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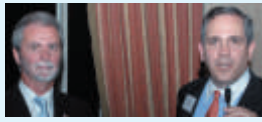
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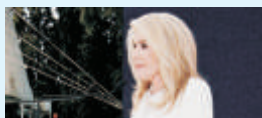
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On men of public service

Two men from different parts of the world and different backgrounds, but with one thing in common: they know how to swim upriver like salmon and get where they have to go.

John Brademas came from small-town America, from Indiana, and like a John Cheever character without the neuroses and the inevitable breakdown, he rose to some of the highest seats of power in public and private life. He knew everybody then (Kennedy, Johnson, Truman) and knows everybody now (Hillary, Bill, Nancy Pelosi) and the documentation of his life could fill a whole library in itself, as it does now the hundreds of boxes that await his archivist. He not only witnessed American history, he shaped it with his insatiable curiosity, his bulldog drive, his sense of civic purpose, and his unwavering moral compass.

Talking to him is a privilege, like talking to history itself, and getting all the answers firsthand. And he still carries with him the can-do spirit of the generation of crusaders of the late '50s and '60s, the Kennedys, the Johnsons, and the elder Bush, who believed in public service as a public duty, and who recreated America with their daring, their vision, their enthusiasm, and their relentless drive.

It's refreshing, and bracing, to have men like John Brademas still at work in this world.

Philip Christopher came from Cyprus, made his mark in business (was, coincidentally, an NYU All-American in soccer) and has made history in his own way, with his phenomenal success in business, and his phenomenal pursuit of an ideal a half a world away: the right to go home again, and the right of a free people to regain their freedom.

Other people now live in his ancestral home, and with impunity; he's talked to them civilly, they've told him they like living in his home, illegally, just fine, thank you, Mr. Christopher. He's come back and stalked the same corridors of power that John Brademas once owned, only as a citizen of the world demanding justice.

They are both making history still, they are that kind of men, and the world is in their debt.

Dimitri C. Michalakis

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Philip Christopher: Pursuing the dream

by Dimitri C. Michalakos

Philip Christopher did go home again to Cyprus after the Turkish invasion and he spoke to the Turk who now occupies his home in Kyrenia.

“And he said to me, why should I leave?” says Christopher, who left Cyprus in 1959 when he was 10 years old, but had been back “hundreds” of times since. “Number one, the Turk told me, I live in a house and pay no rent, and it’s a nice house and I enjoy it. Number two, I have a passport of the Cyprus Republic, which allows me to travel anywhere in

Europe. Number three, I get my social security as a Turkish Cypriot and I pay no taxes. Number four, if I need to go to the free area or to the south to do my shopping, I can go. If I have to go to the hospital I get free care. So why should I leave?”

Christopher (a seasoned businessman) is practical about how Turkey has kept the island divided, but he’s anything but accepting about its injustice. He’s refused to cross the Green Line to visit his old home, he spearheads the International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA), and he’s stalked the politicians in Washington for years to keep the cause alive.

“We have to continue to fight and insist that any solution in Cyprus must be based on the constitution and bylaws of Europe,” he says. “Cyprus cannot be a second class citizen. And what they want to do in Cyprus doesn’t exist anywhere else in the world. They want to create a Turkish state on a small island (with the majority Greeks) and within that Turkish state not allow any Greek Cypriots to visit or live.”

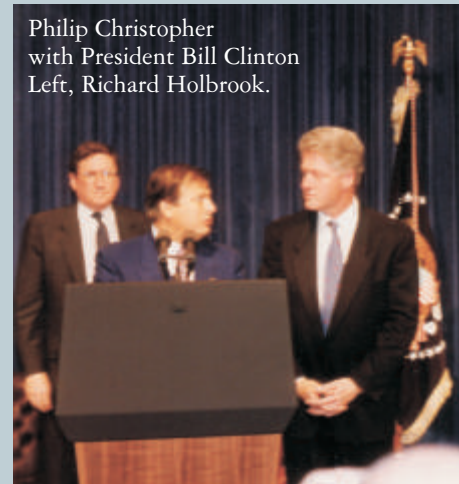
Meanwhile, he says, Turks keep coming from the mainland as settlers and “they have nothing in common with the Turkish Cypriots; even the Turkish Cypriots are victims. At least the Greek and Turkish Cypriots once had something in common. Even though their religion was different, and their language was different, they lived with each other, their children went to school together, and they knew each other as neighbors.”

Now anybody from anywhere in the world can go and buy a house in Kyrenia “except me, because I was born there,” he says. “If we are talking about having a solution based on democratic principles and human rights, these are the things we need to resolve. Many people don’t understand the problem and unfortunately not enough money is being spent by the Greek and Cyprus governments to really educate the public and for people to understand.”

But he’s kept hope alive, and he was encouraged with the midterm elections. “Having Joe Biden as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, for example, is a tremendous, tremendous achievement,” he says. “He’s a man who understands the problem and has been a friend for many years. And the recent appointment of (John) Negroponte to the State Department gives me hope that he will have a good understanding of the Cyprus problem.”

Christopher, now 59, is disappointed neither of his parents lived to go back to their home in Kyrenia (his mother died in 1991 and his father in 1997). But though he plans to retire

Philip Christopher with President Bill Clinton Left, Richard Holbrook.



The illegally occupied port city of Kyrenia

from business at the end of the year (“and then I’ll move on to a more quiet life,” he insists), it’s unlikely he’ll step back from the fight he began more than 30 years ago to legally go back home.

America, however, is also a second home to the Christopher family from a generation ago. Christopher’s father Nick came to the United States at 18 during the Depression “and was making ten cents a day,” says his son. “But he had enough sense to become an American citizen.”

That’s before he went back to Kyrenia, got married, opened a kafeneio and had six kids (Philip is the youngest), but then decided to come back to the U.S. and bring the family.

“It was a different environment, and a different culture,” says Christopher of those early years in America, “but the fact that the family was together was the most important thing.” He graduated St. Demetrios School and Bryant High School in Astoria, and then New York University (where he was an All-American in soccer).

“My first job was a schoolteacher at Richmond Hill High School,” he says, where he taught social studies, economics and history. “In those days the Vietnam War was raging; they were giving occupational deferments to become a teacher—actually, I was going to become a lawyer and go to law school at NYU, but I would have been drafted, I would have been in Vietnam. So instead of going to Vietnam I became a schoolteacher.”

He did that for about a year, and then became stockholder at Audiovox, “a very small company at the time” which he got to know working there in the summers.

“In those days it was mostly a car stereo business,” he says, “selling AM-FM radios to car dealers. And we had 8-track cassettes—we went through the whole history of the evolution of the sound system. It was exciting. And at the beginning it was a small business and we all grew with it.”

He went on to found Audiovox Communications Corp., which in 1985 got

into the fledgling cellular phone industry, and the company in fifteen years grew into a \$1.5 billion behemoth. In 2004, Audiovox Communications was sold to UTStarCom, a public company trading in NASDAQ, and Christopher is now president and CEO of UTStarcom Personal Communications.

“This is a tough business, it’s very competitive,” he says. “We sell 10 million phones in North America and compete against Motorola, Nokia, Samsung and LG. But I like the challenge of building something and then making sure it survives. It’s very important.”

His wife Christina is a teacher (“She loves teaching”) and his son Nick, 28, is an attorney in Manhattan. Nick, in fact, is almost the same age as his father was when the Cyprus invasion occurred and somebody who admittedly was “never really involved much in the community” suddenly became a firebrand.

“Even though I left young, I always maintained my ties with Cyprus,” says

Christopher. “I used to go there in the summers, and the passion for Cyprus--and it is a passion, along with the great injustice that took place—suddenly fired me up.”

The Pancyprian Association that got started as a soccer club (it won three U.S. challenge cups and featured some of the major stars of Greece) suddenly became a hotbed of activism after the invasion.

“The games brought a lot of people to the field and became a driving force in mobilizing the community,” remembers Christopher, now president of the association. “And after the invasion there were a lot of Cypriots here that came as students. At Audiovox at one time I used to employ over 500 Greek Cypriots that had come as refugees and didn’t

have jobs. As soon as they came to New York they knew where to come. Whether we had a position or didn’t have one, we created one.”

The Pancyprian still continues strong (it now has a youth and women’s division, as well as a choir) and Christopher is looking forward to the new generation taking over and fulfilling the dream of all displaced Cypriots.

“Some people say, what are you guys complaining about?” he recounts. “You go to Cyprus, the standard of living is great, people drive BMWs, Mercedes, and the Republic of Cyprus has the third best economy in Europe. What are you guys complaining about? Relax. Well, we can’t. There are still people that want to go back to their homes; there are still people that are not going to forget.”



From left, Andrew Athens, Undersecretary of State Mark Grossman, Philip Christopher and Andy Manatos.



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A tank of the Cyprus National Guard

Some frank talk on the Cyprus situation

Some mistakes Greeks have made...

“Our side has made some tactical mistakes. One is that we allowed the Green Line to open without the removal of the Turkish troops from the island, because prior to the ascension of Cyprus to the European Union the Turkish Cypriots were demonstrating against Denktash and demonstrating to overthrow him. As soon as the dividing line opened up the Turkish Cypriots no longer saw any incentive to reunite the island.”

How Turkey finances the partition...

“It’s costing them money, but they don’t care. That money they get ten different ways from aid from the United States and other places. And not only that, they have the audacity to want to become a member of the European Union without recognizing the Republic of Cyprus—there are 25 countries in the European Union, but Cyprus doesn’t exist.”

What it will take to solve the problem...

“It has to take the strength and courage--whether it’s the Secretary of State, or the President of the United States--to say, yes, Turkey is a friend, Turkey is an ally, Turkey is this, but we cannot sacrifice and compromise the human rights of another nation for the sake of Turkey. It just takes that kind of individual, who’s going to say, this is my policy and this is what I’m going to do. Otherwise, it’s a double standard.”

Do the Greeks have the clout...

“Well, we’re only 50,000 Cypriots in the U.S. But we are part of 2 million Greek Americans, and the Cypriots are as much a part of the Hellenic nation as any other group. That bothers me when people try to differentiate us—we are Hellenes from ancient times. The Cypriot dialect is more like ancient Greek than anything else. The Greek American community has been tremendously supportive and we have done some good work over the past thirty years, and those who have questioned our achievements: if we were not here Cyprus would not be today a member of the European Union, because it was us that took the policy, changed the guidelines, and pushed. They said a solution is not a prerequisite to becoming a member of the European Union, but we insisted and we were able to make Cyprus a member of the Union and give a new dimension to finding a solution.”

On what has been achieved...

“People don’t realize that under normal conditions if we were not here Turkey would have taken over the whole island. The fact is that we were able to be a thorn in the side of Turkey and keep the issue in the forefront and alive, which is not easy with all the crises in the world.”

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From left, Theodore Karras, President Aluminco, Effie Karras, Director of Exports Aluminco, Manny Michelakis, President Alumil USA, George Milonas, CEO Alumil, Stelios Kochylas, CEO Analko (partner Alumil USA), Kyprianos Bazenikas, Vice President Alumil USA, and Dimitra Kochylas.

Door(s) to a new world!

Demetrios Rhompotis

When Alumil, Aluminco and Everlast, a consortium of three companies under one roof in America, opened its brand-new showroom of breakthrough, mostly-aluminum building materials exclusively manufactured and imported from Greece, it was like opening a door to a new world for people from the construction industry, or for those trying to build their dreamhouse.

"It's not only because some of the doors are designed by Porsche," said the company's president Manny Michelakis, "but state-of-the-art windows, railings, fences, pillars etc. that represent styles and technology that so far had not been available in the US, and now are finally at your disposal, and at excellent prices, I should add."

An opinion echoed by George Milonas, President of Alumil, and one of the leading industrialists in Greece (also president of the Industrialists Guile of Northern Greece.) "Americans don't have the kind of technology we deal with. All the major European companies are far ahead from their American counterparts in that regard," he stated confidently. And although the US is a great market, he said, "it will need to come closer to European standards due to environmental concerns, for example, or because our products are designed to be more energy-efficient."

Asked whether their companies are capable of meeting the demand in case the American market embraces their products en masse, "we are already exporting in 50 countries," pointed out Theodore Karras, president of Aluminco. "Greece produces aluminum of excellent quality and our facilities work on a 24 hour basis."

Stelios Kochylas, president of Analko Ltd. and a leading partner in the new venture was more specific. "The US has always been a strategic goal for us, but before we did not have enough production to sustain such a move. In the last five years, with new facilities we tripled production and we can do it now."

According to Kyprianos Bazenikas, the US company's vice president and liaison with Greece, "Alumil has been one of the innovators in the industry and a powerhouse worldwide. At the 2004 Olympics, it furnished the material for several venues and already has built structures in many European and Middle Eastern countries."

Bishop Vikentios of Apameia officiated the traditional Hagiasmos Ceremony during the inauguration in Astoria, New York, where throngs of people from the industry, friends and well-wishers gathered to celebrate the opening of a showroom that brings not only new technology to America, but also a significant investment, which is a very interesting development, since normally it's US companies that invest to Greece and not vice-versa. According to Milonas, "if things go as planned, the next step will be to have production here." However, he added, "this is a mature market that takes a lot of time and effort to take the right steps."

The companies' new showroom is located at 19-41 46th Street, Astoria, New York, and the telephone is (347) 537-3636.

BUSINESS

Camillo Cangiotti, Manny Michelakis, Dr. Stefano Ricci and Chris Evangelopoulos.

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Mike Angeliades, President of M.A. Angeliades, Inc., Kyprianos Bazenikas and Dimitrios Malakides, General Manager of M.A. Angeliades, Inc.

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Stelios Kochylas, Chris Evangelopoulos, Manny Michelakis, Theodore and Effie Karras.

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Dimitra Kochylas, Effie Karras, Adela and Kyprianos Bazenikas, Nancy Siso, Stelios Kochylas, George Milonas, Manny Michelakis, Theodore Karras and Patrick Weir.

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Athens Mayor awards Dukakis city medal



Athens Mayor Nikitas Kaklamanis (right) with Michael Dukakis.

Athens Mayor Nikitas Kaklamanis awarded the Medal of Honour and Benefaction of the City of Athens to former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis during a ceremony held recently at City Hall, in recognition of his contribution to the strengthening of Greek-American relations and for raising the profile of the Greek Diaspora in the United States.

"It is a great honor and pleasure for me to welcome to the City of Athens a man for whom Hellenism in its entirety is proud," said Mayor Kaklamanis. "Not just because he reached the point where he could run for the highest political office in the United States but because he learned to love politics since he was born a Greek. Had Michael Dukakis not grown up in a Greek environment he may have not involved himself in politics at all. Had there not been for the family political discussions at home, maybe the Greek Diaspora, but all of Massachusetts as well, would have been deprived of his noble services."

Michael Dukakis is currently a Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University in Massachusetts and visiting Professor in the School of Public Policy and Social Research at the University of California.

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PHOTO: ETA Press

From left are Emmanuel Argerakis, Tri-State Capital, Georgia Tavlarios-Mouzakis, Citibank Private Bank, James Hansel, Eight Winds Capital Management, Alexis Christoforou, CBS News, Michael Jaharis, John P. Calamos, Sr., Calamos Investments, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Emmanuel Caravanas, Arab Bank, Nicholas Agrotis, Marfin Popular Bank, and Peggy Delfinopoulos, Prudential Financial.

Philanthropist and businessman John P. Calamos, Sr. was honored recently as HABA's (Hellenic American Bankers Association) Executive of the Year during a lavish event held at the New York Athletic Club in New York City. Calamos is chairman, chief executive officer and chief investment officer of the firm he founded in 1977 and he took public as Calamos Asset Management in 2004. "I feel very honored to be part of this," he said in an interview with NEO. "It's real honor."

John Calamos has also been involved in a number of charities "that are near to my heart and involve the Greek community." The Hellenic Cultural Museum in Chicago and the Children's Museum in Manhattan where a big exhibition on ancient Greece is in the offing, are just two of them. "We need to make sure that we have institutions that will allow the future generations to remember some of the work of our parents all the good work that they've done over the years," he pointed out. "I don't think even many of the

HABA honors John Calamos

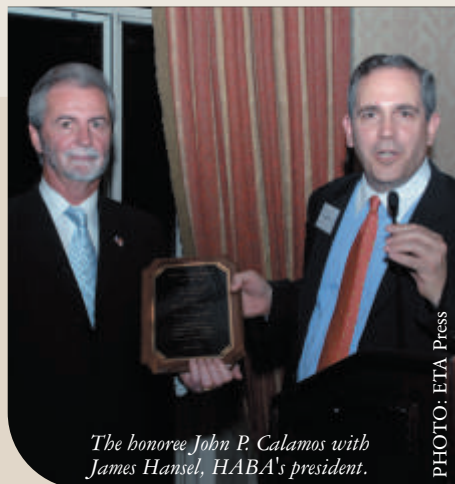


PHOTO: ETA Press

The honoree John P. Calamos with James Hansel, HABA's president.

Greeks know what Hellenism is all about, so I think it's an important area that we need to do much more, we need much more awareness of Hellenism and what it gave to Western civilization."

A pioneer in investment strategies and techniques to help manage risk, Calamos has created a reputation for using investment techniques to control risk, preserve capital and build wealth for clients over the long term. From its origins as an institutional convertible bond manager, Calamos Investments has grown into a diversified asset management firm with major institutional and individual clients in the U.S. and around the world with approximately \$50 billion in assets under management.

Calamos, who started working as a bus boy at his family's diner in Chicago, received his undergraduate degree in Economics and

M.B.A. in Finance from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Joining the United States Air Force after graduation, he served as a combat pilot during the Vietnam War and ultimately earned the rank of Major.

Archbishop Demetrios of America did the invocation at this year's event and Michael Jaharis, also a Chicago-born highly successful businessman, presented the honoree. John Catsimatidis took the podium too, as did James Hansel, president of HABA who once more invited Greek Americans from the banking and finance industry to join the organization and make it even stronger. The evening that featured Alexis Christoforou, the CBS anchor, as mistress of Ceremonies, also marked the organization's 25th anniversary. HABA is a not-for-profit organization established in 1982 to promote the professional and educational interest of Greek-Americans in the banking and finance industries. Its current active membership consists of over 200 professionals representing more than 50 institutions across the financial spectrum.

HABA also sponsors lectures and other informative events, primarily on topics related to the economy, the financial services sector and allied industries. An Economic Outlook Panel Discussions is scheduled for May 30th. More information can be found at the organizations website www.haba.org



PHOTO: ETA Press

Bob Kostakopoulos from Fort Lee Federal Savings, with John Catsimatidis, Red Apple Group president



PHOTO: ETA Press

Stacy Bliagos, Roula Kallos and Tammy Kardoulas.



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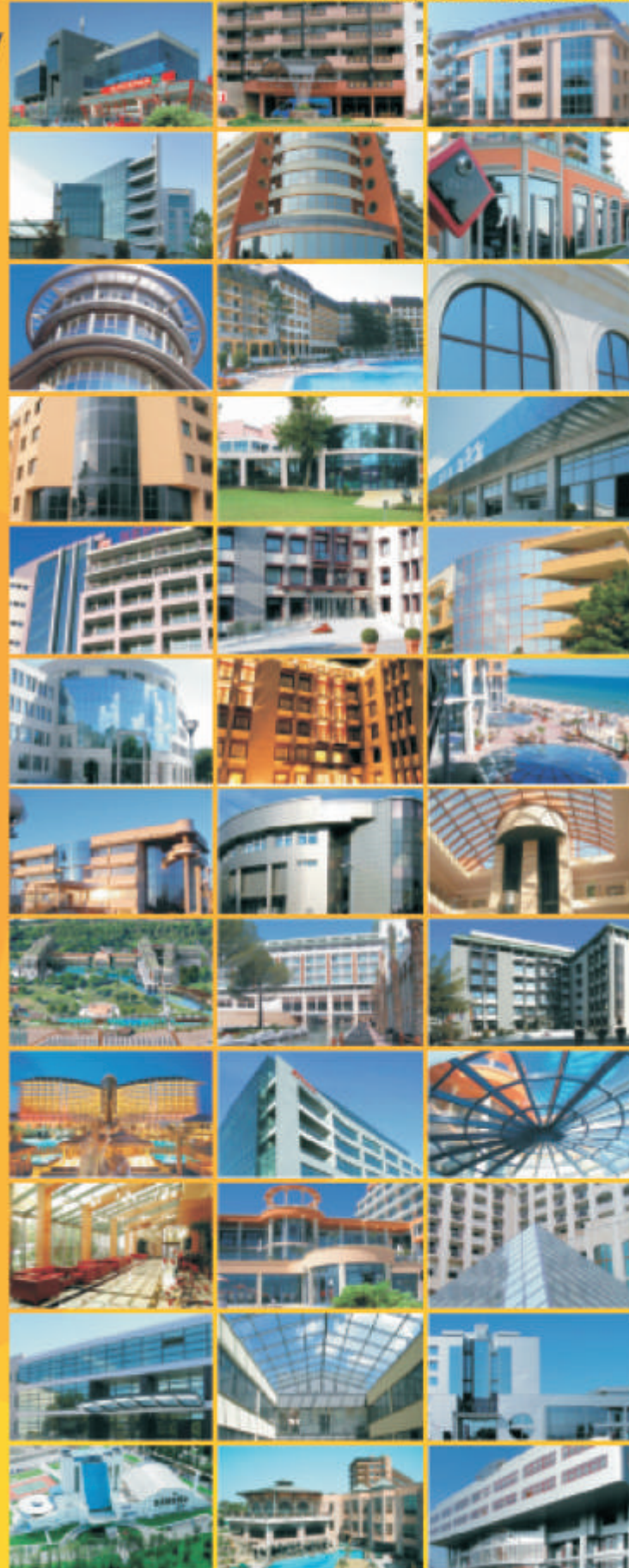
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HOW THE FIRST GREEK AMERICAN IN CONGRESS MADE-AND SHAPED-AMERICAN HISTORY

John Brademas is still in a hurry, even more so now.

He just celebrated his 80th birthday, but as he leads the way through the King Juan Carlos I Center at New York University, which houses his office (he is president emeritus of the university), he carries with him a folder with papers and lists of the things he has to do—in addition to the card he carries in his pocket of his daily to-do list.

And while he leads the way up the stairs to an empty conference room, he gives a brief description of how the Center came about (Brademas became interested in Spanish culture when he was just a boy back in South Bend, Indiana after he read a book on the Maya); how he convinced the sponsors on the wall to give their million-dollar donations (he was a prodigious fundraiser in his tenure); and while the conference room has an air of serenity (it has glass doors overlooking a garden and a portrait of the King) John Brademas is still ticking off projects, remembrances and facts as we sit at the table and he discusses the three-quarters-century of history he has witnessed and three-quarters-century of history he has helped create.

“If I am the first native-born American of Greek origin elected to Congress, to the House, Paul Sarbanes is the first Greek American elected to the Senate, and we’re very close friends,” he declaims, with a characteristic click of the jaw, his voice reverberating in the empty room. He mentions that because among other things on his to-do-list (the longer one in the folder) is a planned trip to Cyprus later that summer with Sarbanes, where both men will accept official honors from the Cyprus government.

That’s after a preliminary junket to Greece his cousin Anna has booked for him “to attend meetings of the symposium of the Academy of Athens, of which I am a corresponding member.” He will give several lectures at American Hellenic University and European Center of Public Law (“And I’m not sure

where else she has me scheduled”). “After that,” he reels off, “I should be in Salamanca in June for a meeting of the U.S.-Spain council, and I was supposed to have been in Tokyo this month because I’m on the US-Japan foundation.”

The night before he was at the Central Park Boathouse for a reception, and he was planning to attend a reception that night at Hunter College “and the person who invited me is the son of a fellow Rhodes Scholar, George Steiner, with whom I went to Oxford. And his son is the dean of Education at Hunter College and he’s going to be introducing a woman from the Harvard School of Education, and as a Harvard overseer, I was chairman of the Overseer Committee, so it’s a kind of a sense of obligation that I turn up.” That Friday he also has a symposium on the Spanish civil war “and I will talk about communists and anarchists. And then I’m going—” he shuffles through his calendar “—to lunch tomorrow with a famous scholar of the Spanish civil war, Gabriel Jackson. And I’m going to a dinner with some Greek friends of mine--anyway, I could go on and on. And then I take off for Greece—” he resumes “—and I have lunch with Lord Patten, who is the former governor general of Hong Kong and is the chancellor of Oxford University.”

Squeezed in was a birthday party in his honor at NYU, where they showed a film shot by CBS when he was first elected called Mr. Brademas Goes to Washington. “And they had pictures of my mother and father and me in South Bend saying goodbye. And then my arriving in Washington, and of my talking with President Truman. I attended a breakfast in the old Supreme Court chamber for the newly-elected Democratic members of the House of Representatives. Speaker Rayburn was our host, and among the special guests was former president Harry Truman. So I went up to him and introduced myself and I said, Mr. President, I’m being followed around by a cameraman who’s doing a film for young people, which I thought would touch Mr. Truman, which it did, on how a new member gets into the system, and I’d be very grateful, Mr. President, if you’d step outside and let me ask your advice for a freshman member of Congress. And Truman said, always vote with the leadership. So we stepped outside, put the microphones on, and I said with great dignity, Mr. President, you’ve been a great President of our country, what advice would you have for a freshman member of Congress? And without missing a beat, President Truman said, always vote in the public interest.”

JOHN BRADEMAS:
A lifetime of public
and private service

By Dimitri C. Michalakos

Which reminds him of a story about his birthday and LBJ. “Phone rings. Mr. Brademas? Yes. This is the White House, just a minute, here’s the president. That familiar voice comes on. Johnny? The only person who I ever let call me Johnny. I see it’s your birthday. If I’d have thought about it, I would have spent 40 cents on you. I know that young fellows like you could be out making a lot of money, but you prefer to serve your country and I want you to know I appreciate it.” Brademas pauses, just for a second, to smile. “It’s a pretty nice birthday present.”

And a fitting one (caught on tape by Johnson and now characteristically among the Brademas archives, of which there are 500 boxes just of his congressional papers alone) for a man who may be among the most notable men of public and private service in American history.

“I must have been about eight years old, standing on the front porch of my hometown of South Bend, Indiana,” he remembers of the moment he first heard the calling, as he conjures up visions of a sepia-toned America. “And I was waving at an open car bearing President Franklin Roosevelt to the University of Notre Dame to receive an honorary degree.”

His father Stephen had immigrated from Kalamata, Greece and ran a restaurant in Mishawaka, Indiana, his mother was named after Dante’s beloved, Beatrice Cenci, and she was a schoolteacher. “Her father was a history professor and taught classics,” says Brademas. “And as a schoolboy, my two brothers and my sister and I would spend the summers in a small central Indiana town of 700 people, Swayzee, where my grandfather, William

Chester Goble, had a library of about 7,000 books. And we lived in that library; we grew up in that library.” (The book he read on the Maya made him vow to “be a Mayan archaeologist. So I took Spanish classes in school and then as a high school senior I hitchhiked with a classmate to Mexico”).

Though Brademas was raised a Methodist, “My father inspired in us a great respect for our Hellenic origins,” he says. “When I would go to school and the other students would talk about their backgrounds, I could say, Well, my ancestors were Plato and Aristotle, what about yours?” In fact, his father had a motto that his son still quotes to this day in his speeches: “We Greeks invented democracy; some of us should practice it.”

Brademas was a natural politician and he practiced it from the start. “Even as a schoolboy I was active in the student council,” he says. “And in high school at South Bend Central High, I organized a mock national convention and brought together delegates from the other high schools for a mock national convention.” He went on to Harvard and then Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, “and at Oxford, I organized a mock Democratic national convention in 1952 and I wrote an essay for an Oxford undergrad paper, The Guardian, called “Why I’m Voting Democratic in November.”

It was a plea for the election of Adlai Stevenson as president, and the young politician sent copies to the candidate and to the office of Paul M. Butler, a South Bend lawyer who was the Democratic national committeeman for the state of Indiana. “And in 1953, when I was home in South Bend, I decided to run for Congress,” he says. “So I





went to call on the most important Democratic in the district—and that was Paul Butler, and he remembered the article.”

He got more than 49% of the vote in that first campaign, but he lost by 2000 votes in a three-way race and he “knew coming so close that I would run again.” He bided his time by working for Stevenson in the summer of ’55 as his head of research on the issues (“And that was fascinating. I was the liaison to people like Paul Samuelson, John Kenneth Galbraith, Arthur Schlesinger—whose memorial I attended earlier this week”). And then he ran again in ’56—and in ’56 both Adlai Stevenson and John Brademas were a second time defeated. And I thought,” he says, “well here I am, I’m not yet thirty years old and I’ve twice been defeated for Congress—but I still thought I could win.”

Why politics, when as a Harvard graduate and Rhodes Scholar he could have written his own ticket? “I had strong convictions about the importance of politics,” he says. “Although my father was Greek Orthodox, I grew up in the Methodist church, which has a strong tradition of working for social justice. My late father told me when I was a child of how the Ku Klux Klan, which was important in Indiana at the time, had boycotted his restaurant in Mishawaka because he was not a WASP: a white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant.”

After high school, Brademas joined the Navy because the war was still on, and he was stationed for training in Biloxi at the University of Mississippi, where he heard the notorious segregationist Senator Theodore Bilbo give a campaign speech. “Bilbo was the savage voice of segregation in this country and he made a speech in which he attacked Clare Boothe Luce and ‘those other Communists up north who would mongrelize the white race,’” Brademas remembers. “That made a big impact on me and a few years later, now a member of Congress, I stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial behind Martin Luther King when he made his famous ‘I Have a Dream’ speech. And I worked hard in Congress for the Voting Rights Act and for civil rights and that was part of my motivation.”

On his third try in 1958 he was elected to the House of Representatives from Indiana’s Third District (which he served for 22 years) and from then on Washington, and John Brademas, would never be the same.

He served under six presidents, three Republicans and three Democrats, but he likes to quote legendary House Speaker Sam Rayburn on the role of Congress in the separation of powers. “Rayburn was once asked by a reporter, Mr. Speaker, under how many presidents did you serve? Rayburn: Under none. That’s a significant story about the American constitutional system and the separation of powers, because in our system, unlike a parliamentary system, Congress has power to make policy, national policy, independent of the Executive Branch. So if a Senator or Representative in Congress is knowledgeable and skillful, and if the configuration of political forces at that time makes action possible, that Senator or Congressman can, without picking up the telephone to call the White House, write the laws of the land, and I did, and others did. When you’re elected to the Congress of the United States that doesn’t mean you’re not supposed to talk to anybody else, any other public official, elsewhere in the world.”

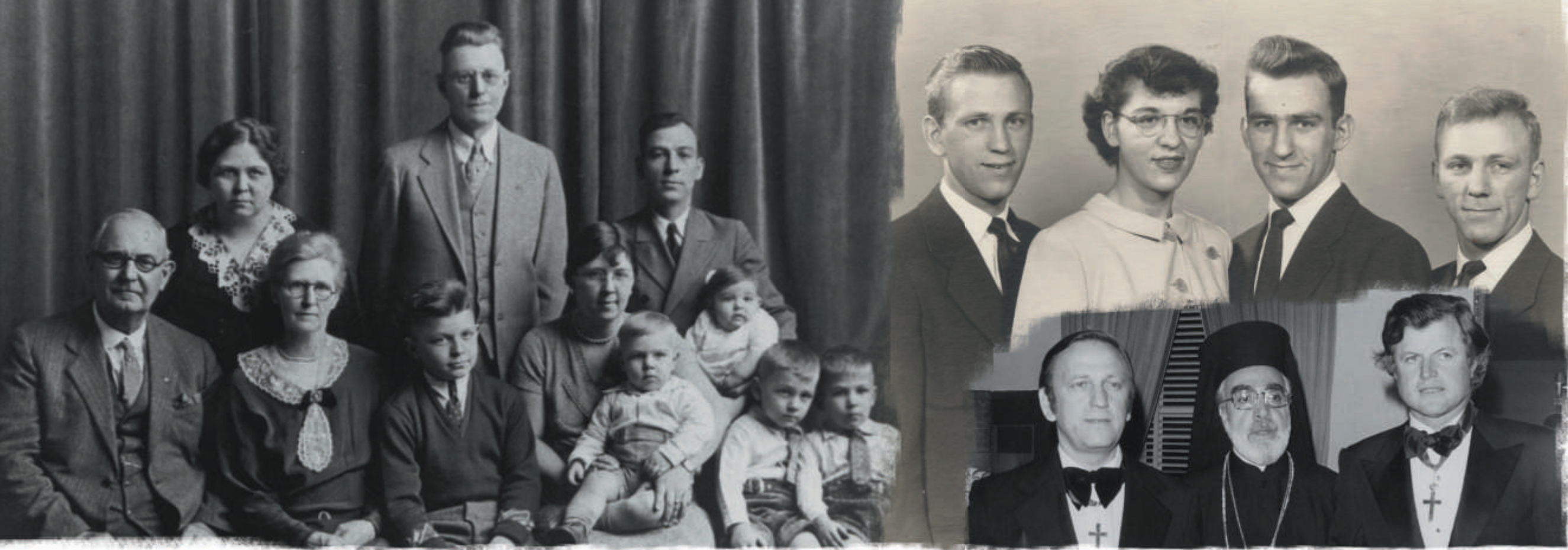
Brademas visited the Soviet Union as early as 1961 (and reminded Boris Yeltsin of that when the Russian leader visited NYU) and he led the first congressional delegation during the presidency of Jimmy Carter to visit the People’s Republic of China. “And I visited during my years in Congress, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, none of which was a democratic country during those times. I think it’s very important, given that we have a separation of powers, where Congress has the power to affect public policy, for members of the Senate and House to inform themselves by traveling to other parts of the world.”

And the young Congressman negotiated the halls of power with equal ease.

“Well, you must remember that when I came to Congress it was after my third campaign and that I had worked for a presidential nominee, my political godfather was the Democratic national chairman and I had previously worked on Capitol Hill. So although a freshman, I had somewhat more exposure to politics than other freshmen did. I felt a sense of confidence about what I was doing.”

Particularly important was getting a good committee assignment and he called up the Speaker himself to get the seat he wanted on Education and Labor: “I was in California on holiday after the election and I telephoned Speaker Rayburn, and I said, Mr. Speaker, this is one of your new students. I’m on my way back to Washington; can I come by and pay a call on you? Wonderful, when can you come? This was unheard of—there were over fifty new Congressmen elected that year.





So I went to Dallas, rented a car, drove up to Bonham, his hometown in Texas, and had lunch with the Speaker and he showed me his library there. And then he said, Well, I suppose you want to talk about your committee? He understood. I said, Yes, Mr. Speaker, I want Education and Labor. The Speaker: Hot potato committee, hot potato committee.”

But with the support of Rayburn (and old mentors Paul Butler, since elevated to Democratic national chairman, and Adlai Stevenson) he got it. The hot issue then was labor reform (Brademas had the Studebaker and Bendix plants in his district) and a young senator named John Kennedy was riding the issue in the adjoining chamber. Brademas had worked summers in the Studebaker plant and knew the issues well and “there were those of us on the House education committee who were sympathetic to Kennedy, including me. In any event, I got my feet wet as a legislator, not in education but in labor reform.”

Brademas later occupied a subcommittee seat on an education subcommittee that Kennedy had occupied. “And I called on then-Senator Kennedy in 1960 and had a little chat. There was a kind of instant sympathy. We were both Harvard graduates, Bob Kennedy, whom I did not know at the time, actually attended Harvard with me. Senator John Kennedy came out to campaign for me in 1960. Then years later Ted Kennedy came and spoke at the airport for me. I’ve had these ongoing links with the Kennedys. In fact, I saw Ethel

earlier this week at the memorial tribute to Arthur Schlesinger, who was on the faculty of Harvard when I was a student there.”

Brademas soon catapulted to the leadership after Hale Boggs appointed him a Deputy Whip and then Tip O’Neill made him Majority Whip in 1976. “I had a very good record with Speaker O’Neill. For one thing, he knew that I had studied at Harvard and Cambridge, a district he represented. In fact, years later, I was elected to the Harvard Board of Overseers and I said to Tip, Mr. Speaker, I’m spending more time in your district than you are. Harvard works her sons and daughters hard.”

Every Thursday morning at 9:30 the Majority Whip would chair a meeting of the Democratic leadership in the House and take a count. “And we would talk about the legislative schedule and the politics of it,” Brademas remembers. “Of course there you would have the Democratic Party represented from Mississippi to New York. And the Speaker would say, I would like to have a Whip check on HR 12345, whatever the bill was. What that meant was each zoned Whip, and one of them was Charlie Rangel, had a card and on the card would be listed all the Democratic representatives in that zone, and across the top it would read, yes, no, leaning yes, leaning no, undecided. The correct vote would be yes, meaning, yes, you are voting with the Speaker. And I would say, Let’s get a Whip check on this and get the information back by so and so.”

He thrived in the system and was slated in 1980 to become Speaker of the House after both O’Neill and Majority Leader Jim Wright had announced their resignation. But he had what he calls a “marginal” seat that he won every term against the odds (“I ran for Congress thirteen times, and only once did the people of my district give the majority to the Democratic nominee for President. That was Johnson in ‘64.”). Unfortunately, Reagan had his landslide in 1980 and John Brademas was out of a job.

“I enjoyed politics, obviously, and it would have been agreeable to be the Speaker,” he says philosophically. “But I was a grownup, I knew how these matters went and I spent every day in Indiana reading The New York Times. And in the Sunday New York Times News and Review section there’s the list of academic appointments, elections, health and medical school appointments and I noted one for NYU.”

So the day after the election, Wednesday morning, he remembers, “I telephoned the then-mayor of New York City, whose Whip I had been, one Edward I. Koch, and Ed said, John, I’m sorry, what are you going to do now? I said, I want to be president of NYU. And Koch said, alluding to our just defeated presidential nominee, If Mondale doesn’t want it, I’m for you. I was introduced to the chairman of the Board of Trustees, Laurence M. Tisch, and I took the job.”

He found NYU “a regional commuter institution—by regional I mean New York, New Jersey, Connecticut—and my objective was to transform it into a national and international residential research university. The year before my arrival we had raised, I believe, \$23 million in private money. And I said for what was then already the largest private university in the country that was not acceptable, especially for one located in Manhattan. So I announced a goal of \$1 million a week in private contributions for 100 weeks and we did that. And then I set in 1984 a new target of \$1 billion in private contributions by the year 2000—and we did that in ten years. With those funds we were able to carry out that transformation. I’m pleased that according to the Princeton Review, I believe, for the last four years or so, measured by the number of students who apply for admission, NYU has become the most popular u in the U.S.”

Cathedral panel discusses terrorism and the clash of civilizations

He smiles, “And I know at least once a week I get a letter from some Greek American family wanting me to help get their sons and daughters into NYU. And I just say, Well, just make sure they’re very good students.”

Now president emeritus of the university (he retired in 1992), he’s still very active at the school and his “major project” now is the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress.

“With 100 Senators and 435 Representatives and without the strict party discipline characteristic of European parliamentary systems, it is difficult even for informed Americans to understand the U.S. Congress,” he says. “So what we are doing at the Center is organizing symposia and lectures on the processes by which Congress makes policy and important issues of policy.”

The Hellenic University Club of New York will present a distinguished panel of experts discussing “Terrorism, Religious Extremism, and the Clash of Civilizations.” The event will take place on Wednesday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity Center, 337 E. 74th Street, New York City.

Five years after the fall of the World Trade Center, are we still afraid? Why? What have we learned? Are there solutions? Can religious tolerance be learned? Will terrorism “go away”? The panel will weigh these major issues of our time.

There was a lecture at the Library of Congress introduced by James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, and Senator Richard Lugar, former chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, who spoke on the role of Congress on foreign policy, and Senator Paul Sarbanes, who spoke on Congress and domestic policy. There was a subsequent lecture by Professor Robert V. Remini, author of a history of the House of Representatives; and a recent conference which included former Senator Bob Kerrey and former Nixon White House counsel John Dean. And Brademas now hopes to organize a symposium on the Speakership of the House of Representatives, “to which I would invite Nancy Pelosi, Dennis Hastert, Newt Gingrich, Tom Foley and Jim Wright, all Speakers, to discuss this institution in the American constitution because it’s not really well understood.”

The center is housed in the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and “is wholly bipartisan,” he says. “I have an advisory council on which there sit senators and congressmen, sitting and former, Democrats and Republicans.”

Brademas himself, of course, never sits for long. (His wife Mary Ellen is a dermatologist and he has no children of his own. They live in the residence across from Washington Square Park.) Near the end of the interview he’s already checking over his pocket to-do list and flipping through his master list in the folder he’s always carrying.

“I have plenty to do,” he says, “and I have more opportunities to make speeches and write articles than I need. I think I have been blessed by the opportunity to have several careers. And now in effect I have a third life in a bouquet of various activities.”

He consults his pocket to-do list, and we’re off.

Panel members include: Nasir Farouqui, president of the Long Island Islamic Center; Dr. Thomas Mallios, psychologist; Dr. Robert Saunders, author and expert on global terrorism; Dr. Aristedes Scoufelis, historian and economist; and Father Robert Stephanopoulos, Dean of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, a leading ecumenicist.

The event is free and open to the public. A coffee hour will follow. For additional information contact Penelope Karageorge (212) 661-8026 or Dean Sirigos (347) 452-3502.

George Tenet: THE SPYMASTER TALKS

George Tenet has not been treated kindly since he came out with his new book on his service as head of the CIA, *At the Center of the Storm*. But he may have done himself a disservice by coming out at all.

Tenet was legendary in Washington for being a good bureaucrat and “surviving all storms” and the various changes in power: he served no more contrasting masters than Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. And while he prided himself on properly informing (and schmoozing) the various senators and congresspersons his agency relied on for its funding, nobody had ever heard George Tenet speak in public outside Washington while he was still on the job.

He was the exemplary spymaster.

Until his agency missed 9/11. (And, in fairness, so did the Administration, which didn’t connect the dots of information they did get from various places, including the CIA.)

And he compounded the error by sitting behind Colin Powell at the UN with the de rigueur plastic translator in his ear and endlessly riffling through what appeared the mountainous reams of documentation giving Powell the authority to assert that Iraq was bristling with weapons of mass destruction

and factories churning them out.

And he cemented his own personal downfall by having someone in the Administration quote him as saying the foray into Iraq was a “slam dunk.” After that, his days in public office were numbered, of course: obviously somebody had thrown him to the wolves. But Tenet made no comment about the remark or his departure: true to the end, he was a good public servant who kept his opinions, and any grievances, to himself. He was the true Washington insider who knew how the game was played and he went out with all proper decorum.

Until *At the Center of the Storm* came out this month and Tenet went on the offensive—and it’s not a pretty sight.

About the “slam dunk” remark? He told TIME, “I will never believe until the day I die that that comment had anything to do with the timing or the legitimacy of going to war. It was about we were trying to construct a public case. Yes, we had a responsibility to make sure that the — we just produced an estimate.”

An estimate for a public case? As CIA director, wasn’t it his job to give the President an estimate of the justification for going to war—the reality of weapons of mass istration

destruction and the resistance our troops might find—and not the marketing rationale? Weren’t there political mavens aplenty (Karl Rove and company) in the Administration to make that case?

About the torture used to get information from detainees, filmed by the interrogators themselves in Abu Ghraib, and supported by the Vice President with his remark on the need for “robust” interrogation techniques for detainees? Never happened, says Tenet. “Look, first of all, torture doesn’t work,” he told TIME. “Second of all, the vast preponderance of data, it’s not about the harshness of the techniques, it’s about smart people. We don’t believe in torture. Look, this is a country of laws. There’s authorization. There’s legal opinions. We did this by the numbers. We corroborate this stuff. We have other sources.”

Tenet is talking proudly as a CIA professional who had the back of his “guys” while he was chief and who tacitly assumes they would have his back. But a group of them came out shortly after the book itself was published and demanded that he give back the Medal of Freedom he was given by Bush because, they said, “The reality of Iraq, however, has not made our nation more secure nor has the cause of human liberty been advanced. In fact, your tenure as head of the CIA has helped create a world that is more dangerous... We believe you have a moral obligation to return the Medal of Freedom you received from President George Bush.”

George Tenet is not giving it back. And he’s not taking back what he said in the book—if the sticky parts can ever be translated from his tortured syntax of justification. George Tenet did make a wonderful career for himself in Washington, and he was a wonderful role model for every Greek American with smarts and drive who wanted to succeed in government. George Tenet did go out with his head held high and the medal around his neck.

Until he published this book, to tell his side of the story, and get even for that “slam dunk” remark that was pinned on him. And the spookmaster has only exposed himself as a very spooky man.

Dimitri C. Michalakos



House considering bill to end FYROM propaganda against Greece

Legislation regarding state-sponsored propaganda against Greece in FYROM (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) is now being championed by the two members of the U.S. House of Representatives charged by that body with chairing oversight of matters relating to Europe. They are Congressmen Robert Wexler (D-FL) and Elton Gallegly (R-CA), the Chairman and Ranking Republican, respectively, of the House Foreign Affairs Committee’s Europe Subcommittee,” said the leaders of the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH). Also championing this bill are the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL).

The bill points to a television report showing students in a state-run school being taught that parts of Greece are rightfully part of FYROM. The legislation also points to recently-published textbooks of their military academy that contain maps showing ‘Greater Macedonia’ extending many miles into Greece and into Bulgaria. According to the legislation, the UN Accord requires them to “not support claims to any part of the territory of the other party or claims for a change of the existing frontiers.”

The legislation asks FYROM to adhere to its UN agreement and stop its schools and others from irredentist teachings, such as that northern Greece should be part of their country. As well, the bill urges FYROM to adhere to UN and US policy and reach agreement with Greece on a name for their new country – one that does not encourage FYROM irredentism. American concerns about this irredentism began in 1944 when U.S. Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius said, “This Government considers talk of a Macedonian ‘nation’... representing no ethnic nor political reality, and sees in its present revival a possible cloak for aggressive intentions against Greece.” That aggression subsequently killed thousands of Greek citizens.

Like the ‘Confederate Flag’ issue in the US, the ‘Macedonian nation’ movement in FYROM brings memories and fears of terrible suffering. Adherence to the UN agreement, to American policy regarding a name agreeable to Greece and to historical reality regarding Alexander the Great and the ancient nation of Macedonia is in the best interests of the United States, the people of FYROM and Greece and the Balkan region.

The leaders of the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes include Andrew A. Athens, Chairman, National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH); National Chairman, United Hellenic American Congress (UHAC), Honorary President, World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE); Andrew E. Manatos, President, National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH); Philip Christopher, Vice Chair, National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH), President, International Coordinating Committee--Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA); President, Pancyprrian Association of America; Executive Board Member, UHAC and PSEKA; Panicos Papanicolaou, Supreme President, Cyprus Federation of America; and Nikos Mouyiaris, Executive Vice President, Pancyprrian Association of America.

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First row from left, Congressman John Sarbanes, Grand Marshal Nick Davatzes, Archbishop Demetrios, Grand Marshal Anthony Limberakis, Metropolitan Paisios and Bishop Savvas.



Consul General of Greece in New York Ekaterine Boura, Tina Handras, Zoe Koutsopaki and Paul Statibouloupoulos - last year's Grand Marshal - from Marathon Bank and entrepreneur Spyros Garypballis.

Thousands turned out on New York's Fifth Avenue for this year's annual Greek Independence Parade dedicated to Religious Freedom. Singing star Anna Vissi was the honorary marshal and Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, and Nick Davatzes, CEO Emeritus of A&E Television Networks, were the Grand Marshals for this 186th anniversary of Greek Independence. Parade Chairman was John Catsimatidis, CEO and President, Red Apple Group. His Eminence Archbishop

Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, served as the Parade's Honorary Chairman.

Parade Co-chairpersons included leading community leaders Philip Christopher, president, International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus" (PSEKA); Tasso Manassis, restaurateur and former president of Pan Gregorian Enterprises, and Dino Rallis, chairman, Federation public relations.



"It is a great honor for the Archons to be named Grand Marshals of this year's historic 176th annual Greek Independence parade whose theme echoes the core of our mission," said National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis.

"I am deeply honored to be named Grand Marshal by my fellow Greek Americans and to participate in this year's first televised parade. I applaud the Greek Federation's efforts to promote the ideals of Hellenism, which have always been an important part of my life," said Davatzes.

"On behalf of the Federation, I am very proud and grateful to be working John Catsimatidis, a compelling leader who loves and honors his Hellenic heritage and advocates for religious freedom. We also congratulate this year's Grand Marshals and Honorary Grand Marshal and applaud their contributions to the world of religion, arts and entertainment," said Nick Diamantidis, president of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater NY.

This year marked the first-ever televised broadcast on Fox TV Network (My9) with Fox's leading news anchors Ernie Anastos, Rosanna Scotto and weatherman Nick Gregory hosting the special two-hour live broadcast.



From left, Margo and John Catsimatidis, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Federation President Nick Diamantides and Grand Marshal Nick Davatzes



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Peter Tiboris conducts the Manhattan Philharmonic

MidAmerica Productions presents Artistic Director and General Director Peter Tiboris conducting the Manhattan Philharmonic in an evening of opera music featuring the first New York performance of Mascagni's opera Zanetto since 1902, with mezzo-soprano Jennifer Larmore (Zanetto) and soprano Eilana Lappalainen (Sylvia) on Monday, June 4, 8:00 PM, at Carnegie Hall.

The program will also include Verdi's "La peregrina, Ballet de la Reine" from Don Carlo, "Ritorna vincitor" from Aida, Cilea's "Acerba voluttà" from Adriana Lecouvreur and Donizetti's "Dio, che mi vedi in core," "Al par del mio," "Va, infelice, e teco reca" from Anna Bolena. The Russian Chamber Chorus of New York with Nikolai Kachanov as Artistic Director will also appear in addition to Larmore and Lappalainen.

Greek-American Peter Tiboris, Founder, General Director and Artistic Director of MidAmerica Productions, has pursued a unique and highly successful musical career in two separate arenas. As an orchestra conductor, he has presented great masterworks and contemporary classics in

major venues throughout the world. In addition to his wide podium activities, Mr. Tiboris has become one of today's important musical innovators.

His numerous New York premieres have included works by Beethoven, Bruckner, Dello Joio, Dohnány, Glass, Mascagni, Mozart, Nielson, Schnittke, Schubert, Tchaikovsky and Verdi. He has had striking success in presenting concert performances in Carnegie Hall of such rare operas as Mascagni's Silvano, Rossini's Ermione, and Theodorakis' Elektra. For such treatments of Cherubini's Médée and Taneyev's Agamemnon, the drama was enhanced by interspersing the musical score with segments spoken by distinguished acting casts (including Olympia Dukakis and Louis Zorich).

In 1984 Peter Tiboris founded MidAmerica Productions, which has since developed into New York's largest independent company for concert production. Through its work, thousands of musicians--professional and amateur; singers, choirs, instrumental ensembles, and directors--have been enabled to perform on the finest of New York's stages, including Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the latter's Weill Hall. Under the

MidAmerica umbrella, Mr. Tiboris has developed further undertakings, such as the Elysium recording label (issuing performances both his own and by others), the Manhattan Philharmonic, the Elysium Chamber Ensemble, Just Tenors, Inc., a management company, and Performers Management Exchange.

The Russian Chamber Chorus of New York was founded in 1984 by Artistic Director and Conductor Nikolai Kachanov. Over the course of its twenty-year history, the chorus has become America's preeminent Russian vocal ensemble and one of the world's greatest ambassadors of the Russian creative spirit. Known for its stylistic versatility and heartfelt singing, RCCNY commands a repertoire spanning many centuries and styles, from ancient liturgical chants, through Russian Baroque, classical and folk music, to world premieres by leading contemporary composers.

Tickets for the June concert, at \$94, 57, 35, may be obtained by calling CarnegieCharge at (212) 247-7800, going online at www.carnegiehall.org, or by visiting the Carnegie Hall Box Office at West 57th Street and Seventh Avenue in NYC. For more information, call our Box Office at (212) 239-4699 or visit the web site.

Pianist Panos Karan at Carnegie Hall

Classical Pianist Panos Karan will make his Carnegie Hall recital debut (Weill Recital Hall) Saturday, May 19, 2007 at 8:30 p.m. with a world-premiere of "PROJECT INNOCENCE" a programmatic suite of seven interconnected movements by Greek composer Pericles Kanaris. Works by Enescu, Granados, Alicia Grant, Glinka – Balakirev and Balakirev will be also included. The recital by is sponsored by the American College of Greece. Student and senior discount tickets are available at the Box Office.

Panos Karan was born on the island of Crete in 1982. He started piano lessons at the age 7 and at 9 he made his debut in San Francisco. He has won several top prizes in national and international competitions including Senigallia, Italy (1998) and the "Alicia de Larrocha" International Piano Competition in Andorra (2002). In 2004 Panos was a prizewinner at the "Jose Iturbi" International Piano Competition in Valencia, Spain, after appearing in the final round with the Valencia Symphony Orchestra.

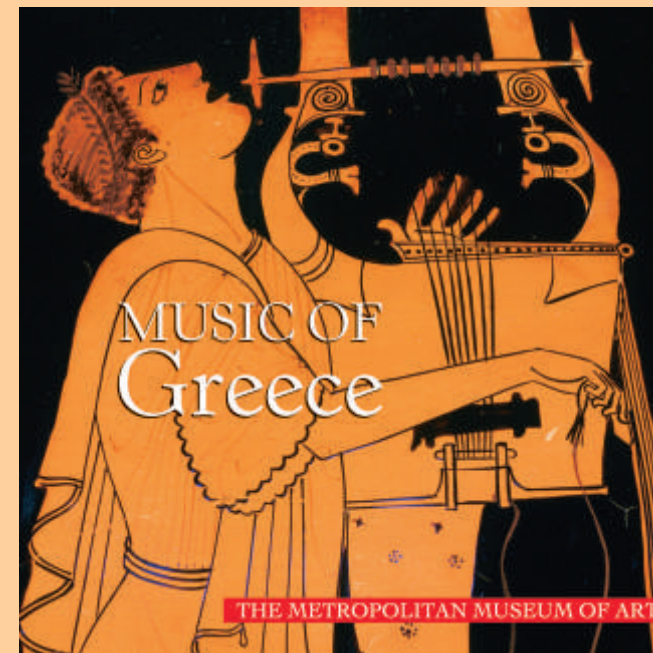
He has performed with enormous success in London, the UK, and in various musical venues throughout Europe, as a recitalist, chamber musician as well as a soloist. Future plans include performances of the complete cycle of the Beethoven Concertos in the UK, return appearances with the St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra, as well as solo and concerto engagements in Greece, Russia, Lithuania, Spain, Italy and the UK.

"PROJECT INNOCENCE" came about after Panos Karan heard a short piano theme that Kanaris had just composed for a documentary called "World War Virtual", produced by IFFI, NY. The film was about the growing military-entertainment complex in the U.S. "He then asked me if I could compose a new piece for solo piano, based on that theme, for his debut at Carnegie Hall," says Kanaris. "PROJECT INNOCENCE" was composed as a result, a programmatic suite of seven interconnected movements that reflect the emotions evoked to me by the subject matter of the film."



Classical Pianist Panos Karan

Composer Pericles Kanaris during a recording session at the legendary HIT Factory, NY.



Greek Music compilation by the Metropolitan Museum

Museum Music announced recently the release of the compilation album, "Music of Greece," produced for the world-renowned Metropolitan Museum of Art. This CD was released in conjunction

with the completion of the Met's new Greek and Roman Galleries involving the installation of thousands of works of classical art from the museum's collection.

Produced by Greek composer Pericles Kanaris, the compilation contains an eclectic mix of 16 tracks that reflect Greece's musical heritage as we know it today. It covers three main categories: Contemporary, Folk from both the mainland and the islands,) Rebetiko and a Byzantine hymn. It will be available at the museum's gift shops and through the Museum Music network.

"Music has been at the heart of Greek culture since antiquity," says Kanaris. "And I can think of no better way of presenting our cultural heritage to the world community than by pairing our music with our visual arts, particularly under the auspices of such an important institution as The Metropolitan Museum of Art. This is truly a jubilant occasion."

According to David Somlyo, president of Museum Music, the New York city based multi-media company that has produced nine other CDs for the Met, "this is one of the most entertaining compilations that we've put together and features a great mix of traditional and contemporary Greek music. Most of the music should be quite well known to the Greek community. But, of course, the songs that almost everyone will recognize are the classics, Zorba's Dance and the theme from Never On Sunday."

Born in Athens, Pericles Kanaris began his study of piano at an early age. He won the B.E.S.T. scholarship from the Berklee College of Music where he studied Film Scoring (B.Mus. - Summa Cum Laude.) During his time at Berklee, he also studied piano and composition with Jazz guru Charlie Banacos. He is the recipient of the Barnes & Noble Award and the Soren Christensen Award, both for outstanding musicianship during his presence at the writing division of Berklee.



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From left Minister of Health Dimitris Avramopoulos, Marianna Vardinoyannis, president of "Elpida," President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias and Archbishop Christodoulos.

THERE IS “HOPE” (ELPIDA)!



From left Pavlos Sionfas, vice president of the "Nicholas D. Pateras" Foundation, Titina Patera, Minister of Tourism Fanny Palli-Petralia, Marianna Vardinoyannis and Poly Gioti.

It took 17 years of constant effort and tireless commitment to get to the stellar April 24th, 2007--the groundbreaking of the first Oncology Children's Hospital, sponsored by the Friend's Association of Children with Cancer "Elpida" (Hope). The President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias, the Minister of Health Dimitris Avramopoulos and Archbishop Christodoulos, who officiated in the traditional ceremony, joined "Elpida's" President and UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassador Marianna Vardinoyannis in streamlining the last phase of this ambitious project that will offer children with cancer a state-of-the-art hospital, in addition to a Bone Marrow

Transplant Unit and a Guest House for parents that are already operating.

When constructed, the hospital will be the first-of-its-kind health facility in the entire Southeastern area of Europe. As Mrs. Vardinoyannis stated in an interview with NEO last August, "the children it will receive will be coming not only from Greece, but other Mediterranean and Balkan countries, too."

In inviting the President of the Republic, Mr. Papoulias, to lay the first stone, Mrs. Vardinoyannis expressed her gratitude to the Greek state and the Greek people for their support and she expressed the wish that the center will be completed in time for Mr. Papoulias to inaugurate it while still president. "In your face are represented all the Greeks who united their hands in creating a chain of hope," she stated.

The project is a combination of the private initiative of Mrs. Vardinoyannis and "Elpida," of state sponsorship-the Greek government donated the land--and of extensive public support. Various private entities and individuals, among them Greek-Americans, contributed financially, most recently at two telethons organized by MEGA Channel. Mrs. Estelle Soterhos, wife of the former US Ambassador to Greece Michael Soterhos, was involved in the project from its initial steps, as well. "The Greek people have proven once more that their capacity for love and solidarity are fathomless," Mrs. Vardinoyannis said, noticeably moved.

Natasha Karamanlis, Prime Minister's Kostas Karamanlis wife, herself a doctor, was there to witness this remarkable undertaking, as were former Prime Minister Konstantinos Mitsotakis, Ministers of Tourism Fannie Palli-Petralia, of Development Dimitris Sioufas, of Macedonia&Thrace George Kalantzis, former Ministers Petros Molyviatis, Kostas Laliotis, Nikos Konstantopoulos and Antonis Samaras, the President of the Onassis Foundation Antonis Papademetriou – the foundation offered 1,500.000 million Euros - MEGA Channel's general manager Elias Tsigas, Miss Titina Patera who sponsored the groundbreaking ceremony, Vardis Vardinoyannis, and members of "Elpida" and friends.

Konstantinos Rhompotis



Marianna Vardinoyannis with Natasha Karamanlis. Left, Minister of Macedonia and Thrace George Kalantzis.



Marianna Vardinoyannis with NEO's Konstantinos Rhompotis.



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