Congressional Caucus drew many cheers from the crowd following her inspirational address. Mr. Manassis introduced Congresswoman Maloney as "our greatest supporter in the U.S. Congress." He also mentioned that the members of the Greek Congressional Caucus number close to 200. "Over the years we have been introducing Congresswoman Maloney as our 'Bouboulina.' She has done so much for our national issues and we are very proud of her," Mr. Manassis said.

"I am deeply humbled to be associated with the great Bouboulina. Especially on this day, when we remember her great struggle 187 years ago to achieve independence for Greece. If Bouboulina were here today, she would say that you do not have to be Greek to believe in democracy and freedom. You do not have to be Greek to know that Macedonia is Greek. You do not have to be Greek to know that Alexander the Great was born in Macedonia, which belongs to Greece. And you do not have to be Greek to know that peace and justice must come to Cyprus, and that every illegal invader must be removed from the island. And you do not have to be Greek to continue fighting for her values, and for democracy and freedom. On this day we are all Greek, who believe in those values of freedom, democracy and independence. I am deeply honored to have the great honor to represent you in Congress," Ms. Maloney said. Just before she ended her address, she presented Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York President Nick Diamantidis with a Congressional Record tribute honoring Greek Independence Day. Congressmen John Sarbanes and Anthony Weiner, who are also members of the Greek Caucus, joined Ms. Maloney in presenting this award.

Congressman Anthony Weiner from Brooklyn said that "this is another year that we celebrate the great accomplishments of the Greek American Community. We celebrate the independence of Greece, and as we march down Fifth Avenue let's make this the last year that we have the occupation of Cyprus. Everywhere you look, the Community that typifies the American dream and the

New York City ideal is the Greek Community."

Congressman Sarbanes was joined by his father, former U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes. "I'm going to do something that Senators never do – even former Senators. I'm going to yield my time to a member of the House of Representatives, my son John Sarbanes. Let me just say what a great pleasure it is to be back with the Greek American Community of greater New York. This is a very strong and powerful community. We are very proud of you. His Eminence said in Church today that we look forward a year from now to being in Church and giving thanks to God for a just solution to the Cyprus issue, to the Macedonian question, to the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate," the former Senator said. His son Congressman John Sarbanes continued by saying "We are proud today because of our Greek Community. We are proud today of the struggle that is continuing on behalf of Cyprus, on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on behalf of the rightful use of the name Macedonia by Greece. But we are also equally proud of the contribution that Greek Americans have made today to this country."

Many city and state elected officials also made appearances at the event. Mr. Manassis welcomed New York City Comptroller William Thompson Jr., who he compared to

James Williams, an African American from Baltimore who went to Greece and fought alongside the Greek forces for the liberation of Greece. "Zito I Ellas [Long live Greece]. It is definitely a great pleasure to be back again as we celebrate this 187th anniversary of Greek Independence, but we also celebrate the contributions of Greek Americans. Not just what they've done in this country, but how they have made New York the city that it is today. Greek Americans have made New York City stronger and helped it grow over the years. This contribution continues up until today each and every day," Comptroller Thompson said.

Councilman Eric Gioia greeted the audience by saying "I'm so proud to be representing the people of Astoria and Long Island City. Today is a great day to be a Greek American. Today is a great day to be a New Yorker and celebrate all that Greek Americans have done for the great city and state of New York. God bless Greece." Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. sent "greetings from Astoria, the Greek capital of the United States," and said "I could never miss Greek Independence Day. It is one of my favorite days. We honor the spirit of democracy, which was formed in Ancient Greece and is still practiced today in the City Council." New York State Assemblyman Mike Gianaris enthused the crowd by saying "today

we are going to show New York what it means to be Greek. I thank all of you for coming out here today."

Two Borough Presidents were also on hand for the celebration, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion. "I'm delighted to once again join you. On behalf of the Bronx Community and the Greek American Community of the Bronx, I want to congratulate the parade organizers and the many people who come from so many parts of the region – and even the world – to celebrate Greek Independence and the 187th anniversary of this historic event. I, on behalf of my community of the Bronx, simply want to say thank you to the Greek American Community for your great contributions; for making New York a better place and for making America a better place," Mr. Carrion said.

Ike Gulas, Supreme President of AHEPA, came all the way from Alabama to attend the Parade. "As a second generation Greek American and a leader of the Order of AHEPA, which is the largest Greek American organization in this country, I am proud to be here today celebrating Greek Independence Day in New York City. More than 85 years ago, eight men formed an organization to stop hatred, bigotry and racism, and that was the Order of AHEPA. As witnessed by the events of this past week with the desecration of the Greek flag, we have a long way to go. I pledge to you that AHEPA will continue the fight to stop racism not only in this country, but all over the world," Mr. Gulas said.

Shortly before the end of the event FHSGNY President Nick Diamantidis asked the audience to observe a moment of silence in memory of Stephen Mavronicolas, 51, a board member of the Federation who died 2 weeks ago.

As the Parade was getting ready to get underway Parade Chairman John Catsimatidis gave the audience one final word of encouragement and joked that "today is a glorious day for all Greek Americans, and whoever is not Greek American wishes they were today."

Archbishop Demetrios concluded the event by offering the event's closing remarks. "We are here today to celebrate. I have nothing more to do that to bring this very nice event to a close and to thank God that we are Greeks, that we live in the U.S., that we are here together with our brothers from Cyprus, Greece, and the rest of the world. Let us go to Fifth Avenue now and have our Parade. May God be with us. Long live the Greek and American people, and long live the people who fight for freedom, justice, and love throughout the world."

## Καλό Πάσχα

THALASSA welcomes you to our traditional Greek Easter Celebration

We will be serving a time honored menu that includes Magiritsa, Kokoretsi, Roasted Lamb and Easter Eggs on Saturday April 26 and Sunday April 27

Live Greek Music on Easter Sunday 12-10PM



THALASSA

179 Franklin Street in Tribeca www.thalassanyc.com 212.941.7661

# The Next Generation of Greek Americans March with Pride Up Fifth Avenue



The students of St. Basil Academy in Garrison, New York march accompanied by Academy Director Rev. Constantine Sitaras



Takis Nikolopoulos, past President of the Pan-Laconian Federation of America, rode dressed in Greek Revolutionary War gear.



Students from Greek day and afternoon schools in Staten Island and Brooklyn wave to spectators from their decorative float.



The Kalavryta Fraternity is always first to march in the Greek Parade, since the banner of the Revolution was first raised there. Flag-bearers to march right behind the organization's float, holding their banner.

PHOTOS: TNH/COSTAS BEJ



Atlantic Bank of NY, a subsidiary of New York Community Bank, was a Parade sponsor for yet another year, and participated in the Parade with its own float which featured bank employees and their children.



All the contestants who took place in the Miss Greek Independence 2008 competition rode on the float of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York – the organizing body of the Greek Parade.



Students from Brooklyn's Hellenic Classic Charter School marched along with parents and teachers, showing their love for Greek culture and heritage by dressing up in Greek ceremonial costumes.



The Olympic Dancers Dance Group came all the way from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to march in the Parade, impressing the crowd with their traditional costumes, flags, banners and enthusiasm.

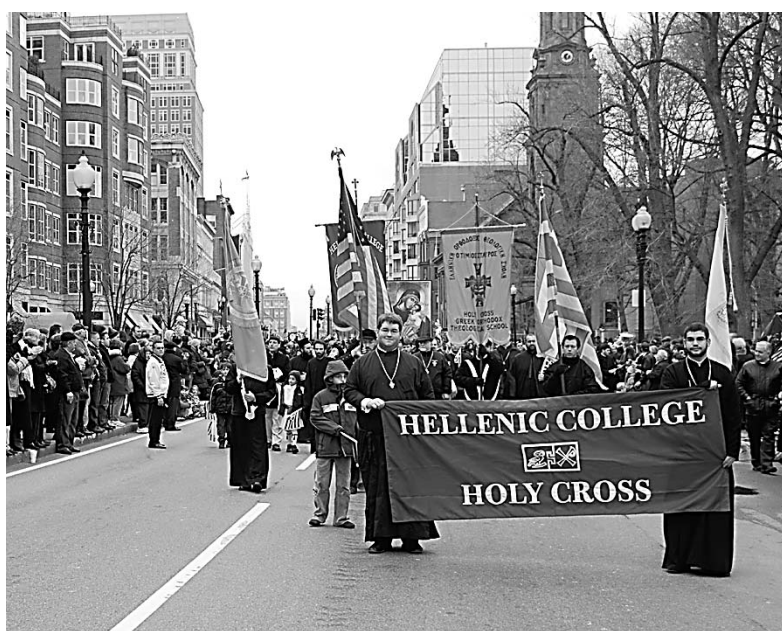


Children from the afternoon school of St. Markella Church in Wantagh, N.Y. marched in the parade proudly displaying the Greek colors. Children played a big role in this year's parade as many participated.



New York State Assemblyman Mike Gianaris, a second generation Greek American, attended the Greek Independence Day events over the past few days and marched in the Parade together with his staff.

# New England Greek Americans Take Pride in Their Heritage at Greek Parade



Students and seminarians from Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology marched in Boston's Greek Independence Day Parade holding icons of the Virgin Mary, chanting religious hymns, and passing out small paper icons to spectators along the parade route.



The board of the Federation of Hellenic American Societies of New England held their organization's banner as they marched in the Parade, led by First Vice-President E. Vidalis, who co-chaired the Parade Committee together with Second Vice-President D. Bitsikas.



Dr. George Bebis, Professor Emeritus of Patristics at Holy Cross Theological School is shown with Greek flag in hand. He showed his spirit by chanting "Zito I Ellas," long live Greece. The weather wasn't ideal for the parade as spectators had to bundle up to stay warm.



John Nikolopoulos of Lowell, Massachusetts is shown draped in a Greek flag, with loudspeaker in hand. His decision to recite poetry dedicated to Greece in front of the grandstand caught the attention of United States Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (D-Mass.).



Three young Greek Americans, Donna Valaouras, Christina Loridas, and Katerina Loridas, graciously rode atop the float of the Federation of Hellenic American Societies of New England. They braved the cold weather in short sleeve dresses, but always kept smiles on their faces.



The Cretan Society's float, which depicted the Palace of Knossos and received rave reviews from the crowd, was designed by George Geraniotis. He was assisted by Demetris Mathaios, of Euvoia, who is Cretan by marriage. It was one of the most well-received floats all day.



PHOTOS: TNH/COSTAS BEI

Thousands of participants marched down Fifth Avenue in New York City during the annual Greek Independence Day Parade which celebrated 187 years of Greek independence from Ottoman rule on Sunday, April 6.

## Greek Americans Show Their Pride at Independence Day Parade in NYC

Continued from page 1

the late finish on the gaps between the various paraders and floats. "This problem was caused by the police, who stopped paraders on several occasions to let traffic through. Nevertheless, onlookers were enthusiastic and there was also a large number of people who marched," Mr. Diamantidis said.

Nick Alegakis, a volunteer at the parade for many years, noted that "this year's Parade had spirit. The crowd was alive and full of spontaneity. On the other hand, there were some shortcomings. One was the weather. A lot of people expected rain," Mr. Alegakis said that the Macedonia name dispute between Greece and FYROM brought Greek Americans closer together, and was the central theme of the cheers and chants heard on behalf of Greece.

Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Alexander Mallias conveyed the thanks of the Greek Government to the Greek American Community for its critical help in the name dispute with FYROM. "Without the help of the Greek American Community, we could not have achieved what we did in Bucharest," he said. He added that the decision of the Greek Government to veto FYROM's induction to NATO was in keeping with a position that the Greek American Community had repeatedly expressed. "We dedicate the veto exercised by Greece to the strength of the Greek American Community," Mr. Mallias said.

Georgia Kaloidis, a philanthropist, expressed her pleasure over the Parade turnout and spirit as she was leaving the grandstand. She also expressed her concern over the fact that many people left the grand-



One of the most pleasant sights of the New York Independence Day Parade was the participation of children. Many children marched in the parade with school or with their parents, holding Greek flags or wearing ceremonial costumes, while spreading their enthusiasm to spectators.



stand very early. "Anyone receiving an invitation to sit in the grandstand should stay until the end, as Archbishop Demetrios did, otherwise there is no need for the Federation of Hellenic Societies to extend an invitation to them," she said.

The President of the Association of Thessalonians Theodore Moschokaris said that "we had a very nice parade. The people marched with enthusiasm and manifested their dedication to the ideals of democracy and freedom. I would have very much liked for our forefathers to have been alive to

see what the new generations of Greek Americans have achieved." Meanwhile, John Kassimatis, of the Port Authority of N.Y.-N.J. called the Parade "a source of pride for the Greek American Community. Most of the people who participated in this year's Parade were born in the U.S., and it is very important that they not only recognize but honor their Greek heritage."

The celebratory mood was set by the Hellenic Air Force marching band, which treated the eager audience to many traditional Greek marching songs, and played the na-

tional anthems of Greece and the United States to kick off the annual event. The band also pleased parade spectators as they marched down New York's most famous avenue and served as one of the day's most popular attractions, together with the Greek Presidential Guard.

Other dignitaries and officials in attendance at the event included AHEPA Supreme Vice-President Nicholas Karacostas, Hellenic American National Council President Emmanuel Velivasakis, Athens Deputy Mayor Nikolaos Vafiades, former coach of the national soccer

teams of Greece and the U.S. Alkis Panagoulas, Judge Nicholas Tsoukalas, former Greek MP Vasilios Pappas, Director of New York City's Department of Intergovernmental Affairs Haeda Mihaltsis, Judge Nicholas Garaufis, Cyprus Federation of America President Peter Papanikolaou, National Commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Anthony Limberakis, PASOK National Council Member Nina Katsimatis, Metropolitan Paisios of Tyana, and past President of the FHSNY Bill Stathakos.

## Low Turnout Doesn't Dim Spirits at Boston's Parade

Continued from page 1

Szouridis, Theodore Karaoglou, and Athanasios Leventis. Also newly elected Congresswoman Niki Tsongas wife of the late Greek-American Senator Paul Tsongas, as well as state Senator Leonidas Raptakis from Rhode Island and deputy vice president of the state parliament of Connecticut Demetris Yiannaros were present. Also Consul General of Greece Constantine Orphanides and Elizabeth Papislis president of the Federation of the Hellenic American Societies of New England were present among the dignitaries. Present at the parade and the cultural events was also the Mayor Ioannis Fousekis of Falesia in Arcadia Greece, which was almost completely destroyed by the devastating fires of last August.

The parade started at 1 p.m. in front of the Boston Public Library and continued along Boylston

Street before ending at the intersection of Charles Street where the viewing stand of the dignitaries had been placed.

The parade drew some 5,000-7,000 Greek Americans, a number accepted by some and disputed by others who expressed fears that if the participation does not improve the future of the parade might be in jeopardy.

Not many of the marchers at the end of the parade went into the Boston Common where greetings, speeches, dances and Greek food were offered. The cold temperatures and light rain that started shortly after caused the people to leave early.

On Sunday morning, a Matins, Devine Liturgy and a Doxology dedicated to the liberation of Hellas from the Ottoman (Turkish) empire were offered at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Boston officiated by Metropolitan

Methodios in which all the dignitaries from Greece participated. Justice Minister Hatzizakias emphasized the history the values and the interconnectivity of Christianity and Hellenism. A reception followed at the Cathedral's community hall and from there they all proceeded to the parade's starting point, where the marching units, the schools, the Greek American Evzones and the floats had gathered from early on. The floats were the first ones to arrive to the designated point of Boylston Street since around 10:30 a.m., while the parishes, the associations and the schools began their arrival around noon. The parade is organized by the Federation of the Hellenic American Societies in cooperation with the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston, the Consul General of Greece in Boston and the Mayor's Office of Cultural Events.

On Saturday evening the gala

dinner of the Federation was hosted at the Carver Room of the Radisson Hotel in Boston attended by all the dignitaries from Greece and approximately 350 Greek Americans from throughout New England.

Former and current presidents of the Panmacedonian Association Panos Spiliakos and Nina Gatzoulis were honored for their contributions to the Macedonia issue. The Greek American Evzones and the dance group of the societies "Panagia Soumela" and "Pontiaki Estia" offered Greek dances. Mr. Hatzizakias and prefecture Mr. Psomiadis were the keynote speakers, while the members of the Hellenic Parliament offered greetings. The annual scholarships of the Federation were given to Greek American college students.

On Friday, April 4, the annual celebration of the Independence of Greece took place at the Massachusetts State House. This year's cele-



Parade Grand Marshal and Greek Minister of Justice, Sotiris Hatzizakias (right) sits next to Metropolitan Methodios of Boston during the annual Greek Independence Day Parade in Boston on April 6.



The Grand Marshals of the Greek Independence Day Parade in Boston led the way for the rest of the Greek Americans marching in the parade. Pictured above, among others are: Justice Minister of Greece Sotiris Hatzizakias, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Thessalonica's prefecture Panagiotis Psomiadis and a five member delegation of the Hellenic Parliament.

bration was somewhat downgraded since its establishment many years ago during Michael Dukakis governorship. Instead of the official Senate Chamber Room the event was moved to the Gardner Auditorium in the basement of the State House. The reason that was given for the change in venue, was the fact that the State House was informed extremely late as to the date of the parade and the event itself. No more than 150 Greek Americans were present at the event organized by a group of the Greek Americans legislators headed by senators Bruce Tar and Steve Panagiotakos. The program was presented by Mr. Tar, while Mr. Panagiotakos was represented by his Greek American assistant Manos Flaris from Lowell. Maria Stephanos, anchorwoman of the Fox 25 News Station, was the keynote speaker. Nicholas Paleologos was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Cultural

Advancement.

Pupils from the Hellenic-American School of the Holy Trinity parish in Lowell offered Greek dances. Sisters Katrina and Nicoletta Toffoloni, pupils at the St. Nektarios of Roslindale Greek School were the winners of this year's essay contest on the topics: "Why it is important to treat the Macedonia issue fairly," and "The influence of Hellenic values on Democracy."

Senator Tar presented Metropolitan Methodios a resolution for the reopening of the Theological School of Halki in Constantinople. A representative of Governor Deval Patrick presented a proclamation to Metropolitan Methodios and the Consul General of Greece Constantine Orphanides. Present at the ceremony was also the Greek American unit of the Evzones. A reception followed at the Consulate of Greece located on 86 Beacon Street within walking distance from the State House.

# Ike Gulas Discusses Largest Membership Increase in More Than a Decade and Historic Athens Convention

Continued from page 1

we should be more involved than we have been."

AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society. It also helped Greek immigrants assimilate into society. Mr. Gulas believes that these reasons for AHEPA's existence still stand.

tion is one of our major resources. What we've started again is to push AHEPA as a major force on Capitol Hill. For several years there has been a push to increase our visibility on the Hill. One of my objectives was to get more members in the Hellenic caucus.

"One of the goals that we have is to start a Hellenic Bar Association. We've looked into charter schools. The schools that we have visited

to do with the War on Terror and maybe the president doesn't feel like Greece has done enough. Maybe that's his position, but we are hoping to change that position. We are reaching out to all the presidential campaigns to try to get our point across before the election."

Mr. Gulas also noted that AHEPA will work with any candidate that wins the presidency, but will not endorse any of them before the

Alabama Trial Lawyers Association and the American Association for Justice where he served on the Public Affairs Committee. Mr. Gulas has lectured throughout the United States and appeared on television and radio programs regarding various legal topics and cases.

He has been a member of the AHEPA for more than 20 years and is the third youngest

International President in its 85-year history. Mr. Gulas has served in various elected offices and on numerous committees during his AHEPA career. He served as Chairman of the AHEPA Cooley's Anemia Foundation. Moreover, Mr. Gulas is President of the Board of Directors of AHEPA 3, Inc., a 501(c)3 corporation responsible for the development of HUD Section 202 financed senior citizen apartments. Also, he has served on the AHEPA National Board of Directors.

Mr. Gulas was born a second generation Greek American in Birmingham. The Gulas family has been in Birmingham for more than 100 years. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration from Samford University in 1985. While a student at Samford he participated in intercollegiate baseball and was selected to Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. He then attended the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, receiving his Juris Doctor degree in 1989. In law school he distinguished himself by being elected National Student Bar Association President of the American Bar Association Law Student Division. He was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1990.

Mr. Gulas is a member of Holy Trinity Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Birmingham, where he has served on its Parish Council. He is a member of Leadership 100 of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of the United States and the Diakonia Deca in the Atlanta Metropolis. He is married to the former Frances Manuel of Norfolk, Virginia. They have two children, Alex age 9 and Eleni age 6.

Mr. Gulas credits his parents for instilling core Greek values into him and getting him involved in AHEPA, the church and the Greek community in general.

"My father, Alec, was born in



PHOTOS: TNH/COSTAS BEJ

AHEPA Supreme President Ike Gulas an Honored Guest at the Greek Independence Day Parade in New York on Sunday, April 6. Mr. Gulas was also part of the opening ceremonies at the Pierre Hotel.

this country," he said. "He is the youngest of nine children, of which the youngest three were born here. My mother was born in the Laconia-Sparta area. Growing up in the South is a lot different. Greeks were as discriminated against just like anyone else in the 1960s. My parents weren't allowed to by a house in the area I live in now, after they were married in 1962. The realtors would not show houses in that neighborhood to Greeks. I tell that story to Greek Americans from New York, Chicago and other big cities and they are amazed at how long it took to gain a foothold in society in the South."

Alec Gulas was a risk-taker and it definitely rubbed off on his son.

"My father was very civically active," Mr. Gulas said. "He was a businessman, but believed that you should give something back. He was a restaurateur and then fought in World War II in the Pacific theater. When he got back, he wanted

to go back to college, but his father had opened a restaurant for him. He retired last year at the age of 83. He even ran a jazz restaurant/club in the 1950s in Birmingham. He was the first nightclub owner in the South to allow blacks to play in his club. He underwent bomb threats from white supremacists. Because of that, he was inducted into the Alabama State Jazz Hall of Fame. He was a pioneer. He took risks."

Other than his visit to the Herald and parade ceremonies, Mr. Gulas had many meetings during his time in New York.

The President of Parliament of Greece, Dimitris Sioufas, and several members of parliament hosted a private meeting for Supreme President Mr. Gulas on April 5, on the sidelines of events surrounding the celebration of Greek Independence Day in New York City at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. The parliament members represented a diversity of political parties in Greece.

"We had a very substantive meeting that touched upon pressing topics," said Mr. Gulas. "I appreciated Mr. Sioufas' interest in AHEPA's programs, especially our convention in Athens this summer. We look forward to working with him and his staff to help make this historic event a success for our members and participants."

He added, "I also welcomed the opportunity to address such a diverse group of parliament members."

Mr. Gulas also attended the annual meeting of the Cyprus Federation of America.

"I expressed our unwavering support to our friends at the Cyprus Federation," said Mr. Gulas. "We will continue to work toward a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem. We can, and must, do more."

Also, Mr. Gulas commended the Greek American communities of Detroit, Boston, and Baltimore for recently holding successful Greek Independence Day parades.

"On behalf of AHEPA, I wish to express my gratitude to all these communities for their uplifting display of hard work and dedication that superbly displays our Hellenic culture and history," he said.

Mr. Gulas believes that education is the way of changing people's perception about Hellenism in a positive way.

"It's difficult to define Hellenism," he said. "Everybody has their own definition or opinion on what Hellenism is. We talk about Hellenism around a table with a bunch of Ahepans. I think it's important that organizations like AHEPA stop only preaching to the choir. We sometimes get into this vacuum and sell Hellenism to ourselves. We are the last people who need to hear about Hellenism. It's our election officials who, if they had some classical training, would not even support the issue of FYROM."

"To me it's amazing how the forefathers who started this country 200 years ago based it on the Hellenic principles and ideals and had a command of the Greek language. John Adams spoke of Greek as the supreme language. If we could reach beyond the boundaries of the standard Ahepan or Greek American and get into the American psyche, then I think we've done something. We've reached people that normally aren't familiar with Hellenism."

Even some politicians on Capitol Hill don't have a grasp on their history and where their government came from. I was in Annapolis for the Greek Independence Day celebrations. I was told that Thomas Jefferson stood in that same place and said that as long as we celebrate the Fourth of July in this country, there will be a Greek Independence Day. That's a pretty powerful statement."



AHEPA Supreme President Ike Gulas, left, visited the National Herald's offices and met with publisher/editor Antonis Diamataris in Long Island City on Monday, April 7, 2008. Mr. Gulas was in New York to attend his first Greek Independence Day Parade as AHEPA's Supreme President.

"Our main objective and goal has been and always will be to promote Hellenism," he said. "We serve the Greek community with the founders' vision. But there's still racism and hatred out there, as evidenced by the ad on the billboard that they took down in Skopje on the Macedonia issue that displayed the Greek flag with a swastika. That image was deplorable. I was outraged when I saw it, as were our members. AHEPA reached out to Jewish-American federations in this country to see if we can do anything about that. We need to stop that type of action."

"There was another ad with Karamanlis in a Nazi uniform. That is totally inappropriate. Our job is not done yet. Until we eliminate that behavior around the world, we still have a mission. In this country we're ingrained in the fabric of America. We have chapters all over the U.S. in every major city. Our members are politicians, doctors, lawyers and businessmen. They are first, second and even third generation Greeks."

Mr. Gulas also discussed AHEPA's upcoming historic convention in Athens from July 1-12.

"The convention in Athens is long overdue," he said. "We went to Greece in 2000 with the intention of having out convention in Athens in 2002. We had to postpone it because of 9/11 and moved the convention to New York. What we did then was the right move to show our support for New York and the United States. We've always wanted to have our convention in Greece and I think this was the optimum time. Of course, nobody could have predicted the strength of the euro and weakness of the dollar, which might affect certain families that don't have the resources to visit. But overall, the response has been overwhelming. I've heard nothing but praise and excitement. There are people who are coming that haven't been to a convention in years. One of the objectives is to make this an experience, not just a Supreme Convention where we stay in a hotel for a week and never venture out. There are going to be outdoor activities at venues that the Greek government has been so gracious in allowing us to use."

"I'm very optimistic that it's going to be a success. The opening ceremony will be at the Zappeion and the closing ceremony will be at the Kallimarmaro Stadium. The AHEPA opening ceremony is usually in a hotel lobby and they will be different than the normal. I'm excited. It's thrilling that we're going to be doing that."

Mr. Gulas has infused a new energy into AHEPA, leading to an increase of membership.

"The feeling I've had this year is that there is an energy around the Order of AHEPA," he said. "We've brought in more new and reinstated members than we have in the last decade. We have approximately 2,000 new and reinstated members. There is a whole generation of Greek Americans that are familiar with the AHEPA like we are."

AHEPA has many strong programs that it is starting or continuing through Mr. Gulas' presidency.

"Our housing program is one of the best, if not the largest, in the country," he said. "We provide housing for all citizens, Greek and American. Our scholarship founda-

where the kids are learning Greek and being educated in Greek are wonderful. And most of these are not Greek kids, but they speak, read and write fluently. They also score higher on standardized tests than children from other schools in their communities. That's an initiative that I think is important for AHEPA to get involved in."

"The Visa Waiver Program is something that we really undertook. I may be fortunate enough to be Supreme President when Greece may get accepted. They are in the investigation phase now."

Mr. Gulas has continuously supported Greece's stance on the Macedonia name issue and Greece's veto of FYROM's bid to join NATO.

"I support Greece's actions on the veto," he said. "We held out hope that there would be a diplomatic resolution to the name issue, but I'm happy that Greece held its ground and got its allies to speak out in support of Greece's veto. We met with the President of Greece's Parliament and we discussed that hopefully this will lead to a resolution that is acceptable to both parties. Greece has a lot invested in FYROM."

Mr. Gulas stated that AHEPA does not endorse a specific name.

"That's for the Greek government to decide what they accept," he said.

When asked about the relationship of Greece with the U.S. State Department, whose stance towards Greece has been far from supportive in recent years, Mr. Gulas was diplomatic about his response.

"From our standpoint, we have worked well with the State Department on the Visa Waiver Program," he said. "We have expressed our position and the Greek American community's positions on Greece and Cyprus. I believe that this has

election.

Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Gulas is the senior partner and president of Gulas and Stuckey, P.C., which he founded in 1998.

During his career he has established himself in the practice of law both regionally and nationally in the areas of class action and mass tort litigation. He is a member of the Birmingham Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Southern Trial Lawyer Association,



AHEPA Supreme President Ike Gulas during his visit to the National Herald's offices in Long Island City on Monday, April 7, 2008. Mr. Gulas spoke about a myriad of topics including the Macedonia name issue, AHEPA upcoming convention in Athens and growing up in Birmingham, Alabama.



AHEPA – the largest Greek American organization in the United States – was represented at the Greek Independence Day Parade on Sunday, April 6, by their local districts. Its float was dedicated to its upcoming national convention, which will be held this July 1-12 in Athens, Greece.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Ready to Leave Your Comfort Zone? Aliada Offers Greek Cuisine with a Cypriot Twist

By Nick Mavrakis  
Special to The National Herald

Aliada Restaurant  
Tel: 718-932-2240  
29-19 Broadway, Astoria

Appetizers: \$6 - \$12  
Main Courses: \$13 - \$23

In Astoria these days, it seems that on every corner, you run into a Greek restaurant. The demand is definitely there, so the city's restaurateurs are happy to supply. Of course, it's sometimes nice to leave the "comfort zone" of the familiar whilst still retaining a modicum of conformity.

Cypriot cuisine is the perfect niche for those seeking the much-loved ingredients of Hellenic cuisine, but with a different spin. In the landscape of Greek Astoria eateries, Aliada delivers an authentic Greek cuisine, as well as options that stray off the beaten path with their Cypriot selections.

Opened in April of 2002 by the trio of Louis, Chris, and George (they like to keep it on a first-name basis); Aliada, which resides just a block away from the Broadway N stop, emanates an aesthetic of comfort upon entering. The mid-sized restaurant glows from the sheen of the hardwood floors. White-clothed tables form grid-like aisles down the length of the room. The burgundy colored, cushioned chairs add to the general atmosphere - rustic and relaxed.

Huge windows let the sunlight in during daylight hours, also allowing diners to peer out to the streets. The half-painted, half-wood walls are decorated with an assortment of trinkets and ornaments - small clay pots, stylish clocks, bottles of Cypriot wines. A number of framed photos are also on display, showing scenes of unnamed island street paths, Greek Orthodox churches, and derelict fisherman boats. From above, unobtrusive rimmed lighting brightens the room, just enough to serve its purpose. Off to the side, a sleek, marble bar with tall stools offers customers a chance to sit and have a drink before their meal. During the summer, tables come out onto the sidewalks, permitting patrons to wine and dine the way the Mediterranean does - basking in the sun.

Before beginning your meal, be sure to have a gander at the wine list. A concise yet deliberate menu of Greek and Cypriot whites and reds are sure to please oenophiles.



ABOVE: Huge windows let the sunlight in during daylight hours, also allowing diners to peer out to the streets. RIGHT: In the landscape of Astoria eateries, Aliada delivers authentic Greek cuisine, as well as options that stray off the beaten path with their Cypriot selections.

The Cypriot lager, Keo, is also represented here, should you want to drink in true Cypriot fashion.

To begin with, the customary basket of pita bread serves to engage the appetite. Warm to the touch, the pitas are frequently refilled to accompany any of the various appetizers you may order. Taramosalata, skordalia, tyrokafiteri (called "kopanisti" here, after the original cheese from the Kyklades islands), a noticeably refreshing tzatziki, tahini (ground sesame seeds, mixed with garlic and lemon juice) and of course, the Cypriot favorite - humus - are all available, individually, or as a pikilia (which also adds Kalamata olives to the mix).

On the front of hot appetizers, there's a plethora of choices. To begin with some of the more familiar and common, there's the old standby of grilled calamari and octopus - always popular with diners. A large slice of feta-infused spinach pie makes for a fine vegetarian choice. Saganaki, the famous fried (or broiled, if you'd like) dish of kefalograviera, served with lemon wedges, comes hot and stringy to



the cut. With the Cypriot edge at Aliada, there's naturally the choice of fired or grilled Halloumi - the salty-tasting, dense textured-cheese. If you have any of the spreads left from earlier, these would go wonderful with the grilled, tender loukaniko - homemade, and bristling with flavor. Other options include

glykadakia - beef sweetbreads - which are sautéed with onions and mushrooms; falafel, an Arabic mixture of spiced chick peas; sheftalies, the char-grilled, Cypriot, meatball-like dish, notable for its use of cauliflower fat for wrapping, and manitaria krasata - fresh mushrooms sautéed with wine.

One of the more famous Cypriot

appetizers is lountza - smoked pork loins cut into thin portions. Aliada's lountza was excellent, coming as a plate of four loins, seared with char-grill marks, and exploding with a smoked, mellow flavor. A word of advice, though: eat them while they're warm! As with many meats, lountza has a tendency to get a bit tough when cooled.

Although you could mix and match appetizers as you see fit, a set list of 16 different appetizers, both hot and cold, comes at a price of \$22.95 - perfect for large groups who want to pick at different foods, without being confined to a main course.

Another prominent part of Aliada is its salad selections. Sure, there are the usual options of the Greek and Horiatiiki salads (although the Horiatiiki here adds some extra ingredients, such as arugula, cabbage, and cilantro), but there are also a variety of larger affairs. The Aliada salad, for example, comes with char-grilled octopus, red peppers, and potatoes, all served a bed of greens and tomatoes. The Aegean takes it up a notch, with char-grilled shrimp, calamari, and octopus, and places it over the horiatiki. As all salads come in small and large portions, you could easily make a light meal out of just one of them. Of significant note, the salad I was served came undressed - instead, diners are encouraged to use the virgin olive oil and vinegar bottles that are pre-placed on the tables - perfect for me, as I have quite the aversion to vinegar in my Greek salads.

Entrées at Aliada consist of many Greek favorites, such as paidakia, keftedes, souvlakia (both chicken and pork), as well as larger portions of some of the appetizer items (loukaniko, calamari, and glykadakia). The entrée version of sheftalies I had, for example, came with a large portion of seasoned rice, large roasted potatoes, and six of the char-grilled, meat-filled delights. If you'd like to have a bit of everything, the mixed-grill is available, both meat and seafood versions, offering a taste of all the notable char-grilled entrees.

Aliada also rotates its daily offerings, with casserole dishes like pastisio and moussaka, as well as some other Cypriot items, such as koupepia (a Cypriot version of dolmades), and afelia (pork roasted with wine).

Popular desserts such as baklava and galaktoboureko round off the menu, adding a touch of sweetness to the end of what is no doubt, a fulfilling meal.

Aliada is the perfect place for those looking to "go Greek", but might want a few surprise options with its excellent Cypriot selection. The warm atmosphere, great prices, and high-profile location make it both an event-destination with friends, or a romantic location to wine and dine with a loved one.

## Greek American Actors from the post-War Golden Age of Television, now on DVD

By Steve Frangos  
Special to The National Herald

## PART 2

The Golden Age of Television roughly encompasses 1949 to 1961. From our perspective in history we are well aware of how the 'experiment' of television worked out. While the careers and lives of many of these actors are now common knowledge. In the post World War II era, how the careers of a number of the new young Greek-American actors were to progress was then totally unknown. They started form less than no where and worked their way up. This can be seen by anyone bothering to do even the most preliminary research will soon discover that many actors are first credited as 'bit actors,' 'un-credited roles,' and even as 'stage-hands.'

Actors need to work. The roles they accept are taken to sustain themselves and when they are lucky to serve to develop and employ their skills and craft as artists. Innumerable actors have attested that the greatest challenge is to completely inhabit a character totally different from their true nature. A good performance, by definition then, means the actor is being someone other than who they really are in everyday life.

**A good performance, by definition, means the actor is being someone other than who they really are in everyday life.**

The third Greek or Greek-American to perform on television was Peter J. Mamakos. Mamakos was born in Somerville, Massachusetts of Greek immigrant parents on December 14, 1918. Mamakos first made his stage debut in 1938 and was destined for one of the most prolific movie and television careers of any actor you would care to name. Mamakos is credited with over 90 film roles (beginning in 1949) and his television credits are said to exceed 200 individual roles. One of the reasons for this lack of specific numbers, in terms of film roles, is that Mamakos (especially in his early career) frequently worked in England as well as the United States.

Many sources credit Peter Mamakos' first television appearance to 1951 with his performance as Leftie in the early series 'Front Page Detective.' While Mamakos certainly played his share of detectives, street cops and even the occasional crime boss he is credited in most published sources for specializing in a kind of Pan-Levantine character such as Italians, Middle Easterners, North Africans and yes even Greeks. In reviewing his career it must also be said that he also very frequently appeared as an often

very evil Mexican bandit. Yet upon closer study this was not Mamakos' first television performance.

Oddly enough, given Mamakos' future nearly non-stop work in this new medium his first role was not in the episode of a television series but in what we would call today a made-for-TV-movie. Mamakos portrayed, Rochefort, in the November 24, 1950 production of 'The Three Musketeers.' As Readers who saw last week's installment of this series will recall Alexander Scourby was the second Greek-American actor to appear on American television. Scourby's appearance just months before on June 15, 1950, in 'With These Hands' yet another made-for-TV-movie places him just before Mamakos in our specialized survey.

As noted between 1950 and 1998 Peter Mamakos appeared in over 200 roles on network television. While it would be impossible to list them all Mamakos did appear on the following: Gruen Guild Playhouse, Space Patrol, Boston Blackie, You Are There, The Adventures of Kit Carson, Hallmark hall of Fame, The Lone Ranger, Medic, The Cisco Kid, Brave Eagle, Wire Service, The Adventures of Superman, Broken Arrow, The Adventures of Jim Bowie, Zorro, Gunsmoke, The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin, Maverick, The Untouchables, Westinghouse Desilu Playhouse, Mr. Lucky, Bourbon Street Beat, Route 66, The Red Skelton Show, The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp, Rawhide, Peter Gunn, The Bob Cummings Show, Wagon Train, The Virginian, The Fugitive, Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, Perry Mason, My Mother the Car, Batman, The Girl from U.N.C. L.E., Bob Hope Presents the Chrysler Theatre, Get Smart, Ironside, Land of Giants, The Flying Nun, Mannix, The Mod Squad, Night Gallery, The Streets of San Francisco, Mission Impossible, Kojak, Fantasy Island, and TJ Hooker.

Among the distinctly Greek charters Mamakos played were in 1955, the character of 'Stefanos' on the Hallmark Television Playhouse; Kajanis in Bourbon Street beat (1959). George Pappas on Surfside 6 (1961), Absorba the Greek on My Mother the Car (1966), Mamakos in 'The Hand of Borgus Weems' episode of Night Gallery (1970) he plays a character named Nikos Kazantzakis! Peter Mamakos' last television appearance was as a Greek priest in the TV miniseries 'Jackie Collins' Lucky/Chances (1990).

Many of the television programs Peter Mamakos appeared in over his 48 years in this medium can be found on DVD releases. For example Peter Mamakos can be seen in available DVD copies of Fantasy Island: The Complete First Season (1978) and The Untouchables: Season One (1959). Mamakos can also be readily seen on DVD in the films, The Searchers (1956) as the nefarious Jerem Futterman, The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter (1968) as Spirmonedes and as Falconis in A Dream of Kings (1969).

Why are veteran actors such as Peter J. Mamakos never mentioned in our historical accounts? Clearly he was man who was not afraid to work. His long list of television and film credits attests to the high regard in which his colleagues held him.

In 1951, Arthur Batanides, yet another of the many extremely hard working Greek-American actors, made his first appearance on television. Arthur Batanides who was born in Tacoma, Washington on April 9, 1920 was an actor with a

documented career spanning 38 years. Batanides' first two television performances were in two episodes of the 'Out There' program; 'Misfit' (18 November 1951) and 'The Bus to Nowhere' (30 December 1951).

For so dedicated a working actor not much material is publicly available on Arthur Batanides' life and career. Noted television historian Jack Ward writes of Batanides, "Art came from a family of eight children and was a natural mimic as he grew up. During World War II service he saw action in several major battles. His ability as a mimic got him into the Army Special Services branch as an entertainer during the post-war period. Discharged from service, he did summer stock prior to a 1949 film debut."

I was able to locate over 128 individual television programs on which Batanides performed. We can safely assume that Arthur Batanides was a respected professional since he frequently reappeared on many of these programs. It seems best then to simply offer a short list of the individual programs

in which Arthur Batanides appeared to illustrate this point. Chosen at random Batanides appeared on Maverick, Peter Gunn, Alcoa Theatre, Zorro, Alfred Hitchcock Presents, Whirlybirds, Playhouse 90, Mike Hammer, Johnny Staccato, Riverboat, Route 66, Bonanza, Rawhide, The Twilight Zone, Perry Mason, Rifleman, Ben Casey, The Wild Wild West, Gomer Pyle U.S.M.C., Star Trek, Room 222, Mission Impossible, The Streets of San Francisco, Ironside, Colombo, the Odd Couple, Police Story, Lou Grant, Wonder Woman, Quincy M.E., Happy Days, Knight Rider and Police Academy among many other programs. Arthur Batanides died of natural causes on January 10, 2000 in Los Angeles, California.

Readers who wish to contact Mr. Frangos may e-mail him at greekwrite@yahoo.com.

## Learn to SPEAK GREEK in 2 MONTHS! With tutoring via INTERNET and Telephone

**Instructor: Helen Dumas**  
Authority in teaching Greek as 2nd language

- Native of Greece; UCLA credentialed Teacher
- Director of GREEK EDUCATION for W. US for 25 Years
- Nationally recognized as "The teacher of the Year in USA"
- Internationally recognized by the Greek government, and
- From our Church in America, Helen was recently awarded "The Archdiocesan Medal of Saint Paul" - the highest honor

Contact

**Helen Dumas**

Tel.: 301-373-0808

E-mail: [speakgreeknow@aol.com](mailto:speakgreeknow@aol.com)  
website: [www.speakgreeknow.com](http://www.speakgreeknow.com)



Helen Dumas

# John Tassos, 89, had a Zest for Life that Took Him to TV, Cooking, Photography, Sailing and Beyond

By Martha Phifer  
Orlando Sentinel

John Tassos was so good at everything he did that he either taught it, wrote about it or had a television show about it??

His long list of talents – and accomplishments – included photography, scuba diving, cooking, writing and sailing??

"John was very talented," said Nancy "Jodi" Tassos, his wife of 40 years. "He was very good at everything he did."

Tassos died Saturday after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 89??

Born in Passaic, N. J., Tassos was the third of nine children of Greek immigrants. He attended Lafayette College and Southern Methodist University before enlisting in the Air Force during World War II, where he served as an aerial photographer??

When he returned to New York City, he worked as a camera operator for NBC during the early days of television. He also worked on classified government projects and for commercial networks??

He left television to work as an account executive for a major advertising agency. There, he managed an account for Walt Disney Co. that included Walt Disney's

Wonderful World of Color??

As a freelance writer and photographer, Tassos wrote for The New York Times and other publications. In 1954, he was commissioned by Prentice-Hall to write The Underwater World, in which he shared his experience and knowledge of scuba diving.

In 1967, Tassos, who had been a single father for several years, married Jodi. The family moved to Tokyo, where he managed the advertising joint venture Jack Tinker/Hakuhodo??

Upon his return to the United States, Tassos was tapped to join Disney's marketing department, and the family moved to Winter Park. In the mid-1970s, Tassos left Disney and opened Tassos & Tassos Associates, a private consulting and market-planning firm.?

Even all the traveling his business required didn't stop Tassos from engaging in his two favorite pastimes: cooking and sailing.

One day, while at the grand opening of a culinary store and school in Altamonte Springs, Tassos was approached by the owner and asked to do a demonstration of Greek cooking. That demonstration led to Tassos' teaching a cooking class once a week in the evenings. Months later, he had a segment on WKMG-Channel 6 as the

Newswatch Chef??

"Cooking was a real gift of his," said his wife.

His son, John B.H. Tassos of Winter Park, recalls his father yelling ella tora ("come now" in Greek) when dinner was ready and the family wasn't at the table??

Of all his hobbies, though, Tassos was most passionate about sailing. He owned an ocean racer, Gulvain, that he sailed to Greece and back to the States.

"It was a real love of his, his boat," Jodi Tassos said.?

For eight years, Tassos combined his love of sailing and food while working for Travel Dynamics as a food and beverage consultant. In the summers, his family joined him on his journeys around the world aboard a Greek cruise ship??

"As I sit here and look at all the pictures of the places we've been and things we've done, I remember that we had a rich, wonderful life," his wife said.?

Tassos also is survived by daughter Penny Schueneman of Miami and two grandchildren.

American Family Funerals & Cremations, Casselberry, handled arrangements.

The Orlando Sentinel published the above on April 8.

# Nicholas Brontas, 84, Top Lawyer, City Council Chairman and Former Mayor of Bangor, Maine

By Dawn Gagnon  
Bangor Daily News

BANGOR, Maine – Former lawyer and City Council Chairman Nicholas P. Brontas was remembered Tuesday as a family man, talented lawyer and gentleman.

Brontas, a second-generation Greek American, died Monday at age 84 at a local health care facility.

Among those mourning his loss is Gov. John Baldacci, whose father, Robert Baldacci Sr., served with Brontas on the Bangor City Council in the 1960s. Both families rose to prominence in the area's business, legal and public service sectors.

"He was a lovely man -- a real gentleman," the governor said Tuesday, adding that Brontas, whose specialties were business, estate and tax law, was his parents' attorney.

Baldacci said Brontas would be remembered for his "old-fashioned values. He was bright and capable, but he didn't try to impress people. We are all thinking of his family. He will be missed."

Brontas was well-established in his law practice with Lewis Vafades when Maine Supreme Court Justice Warren Silver came to Bangor as a young lawyer in 1977. They set the example that Silver's

generation still strives to model, the justice said.

"The most important thing I can say about Nick is he was a gentleman," Silver said Tuesday. "He was respectful, kind and just a good lawyer. He was a pillar of the bar and, along with Lew, was a member of a group of lawyers we should all try to emulate."

Susan Kominsky, a partner in the law firm Brontas co-founded, agreed: "He never went for the quick answer. He really studied every problem from all possible sides," said Kominsky, one of Bangor's first female lawyers. "He was very respectful of my role as a lawyer in those early days."

Maine State Bar Association President Brett Babar called Brontas "a true stalwart of the bar, having been recognized by the Maine State Bar Association for more than 50 years as a member of the organization and achieving the honor of becoming a Life Member."

He said Brontas "came from a generation of lawyers who epitomized the best of our profession. [He] was deeply committed to his clients, to his fellow lawyers, and most of all, to his community."

Brontas also was the first of three brothers who made a splash in city politics in the 1960s and 1970s. Brontas, who served two

consecutive terms beginning in November 1962, was the council's chairman in 1964. His younger brothers, Arthur and George, followed in his footsteps, both serving on the council and chairing it.

A photograph of the three former mayors hung in a prominent spot in his office for decades, according to his oldest son, David Brontas, who lives in Massachusetts.

A graduate of the University of Maine and Yale Law School, Nicholas Brontas belonged to many civic and professional groups, including the American Bar Association, the Bangor City Club, the board of appeals, The Salvation Army advisory council and the Maine State Judicial Ethics Committee.

In addition to his son David, Brontas is survived by his wife, Helen, of Bangor and youngest son, Nicholas, of New York City.

Visiting hours, which will be private, are planned for Friday at Brookings-Smith Funeral Home in Bangor. A funeral service, also private, will be held Saturday at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Bangor.

The Bangor Daily News published the above on April 9.

## DEATHS

### ■ CARROS, RENA

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. – The Winston-Salem Journal reported that Rena Karagounis Carros, 96, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at Forsyth Medical Center. She is survived by her loving family, which includes her sons, Nick (Cynthia) Carros; Gus and daughter-in-law, Emily Carros; and daughter-in-law, Helen Carros Tsiolkas, and husband Jim; a brother, Angelo Cortesis, and sister-in-law Evridiki; six grandchildren, Jimmy and Ashley Carros, Irene and Dr. Joseph Jorizzo, Tammy and fiancée Mickey Hargitay, Jimmy and Antoula Carros, Irene and Steve Mavroidis and John Carros; 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her husband James Carros, to whom she was married to for 58 years; her daughter Vasiliki; her son Andrew Carros; her sisters Konstantoula Xenakis and Maria Andrews; and her brother Demitrios Cortesis. She was born Dec. 28, 1911, to the late Andreas and Eleni Cortesis in Mouzilio, Erytrianias, Greece. She came to the U.S. after the Civil War in Greece in 1949 and faithfully took care of her dear family. She lived in Winston-Salem most of her life. Gardening and cooking were her passions. She was a faithful member of The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Winston-Salem and a member of the local Philoptochos Society. The greatest joy in her life was her family, especially her grandchildren. She was an eternal optimist with a great smile on her face and always wanted to offer you something as you left her house. The family extends special thanks to the Winston-Salem Rehabilitation Center caretakers and special thanks to the clergy, especially Father Dennis, for his frequent visitations, and to Mrs. Elizabeth Vlasia. The funeral was held on April 3 at The Greek Orthodox Church in Winston-Salem. Memorial donations to The Greek Orthodox Church (435 Keating Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27104).

### ■ DEMONS, VLASIA

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, Ill. – The Belleville News-Democrat reported that Vlasia "Vivian" Demos, nee Bardouniotis, 72, of Belleville, Ill., died on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at Select Specialty Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, James G. Demos of Belleville, Ill., whom she married Nov. 5, 1961; a daughter, Irene (Bill) Dixon of Millstadt, Ill.; three brothers, Peter (Mary) Bardouniotis of Belleville, Ill., Speros (Irene) Bardouniotis of Chicago, Ill., and Elias (Eleni) Bardouniotis of Athens, Greece; two sisters, Eleni Avgoustatou and Panagoula (Nicos) Roumani of Athens, Greece; a brother-in-law, Costas Papadopoulos of Wayne, N.J.; a sister-in-law, Martha Bardouniotis of Chicago, Ill., and many beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. She was predeceased by her parents Georgios and Alexandra, nee Besbekis, Bardouniotis; her sister, Mina Papadopoulos; two brothers, Costas (Popi) and Demetrios Bardouniotis; and a brother-in-law, Sotirios Avgoustatos. Mrs. Demos was a devoted wife, mother, aunt, great aunt, and good friend with many people. She was a member of St.'s Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Swansea, Ill.; a member of the Philoptochos Society, Swansea, Ill.; and a member of the Daughters of Penelope, St. Louis, Mo. Vlasia took pride in her home and family. She loved the holidays and put effort into making them special for her family, especially Christmas and Easter. She also assisted other Ladies of the Philoptochos Society in baking the

delightful pastries for preparation of the Greek Festival of the Church. Burial was at Lake View Memorial Gardens, Fairview Heights, Ill. The funeral was held on April 5 at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Swansea. Memorial donations to Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church New Building Fund (405 Huntwood Road, Swansea, Ill., 62226).

### ■ ECONOMY, CHRIS

ELGIN, Ill. – The Chicago Suburban Daily Herald reported that Chris Economy, 83, passed away Friday, April 4, 2008, in Rancho Mirage, Calif., after a brief illness. He is survived by his four children, Kim Stuart of Lake Zurich, Dyan Werderich (Jerome) of Hillsboro Beach, Fla., James C. Economy of Spring Grove, Ill. and Vance Economy of Chicago; three grandchildren, Christopher J. Garris of Spring Grove, and Katherine and Nicholas Stuart of Lake Zurich; and very special friend and companion, Dorothy D. Hanley of Elgin and La Quinta. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen; his parents, James and Athanasia; his brother, Nick; and his sister, Elaine. He was a graduate of Elgin High School, class of 1942, and attended the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign before enlisting in the Air Force. After returning home from service in World War II, he completed his education at Drake University in Iowa, earning a bachelor of science degree in marketing and business administration. Chris received his pilot training in Santa Ana, Calif., and at Cal Aero in Ontario, Calif., where he flew Stearman PT-17's and BT-13's. He was sent to Douglas, Ariz. for advanced flight training on AT-17's and B-25's, and he received his wings in April of 1944, class 44D. He served four years of active duty during World War II, where he flew several different aircraft including B-17's, B-24's, B-25's, B-29's, C-47's, C-54's, UC-45's and UC-78's. He flew extensively over "The Hump" in the China-Burma-India Theater of operations, in addition to numerous other missions. At the end of World War II, Chris remained in the active Reserves for 26 years, where he attained the rank of Major before mandatory retirement one day before he was to be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Chris was a man before his time and was truly possessed of an entrepreneurial spirit, engaging in many and varied business ventures during his lifetime. Both Chris and his brother-in-law, James C. Cordoan, owned and operated the Royal Lounge in Elgin, which featured nightly live entertainment of a caliber not found at that time in the far northwestern suburbs. He brought many nationally renowned musicians to perform at the Royal from the Blue Note, one of Chicago's premiere jazz clubs during the 1950's. They later opened the Tiki Lounge in Elgin which many still remember featured a tropical theme, complete with thatched bar and festively painted totem poles to capitalize on the popular Polynesian and surfing trend of the 1960's. They also opened the Viking Restaurant and Smorgasbord in East Dundee, often feeding several hundred people daily, and pioneered the serving of such exotic fare as all you care to eat Alaskan king crab legs at a time when they were virtually unknown. Operating in a period before computer aided design and graphics, Chris personally designed all the advertising, promotional material and menus; drawing much of the artwork free-hand. He had a wonderful sense of humor and great insight. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. The funeral will be held on April 12, at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Elgin. Memorial do-

nations to the American Cancer Society or the Air Force Memorial Foundation.

### ■ GRAMATIKAS, FORTIS

MANCHESTER, N.H. – The New Hampshire Union Leader reported that Fortis G. Gramatikas, 89, of Manchester, died on Thursday, April 3, 2008, in Orlando, Fla. He is survived by his son George F. Gramatikas; his granddaughter Alexandra S. Gramatikas; two sisters, Barbara Papatanasios and Mary Kelly; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife Esther (Patsas) Gramatikas, in 1996. He was born Jan. 10, 1919, in Yolo, Thesaly, Greece, the son of George F. and Iphigenia (Pseras) Gramatikas. He grew up in the Spruce Street area and was a graduate of Central High School. During World War II, he was a lieutenant in the 275th Engineer Combat Battalion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Gramatikas was a businessman and the owner of the former Frank's Supermarket at 85 South Main Street. He was a member of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, the Shrine Temple, Washington Lodge #16, AF & AM, Manchester, and the NOA Club. He participated in basketball, swimming, bowling and golf. He also enjoyed bird watching and gardening. The funeral was on April 8 at Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Manchester. Memorial donations to Hospice of the Comforter (480 W. Central Pkwy., Altamonte Springs, Fla., 32714); or to Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church (111 Island Pond Road, Manchester 03109).

### ■ KARAS, HELEN

EAST MOLINE, Ill. – The Quad-City Times reported that Helen W. Karas, 99, passed away on Saturday, April 5, 2008, at home. She is survived by her sister Mary Giovannis; her niece Lucia (John) Podraza; and her great niece Amelia Podraza. She was predeceased by her husband Sam; her parents; and her brother Nick Raptis. The former Helen Wilhelmina Raptopoulos was born March 19, 1909, in Istanbul, Turkey, the daughter of John and Despina Raptopoulos. A Turkish national of Greek descent, she immigrated to the United States in 1922 and settled with her family in Moline. She was a 1929 graduate of Moline High School. She married Sam V. Karas in 1931. He preceded her in death in 1972. Helen was a very active member of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in East Moline, where she served in many capacities, including church secretary and treasurer. Helen also served as president of the church's Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. Helen worked with her husband in their business, the East Moline Produce Company, until 1964. In 1971 she began work as a part-time teller at the Metro Bank in East Moline, retiring in 1999. The funeral was held on April 10 at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in East Moline. Burial was at Moline Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorials to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in East Moline.

### ■ ZAROS, JOHN

NEWARK, N.J. – The Star-Ledger reported that John Zaros, 88, of Nutley died on Saturday, April 5, 2008 in Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston. He is survived by his wife Anne (nee Dalianis) of 60 years; his son, Evan; and brother, James. Born in June 1919 in Vouliarati, Greece, John immigrated to the United States in 1936 and had been a resident of Nutley for 50 years. A World War II veteran, he served 42 months in the Army and was assigned to the Army's 30th General Hospital in France. Mr. Zaros retired from the Gateway Hilton, Newark, where he was the banquet captain. He was a lifetime member of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Newark. The funeral was held on April 10 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Clifton. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery, E. Broad Street in Westfield. Memorial donations to the Nutley Rescue Squad (P.O. Box 172, Nutley, N.J. 07110).

### ■ NOGLOWS, STEPHEN

FAIR HAVEN, N.J. – The Asbury Park Press reported that Stephen "Bill" William Noglows, 79, died on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at home. He is survived by his wife Betty Ann; his brother Paul Noglows (Flora); his sister Betsy (Eugene) Quaglia; his daughter Donna (Kevin) Myers and their three children, Christopher, James and Elizabeth; his son Stephen William Noglows Jr. (Marie) and their three children, Stephen William III, Analisa and Julia; his son Paul Noglows (Judy)

and their four children, William, Andrew, Hannah and Grace of Little Silver; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews. Bill, the son of Greek immigrant William and Elizabeth Noglows of Long Branch, was born Nov. 9, 1928, on Broad Street in Red Bank. Growing up, Bill worked in his father's numerous Red Bank-based businesses, including the Red Bank Candy Kitchen, Monmouth Diner and Strand Restaurant. He graduated from Red Bank Regional High School in 1945 and went on to graduate from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor of science degree in economics in 1950. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force on active duty in Langley, Va., Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, and Chateauroux, France, between 1953 and 1955. He received the Air Force National Defense Service Medal and the Air Force German Occupation Medal. 1955 was a big year for Bill. He married Betty Ann Sommers (his loving wife of 52 years), moved to Fair Haven and opened Monmouth Meats, which he ran with his brother Paul with markets in Red Bank, Little Silver and Eatontown for the next 45 years. The business served three generations of loyal Monmouth County customers and received numerous Visual Improvement Awards from the Red Bank, Little Silver and Eatontown Chambers of Commerce. Bill was scheduled for induction next month, with his brother Paul, into the Red Bank Regional High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Bill retired in 2000 and spent much of his time traveling to favorite destinations both far and near, including Disney World and Monmouth Park. Known affectionately as Pop Pop by his 10 loving grandchildren, he rarely missed a sporting event or school function and was an active and big presence in both his children's and grandchildren's lives. The funeral April 7 at the funeral home. Burial was at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Middletown. Memorial donations to the Red Bank Regional High School Education Foundation (101 Ridge Road, Little Silver, NJ 07739).

This is a service to the community. Announcements of deaths may be telephoned to the Classified Department of The National Herald at (718) 784-5255, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST or e-mailed to: classifieds@thenationalherald.com

## CLASSIFIEDS

### HELP WANTED

#### VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHER/ CINEMATOGRAPHER INTERN WANTED

Have an eye for video? The National Herald is looking for college-level VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHERS for internship opportunities. Earn credit towards your degree and gain valuable experience in the world of journalism. Send current resume, cover letter, and optionally, a link to a web-based example of your work (e.g. YouTube) to: photoherald@hotmail.com

#### LEADING GREEK AMERICAN NEWSPAPER SEEKS

Full-time AD sales representatives for both GREEK and ENGLISH language publications. Applicants should have some sales and/or marketing experience. Fluency with computer use and knowledge of Internet a plus. Bi-lingual command of both languages preferred. This positions offers base salary, plus commissions. E-mail resume and cover letter to info@ekirikas.com FAX: (718) 472-0510 Attn. Publisher or call (718) 784-5255 ask for Veta.

#### JOURNALISTS WANTED

Nation's leading Greek American newspaper, The National Herald, needs reporters and assistant editor for English weekly paper. Exceptional writing/reporting skills and bilingual fluency a must. Car a plus. Fax or e-mail clips and cover letter to 718-472-0510 or publisher@ekirikas.com.

### FUNERAL HOMES

CONSTANTINIDES FUNERAL HOME, INC. 405 91st Street Bay Ridge - Brooklyn, NY 11209 (718) 745-1010 Services in all localities - Low cost shipping to Greece

ANTONOPOULOS FUNERAL HOME, INC. Konstantinos Antonopoulos - Funeral Director 38-08 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria, New York 11105 (718) 728-8500 Not affiliated with any other funeral home.

APOSTOLOPOULOS Apostle Family - Gregory, Nicholas, Andrew - Funeral Directors of RIVERDALE FUNERAL HOME INC. 5044 Broadway New York, NY 10034 (212) 942-4000 Toll Free 1-888-GAPOSTLE

LITRAS FUNERAL HOME ARLINGTON BENSON DOWD, INC FUNERAL HOME 83-15 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432 (718) 858-4434 • (800) 245-4872

TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD, CALL: (718) 784-5255, EXT. 106, E-MAIL: classifieds@thenationalherald.com

### REAL ESTATE

YOUR CONNECTION TO SOUTH FLORIDA  
Specializing in Country Clubs & Waterfront Communities From Broward to Palm Beach  
Gus Trataros, Realtor 561.716.0653 / 954.433.0184 Gus@theabrahamteam.com

# Subscribe

PRINTED EDITION OF THE NATIONAL HERALD via the post-office:  
☐1 Month for \$9.95 ☐3 Months for \$19.95  
☐6 Months for \$29.95 ☐One Year for \$59.85

VIA HOME DELIVERY (NY, NJ & CT):  
☐1 Month for \$12.95 ☐3 Months for \$29.95  
☐6 Months for \$43.99 ☐One Year for \$80.00

VIA HOME DELIVERY (NEW ENGLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, WASHINGTON D.C., VIRGINIA & MARYLAND)  
☐1 Month for \$15.95 ☐3 Months for \$37.45  
☐6 Months for \$51.75 ☐One Year for \$99.00

ON LINE SUBSCRIPTION www.thenationalherald.com  
NON SUBSCRIBERS: ☐One Year for \$45.95  
☐3 Months for \$18.95  
SUBSCRIBERS: ☐One Year for \$34.95 ☐3 Months for \$14.95

NAME: .....  
ADDRESS: .....  
CITY: ..... STATE: ..... ZIP: .....  
TEL: ..... E-MAIL: ..... CELL: .....  
PLEASE SEND A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION TO:  
NAME: .....  
ADDRESS: .....  
CITY: ..... STATE: ..... ZIP: .....  
TEL: ..... E-MAIL: ..... CELL: .....  
Please specify method of payment  
I enclose a check/money order for \$ ..... made payable to:  
The National Herald, Inc., 37-10 30th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101 - 2614  
or please debit my ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express  
CARD NUMBER: .....  
EXPIRATION DATE: ..... SIGNATURE: .....

# Greece Ready to Resume Negotiations with FYROM

Continued from page 1

Kathimerini, Mr. Karamanlis said Greece is also ready to impose a veto on FYROM's European Union membership negotiations.

The Prime Minister has previously stated that Greece would adopt the same stance when FYROM's application to begin E.U. accession negotiations comes up for consideration in September, but said there is ample time to find a solution before that.

"I think there is enough time to find a solution. But on the issue of accession negotiations, our country's stance was, is and will remain consistent," he said.

In Brussels this past Wednesday, April 9, the E.U. said it hopes accession talks with FYROM can start this year, but also said the small Balkan country needs to make further reforms.

E.U. Secretary for European Affairs Janez Lenarcic told the European Parliament that administrative reform and minority rights issues had to be resolved before FYROM, which has been a candidate for E.U. membership since 2005, could start negotiating on E.U. admission.

"Stability is a decisive factor in this region," Mr. Lenarcic said, adding that FYROM's dispute with Greece also had to be resolved as soon as possible.

FYROM's E.U. prospects aside, Mr. Karamanlis clearly disagrees with the view that Greece's veto would lead to a destabilization in the region, and said he is confident that negotiations between the two countries will eventually pick up again.

"I believe that conditions will soon be ripe to repeat negotiations to find a mutually acceptable solution," he said, adding that, in spite of public backlash in FYROM to Greece's decision, Greece harbors no hostility toward the little country's Euro-Atlantic prospects, provided that the name dispute is resolved in a satisfactory manner.

"The framework of negotiations is well known. We have already crossed half the distance, and now it's up to FYROM to take the necessary steps and do its share," he said.

## HOSTILE BACKLASH

Nationalistic sentiments in FYROM took an ugly turn a few days before the NATO Summit in Romania, however.

Billboard ads in Skopje streets desecrated the Greek flag by morphing the Christian Cross into a swastika. And Kathimerini has reported that Greek firms in FYROM fear a hostile backlash.

Greece is the second largest foreign investor in FYROM, after Germany. Greek investments total 15.2 billion euros (\$24.1 billion), compared to Germany's 17.4 billion euros (\$27.6 billion). And National Bank, Hellenic Petroleum - which runs the OKTA refinery in Skopje and controls the local distribution network - and OTE, the Greek telecommunications giant, are planning to expand their networks there over the next ten years.

The Veropoulos supermarket chain has also expanded, with eight outlets in its 11-year presence in Skopje, and is now planning a 25-million euro (\$39.6 million) investment in a shopping mall.

But following Greece's rejection of FYROM's NATO application last



Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, left, with former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer during the Economist Magazine Conference in Athens this past Tuesday, April 8. Karamanlis called on FYROM to cooperate with Greece on the name dispute.

week, Nikos Veropoulos, owner of the chain, said he wary that his businesses may be the target of hostility, even attacks, by extreme nationalist groups.

He is not alone in his fears. Hundreds of other Greek entrepreneurs who run businesses in FYROM said they feel the same way. They also fear that the FYROM Government will change tactics after the latest development and create problems for Greek firms. Such a prospect would mostly affect OTE, which still needs a number of licenses.

## FORGING AHEAD

The Greek Government is nonetheless forging ahead with a serious new strategy on resolving the name dispute, Mr. Karamanlis said, and will continue working on finding a mutually acceptable solution through the U.N., "to the benefit of all Balkans."

Athens is in favor of the gradual incorporation of all Southeast Europe into Euro-Atlantic structures, provided that the required terms and criteria were met, he said, expressing his satisfaction with NATO's invitations to Albania and Croatia in references to the outcome of the Alliance's decision concerning the "Adriatic group."

Asked how he felt the NATO Summit results and Greece's position on FYROM were received by the other allies, Mr. Karamanlis said Athens had achieved its diplomatic objectives in Bucharest, and that its veto is a tool which could ultimately help lead to a solution for the FYROM problem.

Among the positive points Mr. Karamanlis mentioned regarding the Summit was the fact that all sides had come to understand the true nature of the FYROM name dispute, "which had not been achieved in any of the previous 17 years since it first arose." Greece was not isolated in its views, he pointed out, and received support

from several countries, while a general understanding of Greek positions was expanded during the Summit.

Greece strenuously objects to FYROM's insistence to use of the name "Republic of Macedonia," Mr. Karamanlis explained, because it is also the name of a major northern Greek province along the FYROM border, the birthplace of Alexander the Great, and if Skopje gets its way, it would strengthen FYROM's irredentist strategy and expansionist designs.

Mr. Karamanlis also discussed other NATO-related issues, among them a proposed enlargement toward Ukraine and Georgia. No one could impose on the Alliance as to whether it could or should accept new members, he said, provided that the parties under consideration were in agreement and fulfilled the necessary criteria.

With respect to Russia, the Greek Premier said NATO-Russia cooperation was crucial for international stability and security, noting that the Cold War was over, and that the challenges now facing NATO and Russia were new ones.

On the issue of Afghanistan, he noted that Greece already participates in the NATO force, and can increase its contribution to the reconstruction effort for the war-ravaged country.

After he returned to Greece from Romania, Mr. Karamanlis briefed Karolos Papoulias, President of the Hellenic Republic, on the outcome of the recent NATO Summit this past Monday, April 7, emphasizing that the Greek veto could also be a new starting point for future negotiations, and that Greece "will continue to work within the U.N. framework in a self-confident, serious and responsible manner."

Mr. Papoulias said the Bucharest Summit offered a new sense of op-

timism that the end result will ultimately be a success.

Mr. Karamanlis also addressed the ruling New Democracy party's Political Council on the main points of his government's policy this past Wednesday, including its goals concerning the FYROM name dispute.

He referred to the outcome of the NATO Summit as a "successful battle waged with determination, wisdom and the right political maneuvers," but stressed that there was still a long and difficult road ahead before a solution is found.

Main Opposition leader George Papandreu, chairman of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), said the New Democracy government "did its duty" in Romania. "In Bucharest, we averted a negative development for our nation's interests. Greece was forced to defend itself, and did so," he said.

Prior to the Summit, Mr. Papandreu also put party ideologies aside, and backed the Greek Government. "This is not the time for criticism. It is the time to strengthen Greece's voice in this critical negotiation," he said after meeting with Mr. Karamanlis this past March 31. "Greece is being wronged and facing pressure even from allies and partners" over the FYROM problem.

## ALBANIAN REACTION

The Albanian Government also said the name dispute needs to be resolved because it could lead to instability in the Balkans.

The continued lack of a solution could encourage radical ethnic groups in FYROM, "and that would become a problem for the whole region," Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha told the Associated Press in an interview this past Monday.

Ethnic Albanians make up between a quarter and a third of FYROM's population, and ethnic Albanian rebels fought a brief war against Skopje government forces in 2001. Relations between the two communities are still tense.

"If there is a deadlock, then there is a real possibility of encouraging radical groups of all ethnic communities," he said.

He did not elaborate on the reasons why he thought the issue of NATO membership might inflame ethnic tensions within the country.

"I don't believe that such a very important country (FYROM) for peace and stability in the region will remain an unintegrated island. I don't believe Greece will abuse its veto, and also do not believe that the Macedonian side will be intrans-

igent to an acceptable consensus solution," he said, urging both FYROM and Greece to reach consensus on the issue.

He was reluctant to say whether he believed Albania would meet all the criteria to become a fully fledged NATO member by the Alliance's annual summit next year, but said his country would do all it could. Necessary reforms include changes to the electoral and justice systems, and its army.

In a related development, FYROM's governing conservative party said Wednesday it will support a motion to dissolve parliament, a vote which would lead to an early general election.

FYROM Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski is not required to go to the polls until 2010, but dissent within his government's coalition and the recent failure to secure NATO membership have put pressure on the conservatives. If lawmakers vote in favor of the motion, an election must be held within three months.

Victoria Nuland, the U.S. ambassador to NATO, visited Skopje on Wednesday, and urged Greece and FYROM to resume negotiations.

"I felt a real spirit of engagement or readiness to try to settle this in days or weeks, and we look forward to continuing that work in support of a U.N.-mandated process," Ms. Nuland said after separate meetings with Mr. Gruevski and FYROM President Branko Crvenkovski.

In Athens, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyanni said she hoped talks could restart immediately. "We express the sincere desire to follow the joint declaration of NATO, which calls for a solution to be followed by an invitation to join the Alliance," she said.

The above incorporates information from reports posted by the Associated Press, Athens News Agency and Kathimerini.



Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyanni, left, listens to her Serb counterpart Vuk Jeremic during a conference at the Athens seaside suburb of Vouliagmeni this past Wednesday, April 9. A definitive solution to Kosovo can only be achieved once Serbia joins the European Union, Bakoyanni said.

## Pana Collapse, Olympiacos Stay on Top

By Michael Paterakis  
Associated Press

A late goal by Costas Mitroglou helped Olympiacos earn a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Larissa at home on Sunday and stay at the top of the table, two points in front of AEK... who beat Ergotelis 3-1 at the Olympic Stadium of Athens. Panathinaikos slipped up to third place after suffering a humiliating 4-1 defeat at OFI Crete.

At the Georgios Karaiskakis Stadium, ten-man Larissa took the lead after 40 minutes of play thanks to a fine strike from the edge of the area by Turkish ace Tümer Metin.

However, Olympiacos conducted a spirited second-half comeback: first they equalized through midfielder Mimes Susic before eventually clinching a priceless victory thanks to a close range effort from golden substitute striker Costas Mitroglou one minute from time.

AEK must have been watching the scoreline of that game with interest, and although they were denied the chance to close the gap by that last-minute winner, they had cause to celebrate after a comfortable evening spent beating Ergotelis 3-1 at home.

Meanwhile, Panathinaikos suffered another humiliation in their centenary year, this time at the hands of OFI in Crete.

The hosts produced a professional performance as hitting three times on the break saw them subject Pana to a heavy 4-1 defeat.

## Cyprus' New Crossing Meets Trouble, but Still Offers Hope of Reunification

Continued from page 1

the U.N.-controlled buffer zone.

"We have been very clear that violations cannot be tolerated," Stefanou told The Associated Press.

The closure ended after scores of protesters gathered on both sides, chanting "Cyprus belongs to its people," and U.N. officials mediated between rival police forces.

"After consultations with the U.N., we have been given assurances that this will not happen again," said Kypros Michailidis, Nicosia's Greek Cypriot police chief.

There was no immediate comment from Turkish Cypriot officials.

The brief closure contrasted with the opening ceremony earlier Thursday, when officials from both sides of the divide cut the ribbons of colored helium balloons to mark the occasion. Crews had swept away debris, repaved the street, installed lighting and reinforced abandoned buildings

along the 230-foot stretch of Ledra Street that runs through a U.N. controlled buffer zone.

"We managed to turn the world's attention on us today, and hours later we've managed to mess things up," said protester Valentina Sofocleous, who headed a citizens' campaign to reopen Ledra Street.

"This is absurd, but we believe it's a problem that will be overcome and that Greek and Turkish Cypriots will live together."

The street in the center of Nicosia's medieval quarter was split in 1964 during an outbreak of communal fighting when British peacekeepers laid barbed wire between the street's Greek and Turkish Cypriot sectors.

Ten years later, the entire island was divided after Turkey's army invaded after a failed coup aimed at uniting the island with Greece.

Turkish Cypriots relaxed boundary restrictions in 2003, and since

then five other crossings have opened. But ID cards or passports are still needed to move between the two sides.

Hopes of reaching a settlement in Cyprus were given a boost earlier this year with the election of Christofias, who replaced a hardliner and pledged to restart talks with Talat. The two agreed to open Ledra Street during their first meeting last month.

Both men have also agreed to end a four-year stalemate in peace talks and are preparing for full-fledged negotiations.

Christofias said the next step was to agree on pulling back soldiers manning guard posts on either side of the buffer zone inside the capital's center that is ringed by 16th Century Venetian walls.

He also said he would try to open another crossing point near Limni-

tis in the island's remote northwest.

Some officials had warned against being overly optimistic during the opening ceremony.

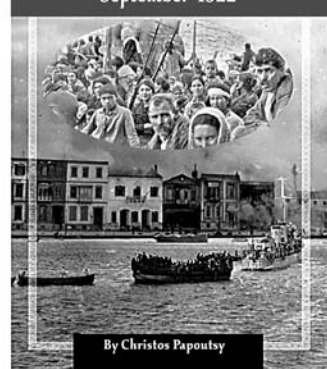
"The road has opened, but the bullet-pocked buildings remind us that there is still a long way to go," Nicosia Mayor Eleni Mavrou said during the initial celebrations.

"Time will tell whether this road will become the avenue for reunification."

## Ships of Mercy:

The true story of the rescue of the Greeks, Smyrna September 1922  
By Christos Papoutsy

Ships of Mercy: The True Story of the Rescue of the Greeks, Smyrna September 1922



Ships of Mercy reveals the true heroes of Smyrna, forgotten by history.

It is based on more than ten years of research by the Papoutsys who traveled around the globe to document the rescue of hundreds of thousands of Greek refugees on the Smyrna quay in September 1922. After more than a decade of preparation, this book uncovers surprising answers and displays previously unpublished materials. Vintage photographs, exhibits, naval war diaries and captains' logs appear for the first time in the pages of this volume. Ships of Mercy dispels common myths about the evacuation of the refugees and documents clearly the real saviors in this enormous tragedy.

ISBN: 978-1-931807-66-1 • Hardcover - 280 pages - \$30.00

Available January 1, 2008 from Enfield Distribution Co. at

[www.enfieldbooks.com/orderform.pdf](http://www.enfieldbooks.com/orderform.pdf) and major online book sellers.

Author available for book presentations and signings.

Contact Mr. Papoutsy at [papcolholding@papcolholdings.org](mailto:papcolholding@papcolholdings.org) or 603-379-8140

or visit his website at <http://www.helleniccomserve.com>

To order Ships of Mercy directly from the distributor, send your check or money order (sorry, no COD's) for USD\$30.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling (\$1.00 for each additional book) to Enfield Distribution Co., PO Box 699, Enfield, NH 03748, USA. Be sure to include title of book, Ships of Mercy, and buyer's full name and mailing address.

**Easter in Santorini and Crete**  
For Families, couples, singles and private groups.  
**April 26, 2008 - May 4, 2008**

Nine days experiencing different traditional Easter celebrations on the islands of Santorini and Crete.

U.S. Address: New York Office  
244 Fifth Avenue, Suite C214, New York, NY 10001  
T 1-800-867-1753  
Greece Address: 15 Falirou Street, Athens 11742 GREECE  
Tel +30-210-921-8160  
[info@aegeaadventures.com](mailto:info@aegeaadventures.com) • [www.aegeaadventures.com](http://www.aegeaadventures.com)

A specially featured tour. Book now and save 10%

**Crete-Hania**

## The National Herald

A weekly publication of the NATIONAL HERALD, INC. (ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ), reporting the news and addressing the issues of paramount interest to the Greek American community of the United States of America.

Publisher-Editor **Antonis H. Diamataris**

Assistant to Publisher, Advertising **Veta H. Diamataris Papadopoulou**  
Managing Editor **Evan C. Lambrou**  
Assistant Managing Editor **Mark Frangos**  
Production Manager **Chrysoula Karametros**  
Webmaster **Alexandros Tsoukias**

The National Herald (USPS 016864) is published weekly by The National Herald Inc. at 37-10 30th Street, LIC, NY 11101-2614  
Tel: (718)784-5255, Fax: (718)472-0510,  
e-mail: english.edition@thenationalherald.com

Democritou 1 and Academias Sts, Athens, 10671, Greece  
Tel: 011.30.210.3614.598, Fax: 011.30.210.3643.776, e-mail: athens@ekirikas.gr

Subscriptions by mail: 1 year \$59.85, 6 months \$29.95, 3 months \$19.95, 1 month \$9.95  
Home delivery NY, NJ, CT: 1 year \$80.00, 6 months \$43.99, 3 months \$29.99, 1 month \$12.95  
Home delivery New England States, Pennsylvania, Washington DC, Virginia and Maryland:  
1 year \$99.00, 6 months \$51.75, 3 months \$37.45, 1 month \$15.95  
On line subscription: Subscribers to the print edition: 1 year \$34.95, 6 months \$23.95, 3 months \$14.95; Non subscribers: 1 year \$45.95, 6 months \$29.95, 3 months \$18.95

Periodical postage paid at L.I.C., N.Y. and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster send change of address to:

THE NATIONAL HERALD, 37-10 30th Street, LIC, NY 11101-2614

## Celebrating our roots

Not many events undertaken by our community are as important as the annual parade commemorating Greek Independence Day in New York City. It brings us together to celebrate what unites us; to celebrate our roots. And it affords our children the chance to feel proud; to be part of something grand; and to learn more about their rich heritage.

There are many, many pictures depicting a bygone era when a boy was dressed as an Evzone or a little girl as an Amalia, holding the hands of their parents and marching up Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

This year's celebration of the 187th anniversary since the declaration of Greek independence from the Ottoman Turks was not much different than it was in the past – with two exceptions:

One, the number of people lining up along the sidewalks of Fifth Avenue was noticeably less compared to in previous years. And two, for the second consecutive year, the Parade was broadcast live on New York's Channel 9, a FOX affiliate, giving the chance to many more people to watch it than otherwise would have been possible.

As to the smaller crowd present for the 77th annual Parade, there are a few possible explanations: certainly the cloudy weather – rain was forecasted for that day – played some role, but not a significant one. And the fact that it was broadcast live on television also made a difference, but again, not enough of one, because the broadcast was not marketed appropriately.

A third factor can be attributed to the organizers, the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York, which is in charge of the Parade each year. The Federation has not been measuring up to the job in the past several years because of infighting and lack of leadership. And this year it showed.

Unless the problem is remedied in the Federation's upcoming elections this coming June – and one can not see how this can be done, given the present leadership struggle and unmotivated manpower – it will render this once useful organization irrelevant, and put the Parade's future at risk in the process.

As to the broadcasting of the Parade on a local American channel in a large metropolitan area, it should be stressed that this is a tremendous leap forward, and Parade 2008 Committee Chairman John Catsimatidis, the mastermind and force behind this forward-looking approach, deserves to be commended for his progressive thinking. It is Mr. Catsimatidis' love for, and devotion to, his Greek heritage which has motivated him, to make the Parade available to a wider audience.

On that note, we also hope that more consideration will be given for the rights of Greek channels to broadcast the event next year, both in the Greek American community and elsewhere, and that its representatives will be granted greater access to the Grand Stand than they have been allowed in the past two years.

Finally, please let's try to keep the event a celebration of the Greek Revolution, and adhere to that defining period of our ancestral history in a more thematic manner.

## On the right track

We are happy to report that the Order of AHEPA, the Greek American community's oldest and largest secular grassroots organization, continues to be on the right track. Its leadership is imaginative, sophisticated, effective and full of energy, and is working very hard to serve its existing members and attract new ones.

This much was clear from a visit AHEPA Supreme President Ike Gulas and Executive Director Basil N. Mossaidis paid to the National Herald's offices in New York earlier this past week.

AHEPA is not the static organization it had been in recent decades. It has been evolving and striving to redefine a new mission for itself in today's rapidly changing society. And it has been successful on all fronts.

A string of good presidents, going back to Dr. Spiro Macris, has re-examined the organization's priorities; energized its base; and has been making important changes.

This coming summer, AHEPA is holding its annual convention in Athens for the first time in two generations. This is an event of monumental significance for – among other things, like having a great time socially – it will help bring AHEPA and its membership closer to their roots, to where it all began.

## Honoring the man

The late Father Basil S. Gregory was an incredibly gifted person; a good priest; and a big-hearted, true human being. Born in Chicago, but very comfortable in both American and Greek circles, he was a towering figure with an unusually keen intellect and soft-spoken elegance. He personified the best of what the Greek Orthodox Church and community could and should be.

A man with a mission – to serve Orthodox and Hellenism in the best possible way – he worked tirelessly for both, helping anyone who would come knocking on his door along the way. And there were many who knocked, and many who were helped by this great man.

It is therefore fitting that the Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce, which he served effectively for many years with dedication and passion, inaugurated the Rev. Basil S. Gregory Memorial Lecture to mark the celebration of Greek Independence Day at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York.

Noted attorney Christ Stratakis delivered the inaugural lecture to an attentive audience.

Father Basil, who passed away just a few in 2001, would have been pleased with the caliber of the event. Having spent a lifetime in the service of the Church, and having sponsored countless events as the head of the Latsis Group's United States operations, the time had finally come for him to be honored himself in an appropriately public way.

Father Basil was a man who will not be forgotten, for he left an indelible impression on the community and the lives of the many people he touched.

## Overdrive mode

Now, less than two weeks later, after the NATO Summit in Bucharest, during which the Greek Government was left with no choice but to veto FYROM's entry to the Alliance, the two main questions are:

Why would the United States act as though it had adopted that little country and work so patently against Greece's interests? And how could the State Department miscalculate so much, and pay virtually no heed to Greece's oft-repeated warnings - "no solution, no invitation" - and scramble for a last minute compromise?

There are still no answers to either of those questions. But we are told that the State Department is now in overdrive mode trying to come up with a solution in the immediate future, perhaps even in the next few weeks.

## Macedonia Name Issue is About Our Past, Present and Future

To the Editor:

The issue of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is complex. How disappointing it was, for example, to read the New York Times' shrill and shallow editorial on April 3, "Shame On Greece: Messing With Macedonia."

Few non-Greeks seem to understand what Greece is upset about. In a nutshell, it is about identity, as vital an issue for a group or a nation as it is to an individual. Identity is who we are: our past, present and future.

The Macedonians were a Greek tribe speaking a Greek dialect according to virtually all literary and archaeological evidence. They produced Aristotle, perhaps the second greatest Greek mind, and Alexander the Great – arguably the greatest Greek.

When Tito hijacked the name of the ancient Macedonians for part of his state, it was an affront Greece was forced to endure due to Cold War politics.

The central Greek point is that, since the peaceful settlement of disputes is a core principle of the NATO alliance, NATO and the European Union should give heightened scrutiny to the application of a state which is not willing to compromise to resolve a dispute with its closest neighbor.

Greece does not deserve censure for threatening to veto FYROM's

bid to join NATO. Athens has worked hard to negotiate a compromise name for years – Upper Macedonia might be the solution. Even tiny states must demonstrate the common ethical and practical sense that one can not have 100 percent of what one wants all the time.

Constantine Sirigos  
Astoria, New York

## Consequences Methodios's Letter to the N.E. Clergy

To The Editor:

I am flabbergasted by the content of the letter addressed to the Greek Orthodox Clergy in New England written by His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios. I pray to the Saints of North America to intercede for him and for all Orthodox Christians in North America.

By his action Metropolitan Methodios appears to be stating that the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese represents the Church of Constantinople's questionable claim of PROTEIA...precedence in the New World. It is an indication that Constantinople is claiming jurisdiction over all Orthodox faithful in North and South America. Metropolitan Methodios is saying in this letter that he has precedence because he represents Constantinople. The fact that many cities are diocesan Sees for more than one Orthodox hierarchy is truly a scandal. Patriarch Demetrios, of blessed memory, rec-

ognized this scandal in the first ever visit to America by an Ecumenical Patriarch. Many of these cities had sitting bishops before the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese was established. An Albanian bishop was in Boston as early as 1908 and Boston remains the See under the Metropolia now the OCA. The City of Detroit had a bishop now within the Metropolia since 1935. One of the oldest Metropolia/OCA Sees, San Francisco, had a bishop years before the other Orthodox jurisdictions established bishops in that city. It would be interesting to investigate the dates when the dioceses were established in the cities and who established them. In fact the first bishops under their jurisdictions have PROTEIA. In fact the good order of the Church in America requires a synod of all canonical bishops working together in synergy with each other to settle this and other uncanonical issues causes by multi-jurisdictions.

This action by Metropolitan Methodios begs for a response by the mother churches because, in fact this is really their issue. They need to say that Constantinople does not have this precedence. If they do not respond they admit, by default, that Constantinople has precedence and that they are out of order in having dioceses in North America. Only the Church of Russia has taken issue with the Church of Constantinople on this issue. .

In his letter Metropolitan Methodios' is saying that any Greek

priest in his metropolis cannot serve with anyone in the OCA anywhere in the United States and Canada. Does this mean that a Greek Orthodox clergyman from another metropolis visiting in his metropolis cannot serve in an OCA parish? How can he alone write the letter which affects the relationship with an entire church? Is he speaking for all the hierarchs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese? Do his brother hierarchs agree with him? Does the synod of the GOA uphold his ban?

May the Saints of North America intercede for the faithful People of God who live in North America to resolve the matter of "one bishop in each city", territorial integrity and a single Holy Synod onto the strengthening of a united witness of Orthodoxy on this continent.

George Matsoukas  
West Palm Beach, Fla.

## TO OUR READERS

The N.H. welcomes letters from its readers intended for publication. They should include the writer's name, address, and telephone number and be addressed to: The Editor, The National Herald, 37-10 30th Street, LIC, NY 11101. Letters can also be faxed to (718) 472-0510 or e-mailed to english.edition@thenationalherald.com. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication and regret that we are unable to acknowledge or return those left unpublished.

## COMMENTARY

# First Imagine, Then Envision, Then Do Your Part

By **Metropolitan Methodios of Boston**  
Special to The National Herald

Another Sunday of Orthodoxy has come and gone. Another SCOBA encyclical issued to be read from pulpits and published in parish publications. More pan-Orthodox Vesper Services scheduled where representatives of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the many other Orthodox presences in America gathered to celebrate the victory of Orthodoxy over the iconoclasts of centuries past and those in our midst today. Panegyric homilies extolling the potential of Orthodoxy in America "if only we were united administratively" surely echoed in churches throughout the nation.

An article recently appeared under the title, "Is the 21st century the century of Orthodoxy?" My answer to this question is not based on numbers. I believe we should stop estimating – even bragging about how many Orthodox live in this country, but rather ask how many Orthodox practice their Faith. Nor is my response based on when there will be canonical administrative unity. I think those who pontificate about the need for administrative unity should rather be respectful of Canon Law and Orthodox ecclesiology and refrain from installing Bishops in cities where there is already a governing canonical Bishop. I believe that the 21st century will be the Century of Or-

thodoxy only if its clergy and laity are imbued by the same Spirit that consumed Phillip who sought out Nathaniel in the Gospel text.

Orthodoxy will grow and leave an indelible mark on America only if it realizes that it must be in constant mission. Only if it opens its embrace to welcome those who seek to quench their thirsts from the well spring of our Faith.

When most of us hear the word "mission" or "missionary", we think of lands far from us. We think of Africa and Asia. We think of peoples mired in the poverty of the third world. I refer to mission in America. Our mission in America will be successful if we first embrace those that have strayed from our Communities for various reasons. Just imagine how attractive Orthodoxy would be to our fellow Americans if our churches were filled with cradle Orthodox who were active in the lives of their parishes! Imagine if our communities were bristling with activity, especially with a vibrant sacramental life! Imagine if our worship services resembled those that the Russians experienced in Constantinople where they reported that they couldn't tell whether they were on earth or in heaven! Imagine if Orthodoxy were not limited to a Sunday morning experience for a small percentage of communicants, but rather a Church which lived the entire liturgical cycle! Imagine if our chanters and choir members didn't consider their service a burdensome chore for which they needed

to be thanked profusely and continuously, but a privileged ministry to glorify the name of Almighty God! Imagine if every parish were a Jacob's well where today's Samaritan men and women could quench their thirsts by dialoging with Spirit filled priests! Imagine if our philanthropy extended beyond the borders of our parishes to embrace the battered and abused, the homeless and the hungry, the hopeless and forgotten. All those whom we don't recognize, yet surely exist in our cities and towns. All those described by Christ as "the least of our brethren."

Our first mission must be to those who had the blessing to be born into Orthodox families, but for various reasons left the bosom of Orthodoxy not to worship elsewhere, but worse to mire in spiritual sloth and indifference. Our first mission should be to members of our own Orthodox family who are lost in the sea of materialism, hoping for a big catch. Our first mission should be to those "Orthodox" parents who have forgotten that the most important church is their own home. Those parents who, rather than taking their children with them to Church, carpool them to football, soccer or hockey practice on Sunday morning.

If our churches were brimming with Spirit filled worshipping Orthodox, then they would be attractive to our fellow Americans who are asking, "what shall I do to inherit eternal life." Then our mission to America would be crowned with

unimaginable success! In the Gospel text read on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we learned that Phillip found Nathaniel and shared with him his joyous discovery: "We have found him of whom Moses and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1,45). And when Nathaniel expressed doubt, Phillip challenged him to "come and see (John 1, 46).

How many of us have personally discovered Jesus of Nazareth? How many of us have the zeal to share that joyous news? If we challenged someone to "come and see" our Orthodox Parish would our visitor be welcomed or made to feel like a stranger? Would our parish be alive with religious fervor and zeal? Would the worship experience be fulfilling? Would our visitor find the chanter and choir prepared to lead the congregation in worship of Almighty God? Will the priest have prepared an inspiring sermon to help the congregants face the rigors and challenges of modern day life?

**Metropolitan Methodios of Boston is the spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston, which includes all of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as the Connecticut towns of Danielson, Enfield, New London, and Norwich. The Metropolis, whose offices are located in Brookline, MA, consists of 63 parishes, which minister to the needs of approximately 200,000 Greek Orthodox faithful.**

## PRESS CLIPPINGS

# Blackstone's Peterson Made a Mint, then Chose to Give It

By **Peter G. Peterson**  
Newsweek

The turning point in my life came before I was born. It was the day in 1912 when my Greek immigrant father came to America. He came as a teenager, without a penny or a word of English, and with only a third-grade education.

He took a job as a railroad dishwasher. He worked, ate and slept in a steaming caboose and saved everything he made. With his savings he opened a restaurant, and kept it open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for 25 years in my hometown of Kearney, Neb. His hard work and thrift gave me extraordinary opportunities. Had I been born in a different country, at a different time, I would never have had the chances that gave me such good fortune.

I have lived the American Dream—I went to college, worked in the corporate world, served in government and became an investment banker. And that led to a second turning point, on June 21, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. That was the day the Blackstone Group—a private-equity, asset-management and financial-advisory firm that I co-founded—went public. In an hour I became an instant billionaire.

What to do with so much money? I have much more than enough, and there seems little prospect that I can take it with me. So again I turn to my father's example. When he had built a modest net worth, he gave generously to his old home in Greece and to the less fortunate in his beloved new home. Tears would come to his eyes when he sang

"God Bless America." He so loved America for its possibilities.

I believe today that those possibilities are shrinking, endangering the American Dream. Personal myopia, political cowardice, fiscal fantasy and journalistic neglect are all at work. So I have chosen to put much of my wealth (\$1 billion over the next several years and much of my remaining estate) into a new foundation, one that I hope will explain the undeniable, unsustainable and yet politically untouchable long-term challenges we face. Headed by The Honorable David M. Walker, who served as the comptroller general of the United States from 1998 to 2008, the foundation will propose workable solutions and build up the public will to put them into effect. I cannot think of anything more important than trying in this way to preserve the possibilities of the American Dream for my children's and grandchildren's generations, and generations yet to come.

Let me summarize three such challenges. First, as 78 million baby boomers reach retirement age, the costs of Social Security and Medicare will skyrocket, leaving us with unfunded promises of more than \$44 trillion in today's dollars—equal to about three times our entire gross domestic product. Income taxes would have to double to pay for it—an unthinkable burden.

Second, our current-account deficits are unprecedented, fed by dependence on foreign capital is dangerous. America as a country, and Americans as a people, must be per-

suaded to save more.

Third, our health-care costs are metastasizing. We already spend more than twice as much per capita as other developed nations, with no appreciable differences in health outcomes or longevity. These ballooning costs threaten the very competitiveness of American industry.

These challenges all require sacrifice. That means everyone. We fat cats will have to pay more taxes. The government will have to spend less. Everyone will have to save more. I'm not sure if we remember how to give up something for the long-term general good. Nor do we hear calls for sacrifice from our leaders. Our lawmakers are enablers, either joining us in the state of denial or trying to anesthetize us. But if we can learn to face the future realistically, everyone will benefit from a more robust, sustainable economy.

The "Greatest Generation" that lived through the Depression of the 1930s and World War II confronted, overcame and paid for challenges more sobering than those we face today. We can do it again. I refuse to believe that we have become so selfish and self-absorbed that we don't care about our children's future and America's leadership in the world.

How do we as a country, and Americans as a people, learn to save more and spend less? How do we educate the young about the crisis they will face if things aren't changed, and then move them to do something about it? Or will it take a real and very costly crisis to force us into action?

We need to go where the young people are: new media, bloggers, YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, MTV, and networks and Web sites that have not even been invented, and that is what my foundation will try to do. We will sponsor the production of films that educate people about the perils America faces (I have been impressed with what Al Gore accomplished with "An Inconvenient Truth"). We will have youth summits to get young leaders engaged in the process. Maybe someone should develop an AAYP, an American Association of Young People, to counteract the lobbying power of the American Association of Retired Persons. There are, of course, many other groups we must reach. How best do we energize the business community? Tom Friedman of The New York Times called us MIAs, "missing in action" on these daunting challenges. We have a huge stake in tomorrow's economy. How do we convince the media that the future is worth covering?

These challenges have hung over our economy for years. Others have tried to sound the alarm. I know that the odds of success are daunting. Yet given what is at stake and what I owe this remarkable country, I, and we, have no alternative but to try. As we move forward, we need to remind ourselves of the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who was instrumental in the resistance movement against Nazism. "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world it leaves to its children," he said.

It is time we become moral and worthy ancestors.

## LETTER FROM ATHENS

## Getting Greek Citizenship in 1,001 Easy Steps

So, you've lived in Greece for a while, are weary of those requirements to get your work and residency permits updated, can't face the long lines and endless questions from clerical workers who look at you like you're smuggling antiquities out of the country and you've decided to apply for citizenship? How hard can that be, especially if you're of Greek origin, from the United States or Australia or Canada, places to which a century ago your ancestors came to settle? Certainly, you'll be welcomed home like a long-lost child. You'll get your citizenship easily, right?

Not. Greece grants citizenship not by birth, like most other countries, but by origin, or right of blood, a legal principle under which citizenship is determined by their parent's citizenship, virtually limiting the right to those with blood ties to Greece, hampering immigrants and those of non-Greek descent. The Hellenic League for Human Rights wants to see the requirements updated and has been working on a rewriting of the code to also allow citizenship by birth, which would pave the way for the children of immigrants to become citizens as well.

Wanting a dual citizenship in Greece is apparently the only labor that even Hercules could fail because it's a test more of wills than of patience, if you can outwit and outwit the bureaucracy in a country that is not citizenship-friendly, even to those whose grandparents were born and grew up here before moving on to other countries. Even armed with a letter of reference from the Greek consulate in Boston, where they were the epitome of professionalism; a journalist who had been three times invited to participate in forums in Athens and written about Greece, co-author of two books with best friend Nick Tsiotis of Boston, one about the great Greek-American athlete Harry Agganis and the other about Stylianos Kyriakides, the Greek Cypriot runner who won the 1946 Boston Marathon, with friends in very high places in Greece, and apparently with all the documents needed to satisfy requirements of citizenship, that still wasn't enough.

It took two years of bouncing around ministries and finally caught up in a pin ball video game between the periferia and the municipality where I lived, where, thank Zeus there was one of the few public service workers who cared and became a guiding shepherd on the mission before the prized citizenship came. There was also a clerk in Kalambaka, where my grandfather had lived, who had enough common sense to issue a critical document after recognizing the validity of what he'd seen after everyone else had given up. Immigrants of non-Greek descent have a more daunting task because they must live here 10 years and the application fee is 1,500 euros (\$2,354) far more than any other European Union country.

If you want citizenship and weren't born in Greece (and even that is not enough in some cases) you'll need to show your father or grandparents were born in Greece, or, if you live here long enough (apparently the minimum stay is about 100 years) you must meet a labyrinth of requirements to become a naturalized citizen. And be prepared to have the following documents:

1. Birth certificate
2. Certificate of baptism
3. Marriage certificate
4. Current passport
5. Father's birth certificate
6. Parents' marriage certificate from church and marriage registration certificate from the city. If the father was not registered in Greece then:
7. Grandfather's certificate of registration from the municipal records of the city/town where he was registered
8. Grandparents marriage certificate

Also, bring some food and a few bottles of water and be prepared for a stake-out at the periferia and municipal offices and be ready to answer questions like: "How do we know your father is your father?" and "How do we know this picture of you on your passport is you?" Visit your local Greek consulate first before you come to Greece and learn the word "apostille," because that's what you'll need, although even that sometimes is not recognized immediately by the Greek au-

thorities.

It's a frustrating experience that has led many people to give up or offer money to expedite the process (not recommended unless you like being the only person in Greece who will go to jail) and has led to a lot of blog-buzzing from people who can't believe they are dealing with an EU country when trying to become a citizen. "My application for citizenship is in progress, but it is being held up by the ridiculous requirements for proof of my mother's Greek heritage.

An original copy of her Greek birth certificate wasn't good enough, nor was her Greek Orthodox marriage certificate, and numerous other items we supplied. Apparently they need a birth record from the city hall of her town of birth. In any other country this might be simple, but we're talking about Greece here, effectively a third-world nation. I don't even know if they have Internet over there," one particularly sarcastic and obviously frazzled applicant wrote.

There's loopholes that can speed the process, as long as you are of Greek origin and attend a military school or enlist in the Armed Forces in Greece, or something easier: Olympic athletes who have resided in Greece for five years within the last 12 years are eligible, but only if they will compete for Greece. And don't forget that little requirement that becoming a citizen means you'll have to serve in the military for two years, which can be something of a downer unless you're old enough to be exempt. And you can forget it if you have any kind of criminal record because there are already too many here, unless you can qualify for the Olympic Criminal Team.

To prepare you, here's some sample questions from a citizenship test you won't find in the usual guides and will help you meet the rigid requirements because they are the everyday ones you'll need to know.

What is the official drink of Greece?

- A) Ouzo
- B) Metaxa
- C) Wine
- D) Nescafe frappe

How long does it take a bill to pass the Parliament?

- A) 30 days
- B) 60 days
- C) When the check clears

What color is the official uniform of the police?

- A) Blue
- B) Blue-and-white
- C) Nobody knows because no one has seen a police officer since 2004

What is the speed limit on the national road?

- A) 100 kilometers per hour
- B) 120 kilometers per hour
- C) 200 kilometers per hour
- D) No one knows because no one has been stopped for speeding

How old must you be to buy cigarettes and liquor?

- A) 21
- B) 18
- C) 16
- D) 10
- E) All of the above

What is the official flower of Greece?

- A) Poppy
- B) Cannabis
- C) Bear's breech
- D) Bear's breath

Macedonia is located where?

- A) Northern Greece
- B) In the Former Yugoslav Republic
- C) Both places
- D) Somewhere in that Lord of the Rings movie

If you can't find a parking place, where are you allowed to park?

- A) Only in a legal parking place
- B) In spaces marked red, unless they're blue, unless it's a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon between 3-5 p.m., but only in areas that aren't designated
- C) In a place reserved for the handicapped
- D) On the sidewalk

And the best one, as there's only one answer, which everyone gets right.

Why is it so difficult to become a Greek citizen?

- A) It's worth it

**Mr. Dabilis was the New England editor for United Press International in Boston, and a staff writer and assistant metropolitan editor at the Boston Globe for 17 years before relocating to Greece. His column is published weekly in the National Herald. Readers interested in contacting him can send e-mails to andy@dabilis@gmail.com.**

## The New Macedonian Crisis and U.S Pressure

By Andre Gerolymatos  
Special to The National Herald

Why is it that when allies of the US do not do as they are told, they are labeled as "irresponsible," "childish," "petulant" and a threat to the security of NATO? American policy makers, political analysts and even journalists are all over themselves these days because Greece will veto the admission of FYROM (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) unless Skopje agrees to drop references to Macedonia as the country's name.

The current rhetoric seeping out of the Washington policy factories is that Greece has undermined the stability of the Balkans by vetoing the admission of FYROM into NATO. The argument goes something like this. If FYROM does not join NATO then the Albanian minority in that country will opt to become part of the new state of Kosovo and FYROM will disintegrate.

In the first place it was the misguided and terribly shortsighted US policy to sanction the independence of Kosovo, which is the primary source of potential Balkan destabilization. The Serbs will not accept the loss of their historic province and more than likely the Serbian minority in northern Kosovo will secede and that may cause a new major crisis. Furthermore, whether FYROM joins NATO or not the Albanian minority will eventually break away and join Kosovo. FYROM may break up because of the precedent established by Kosovo's independence—a political construct engineered by the US. The Albanians in FYROM will claim self-determination on the basis of being a majority just as the Albanians did in Kosovo.

Does that make the Bush Administration (as well as the Clinton presidency before it) childish, petulant and irresponsible? Washington could have waited until Serbia became a member of the EU and thus ease the separation of Kosovo. An effort could have been made to seek a compromise—the division of Kosovo, particularly the sections that hosts Serbia's cultural and religious heritage. There was no such effort.

The US acted cavalierly and selfishly. America backed Kosovo because they were afraid that the Russians will dominate the Balkans and continue to use the region as a highway carrying oil and gas to Europe giving Moscow a powerful leverage over the EU. In actual fact, the US support for Kosovo's independence accomplished exactly what Washington dreaded. Serbia is now in the Russian camp as is Bulgaria and Romania and after more US bullying perhaps Greece as well.

Alliances, after accounting for

individual state interests, are based on trust and respect. Greece, a NATO member, is relying on her allies for support in a dispute with FYROM, a country that is not yet a member of the Atlantic alliance. Will NATO back one of its members, an ally of over fifty years, or bypass Greece for the sake of FYROM? Is then the alliance worth it for Greece?

Perhaps, the dispute appears trivial, but no more trivial than renaming French fries "freedom fries" or pouring French

wine on the streets in Washington because France disagreed with the US over invading Iraq. Whose is laughing now?

Great Britain went to war with Argentina over the remote Falkland Islands with a population of 700 people and 6,000 sheep. During the initial stages of the crisis, just before the outbreak of war, the British took exception when Argentina renamed the Falklands

"the Malvinas"—what is in a name? In Quebec, Canada, there are language laws that prohibit the use



by DR. ANDRE GEROLYMATOS

Special to  
The National Herald



AP PHOTO/BORIS GRDANOSKI

A man rides a bicycle by an advertising board with a poster, as invitation for a private exhibition of Macedonian painter Atanas Botev, where the Greek flag is presented with a swastika instead of the white cross in Macedonia's capital Skopje, on Monday, March 31, 2008. Greece has strongly condemned the appearance of offensive billboards featuring its flag in neighboring Macedonia. Macedonia's Government has distanced itself from the billboards.

of "Stop" for stop signs because it looks and sounds English, despite the fact it is a French word. Strange little men in Montreal vigilantly patrol the streets with tape measures to ensure that all labels in stores are at least twice as large in French than in English. Quebec's language police, fondly known as the tongue troopers, are there to guarantee the supremacy of the French language by enforcing the use of such items as "le souvlaki" or "le mousaka".

In this theater of the absurd, the Macedonian name issue pales by comparison. Each country has its unique sensitivities that may appear as trivial or outright silly but yet hold a special significance. Despite thoughtless commentary from a variety of sources, the symbols of Greek heritage are neither trivial nor absurd but emblems of Western civilization.

Greece is the custodian of classical antiquity and Macedonia holds no less value in that sacred trust than the recreation of the ancient ceremony at Olympia—an anachronism that holds deep resonance for billions of people in Europe, North America, Africa, Australia and Asia. The Olympic flame does not blossom from a classical antiquity manufactured by the propaganda ministry in Skopje but in Olympia, Greece. If Greek susceptibilities are so silly and banal then why not get the Olympic flame from Skopje or simply light a match at the opening ceremonies if the Games.

Many places around the world use Greek symbols, art, words and elements of Hellenic culture and they do honor to ancient and modern Greece. The Greeks do not mind because it is done with respect and recognition of Hellenism. The Greeks are infuriated with FYROM because the regimes in Skopje appropriate Hellenic symbols partly as internal propaganda but also as provocation—at least that is the impression it has created in Greece. Imitation may be the highest form of flattery, but for millions of Greeks around the world in this case it is not so much flattery but outright theft.

The regimes in Skopje do not claim to celebrate the culture of ancient Greece but instead deny it to the Greeks by insisting that it is Macedonia of a non-Hellenic provenance. This is at the core of the dispute and the essence of the Greek indignation over the name issue.

**Dr. Gerolymatos is chair of Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia and the author of "Red Acropolis, Black Terror: The Greek Civil War and the Origins of Soviet-American Rivalry."**

## Three More Greek Americans Running for Congress

In addition to the five sitting U.S. Representatives: Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Zack Space (D-OH) and Niki Tsongas (D-MA), I am very pleased to write about and support three more Greek American candidates for Congress—two in Ohio and one in Maine.

The three are Jane Mitakides (D-OH), Dean Scontras (R-ME) and Jim Trakas

(R-OH). Each has a real shot at winning. Each has positive views on issues of special concern to Greek Americans—Cyprus, the Aegean, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Halki Theological School, FYROM, Albania and Visa Waiver.

It is up to the community in general and to each of us individually to make sure they have adequate financial resources to run a proper campaign in the final seven months before election day on November 4, 2008.

Let's look at each of these three individuals in alphabetical order. I will devote the rest of this Op-Ed to Jane Mitakides and will discuss Dean Scontras and Jim Trakas in my next Op-Eds.

**JANE MITAKIDES (D-OHIO)**  
Jane Mitakides is running in the 3rd Congressional District in southwest Ohio. She won the unanimous endorsement of the local Democratic Party for this seat. Mark Owens, chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Party stated Mitakides "has campaign experience. She can put together a campaign team and she is right on the issues." Mitakides will be building on her strong performance as a first-time candidate in 2004, when she garnered 120,000 votes and raised nearly \$600,000.

GreekPAC, the Greek American Political Action Committee, has endorsed her and made a contribution in support of her campaign.

Significantly, Jane Mitakides was endorsed by the Dayton Daily News, the major newspaper in the District. The editorial cited her comments at the editorial board screening regarding the condition of the local economy and the incumbents' partisan voting record. The editorial commented on her "impressive" fundraising as a first-time candidate in 2004. The Cox-owned newspaper called her a "natural choice" and noted that she

"makes the most sense for voters" and that the Democratic base is united behind her.

Jane Mitakides is the modern American woman—married with a family and a successful local small business owner. She has been married 25 years to John Mitakides, a dentist who has practiced in the Dayton area for over 30 years. They both graduated from Centerville High School and attended Ohio public universities. (Jane at Wright State and John at Ohio State, where he played football). They are the proud parents of two children—Katie who is completing her PhD in international relations, and Andrew, a senior at Sydney College in Virginia.

Lake Research Partners is a national polling company. Ms. Celinda Lake, its president, Daniel Gotoff, a partner and Mark Keida, a staff member, wrote an "Analysis of Ohio's 3rd Congressional District's Shifting Political Terrain" on January 15, 2008. In that analysis, Celinda Lake calls this a "highly winnable race" for Jane Mitakides and one that is getting national attention. She states that the "challenging electoral dynamics offer Mitakides a prime opportunity to seize on the public's mood for change...and that 2008 offers Democrats the best opportunity to put Ohio's 3rd district seat back into Democratic hands." The Democrats had held this seat for 22 years until 2002.

Jane Mitakides is an entrepreneur who understands the importance of bringing good jobs to her community and ensuring that those jobs stay there. She founded Ohio-based Helsley Advertising, specializing in strategic communications and investor relations, working with businesses nationwide.

She was born in Dayton, Ohio and has served on a diverse variety of civic boards, including the Development Board of St. Elizabeth Hospital and Women in Leadership.



by EUGENE T. ROSSIDES

Special to  
The National Herald

and the Small Business Council of the Democratic National Committee.

I am also pleased to note that she is an active member of the American Hellenic Institute.

Mitakides entered the race in mid-January 2008. Her Mitakides for Congress campaign committee posted impressive numbers in its first four weeks of fundraising, banking \$85,908.61 up to February 13, 2008. For the first quarter of 2008 her campaign raised a solid \$150,000.

"We were a little overwhelmed with the immediate response to the campaign,"

Mitakides said. "It certainly isn't a cliché here to say that people are ready for change."

The mood for change that hit Ohio in 2006 hasn't crested yet," Mitakides explained. "The voters of this district want leaders who will put our country back on track—an economy that works for all Americans, health care that is affordable and accessible to every American, and an end to our dangerous dependence on Mideast oil. We need to start investing in America for a change. Financial support is just one piece of what we're seeing in this campaign. The energy here is electric."

It should also be noted that her opponent is currently the focus of serious ethics questions.

Her positions on key Greek American issues are right on the mark. She calls for the removal of Turkey's 43,000 occupation troops and 160,000 illegal Turkish settlers in violation of the Geneva Convention of 1949 and removal of Turkey's barbed wire fence across Cyprus; recognition of the treaty based maritime boundary in the Aegean; supports H.R. 1456, the American Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act of 2007; protection of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and reopening of Halki Theological School, as called for by U.S. law, and the return of 7000 confiscated church properties; enforcement by the President of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) of 1998; negotiations in

good faith by the Skopje regime with Greece regarding the name issue; and immediate allowance of Greece to participate in the Visa Waiver Program.

**MAKE A CONTRIBUTION NOW**

It is important for each of these three new candidates for Congress that the Greek American community contribute and contribute and contribute to their campaigns.

Act as if your contribution can make the difference because it will! Each person can contribute up to \$2,300 to each candidate for the House and Senate for the primary election and up to another \$2,300 for the general election on November 4, 2008.

I believe that a substantial percentage of Greek Americans can afford to give \$2,300 to each of the new candidates. I am committing that amount.

I also believe that a majority of Greek Americans can give \$1,000 to each of these three candidates; that most can give \$500 and practically everyone can give \$250 or \$100.

A key part of being active politically is contributing to the candidate of your choice. Please join me in making sure that these three new Greek American candidates for Congress have sufficient funds to run a winning campaign. It is in the interests of the community that they do so.

For Jane Mitakides checks should be made to the order of Mitakides for Congress and mailed to P.O.Box 29-3039, Kettering, OH 45429. For on-line contributions go to www.Jane08.com and click on to contribute.

For Dean Scontras checks should be made to the order of Dean Scontras for Congress and mailed to P.O.Box 15418, Portland, ME 04112.

For on-line contributions go to www.teamdean08.com.

For Jim Trakas checks should be made to the order of Trakas for Congress and mailed to 1500 West 3rd Street, Suite 120, Cleveland, OH 44113. For on-line contributions go to www.JimTrakas.org.

Please act today. Your check can make the difference!

**Gene Rossides is President of the American Hellenic Institute and former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.**

## GUEST EDITORIALS

The National Herald welcomes manuscripts representing a variety of views for publication in its View Points page. They should include the writer's name, address, and telephone number and be addressed to the View Points Editor, The National Herald, 37-10 30th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101. They can also be faxed to (718) 472-0510 or, preferably, e-mailed to english.edition@thenationalherald.com. Due to considerations of space we enforce a strict 1,400-word upper limit. We reserve the right to edit for repetitiveness, diction and syntax. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge or return manuscripts, published or unpublished.

Delphi

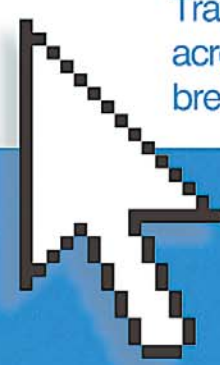
# Greece

## thetrueexperience

5,000 Years of Culture. 5,000 Landmarks.

**Culture** Sophisticated and classy? Visit eternal Delphi, "the womb of mother Earth", and drive through the cosmopolitan village of Arahova. Citizen of the world? Travel to one of world's most famous destinations, Mykonos Island and pass across to the Island of Delos, where the monumental avenue of lions will take your breath away. Just one example of creative holidays... Greece! The true experience!

[www.visitgreece.gr](http://www.visitgreece.gr)



MINISTRY OF TOURISM - GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION

