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Special Cyprus Pages:

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JULY 1-11, 2008



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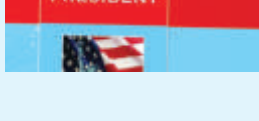
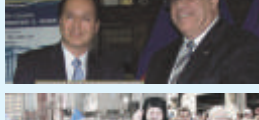
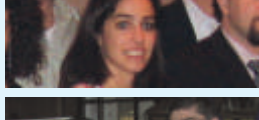
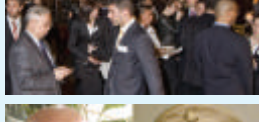
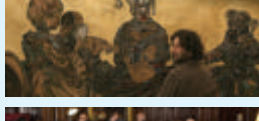
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## Politics, Cyprus, FYROM and "heroic deeds"

Congressman Zack Space had a great-great-grandfather who did a "heroic deed" so memorable that he got a Turkish nickname for it that his namesake surmises sounded like "space." And the young hero liked it so much that he adopted it as his surname.

Which means that Congressman Zack Space has to perform heroic deeds of his own? He already has by winning election from a longstanding Republican district and we feature an interview with him in this issue. Not only did young Zack Space win that improbable election, but he changed the whole way his predecessor was doing business. He not only brought a sense of personal ethics and integrity to the office, he also pushed for those issues in Congress and, closer to home, he's made it a mission to bring needed jobs to his district and relieve its endemic poverty.

That's a heroic deed in itself, but it's only part of a larger effort by Space and the other Young Greeks in Congress that includes John Sarbanes of Maryland and Gus Bilirakis of Florida. Besides bringing home the jobs and benefits to their districts, they're part of the new crop of young Greek legislators who are putting new energy and bringing a new vision to solving longstanding problems, such as the issue of Cyprus and Macedonia.

Space was in Greece and got briefed firsthand by Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis himself on these issues. He came away impressed by the passion they rouse in the Greek public, particularly right now what he calls the cultural and political usurpation of the name of Macedonia.

"It's a very volatile issue right now in Greece," he says, "something I wasn't even aware until Prime Minister Karamanlis explained to me just some of the repercussions he had experienced in his efforts in attempting to work out a compromise. I understand where many Greeks are coming from in this issue and I think some of our work in Congress has paid off with the State Department. I'm hopeful we'll keep the pressure on and we'll see some real progress in the issue."

It will be a true heroic deed if these congressmen can bring fresh energy and a new focus on these issues and actually bring about a solution. They represent a new beginning for the U.S. Congress to tackle these problems and with a change in administration, perhaps they will perform a true "heroic deed" and find some resolution.

Dimitri C. Michalakis

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Check our website  
[www.neomagazine.com](http://www.neomagazine.com)

NEO Magazine  
is published monthly by  
Neocorp Media Inc.  
P.O. Box 560105  
College Point, NY 11356  
Phone: (718) 554-0308  
e-Fax: (718) 878-4448  
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*Facing reelection in the former Republican stronghold of the 18th CD, the first term Congressman is hoping his constituents appreciate his efforts to bring needed integrity to the job (his predecessor pleaded guilty to corruption charges) and jobs to the district, which is in the heart of rural Ohio and the Rust Belt.*

by Dimitri C. Michalakis



*Zack Space hosts a ribbon cutting ceremony at the grand opening of the ABC Manufacturing facility on Morgan County, Ohio. Congressman Space was instrumental in bringing the facility to this economically depressed area. This will create at least 200 new high-paying jobs.*

## Congressional spotlight: Ohio's Zack Space

*Former football All-American and Ohio attorney Zack Space had publicly signed a pledge to do the right thing if he got to Congress, and he says he's worked hard to keep that pledge during his eighteen months in office. He's been in the forefront of ethical reform and he's been a workhorse in fighting for jobs for his rural district. "Public service is something that right now I find extremely rewarding," says the 47-year-old Ohio native who grew up in the district and practices law there with his father Socrates at Space & Space. "I hope that I can continue to exhibit leadership through service, as I've tried in the last 18 months, and with God's blessing and the blessing of the people my district, I'll be able to continue doing that."*

### What's your typical day like in public office?

The only thing that seems to remain constant from day to day is the long hours and the hard work. Basically it's broken down into two different parts: my work when I'm in Washington and my work when I'm back in my home district. I'm usually in Washington from Monday or Tuesday to Thursday or Friday, then I'm back home every weekend. And when I'm in DC, it's long days that start very early and usually end about 9 or 10 o'clock. It ranges from voting on the floor to attending committee hearing to meeting with constituents to researching or going over matters with my staff. And when I'm back in the district, usually I'm driving: I've got a very large, agricultural, rural district and I've got to cover a lot of ground. I don't have any large cities: I have small towns, and in order to be effective I have to maintain a presence throughout the district. My district is 20% of the state of Ohio, 26 counties, so it's a challenge.

### What are the rewards of a life like this?

Time away from my family is the worst part, without question. But, otherwise, I feel like I'm doing something meaningful. I've been very happy trying to meet some of the needs that my district has. It's not just rural, but very poor: in the heart of Appalachian Ohio the poverty rates exceed over 20%, in one county over 30%. People are living on starvation wages essentially and we want to try to give them opportunities, we want to create a climate that will attract business and keep those manufacturers facilities we have and try to draw in new manufacturing facilities. New sectors are emerging in energy, health care, technology, and even agriculture and we're trying to position ourselves in the district to take advantage of these new sectors to create new jobs, good-paying jobs.

### How is it going in this effort?

We've established an initiative that I've referred to as Renew Ohio 18 (for Ohio and the district) and it stands for realizing a new economic way. We put together groups of folks from here in Ohio that we feel are the best and the brightest on these issues. These include doctors, hospital administrators, educators, businessmen, public officials, and we've had forums on health care. We're having similar forums on energy, and on broadband access and technology, and on agriculture, and we've established chairmen on each of these separate forums in their respective sectors and they each get charged with preparing a white paper. We've hired facilitators to come in to these meetings and we encourage people to participate. The results of these meetings are being compiled as I speak right now and later this month we hope to put together a plan. And it's a plan that is going to be conceived not by me, not by some people on my staff, but literally by hundreds and hundreds of people from around the district and around the state who understand the need to think proactively and to give some forethought to our actions and to our future. This is planning not for next year, or even two years, but five or 10 or 20 years down the road. And I'm very proud of that initiative.

### What has been your legislative focus the past two years?

I'm very active in Washington promoting legislation designed to enhance access to the Internet, as one example. If you live in rural America, and rural Ohio in particular, you're not

likely to have access to the Internet which is a significant disadvantage. From an economic point, and a quality of life perspective, the benefits of the Internet include better health care delivery through telemedicine, better education through distance learning, and even better security, with responders being better able to communicate with one another. We've also been very active in education-related initiatives from pre-school all the way to post-secondary. All these are designed to give the people from my district a fighting chance. If you live in my district, you are more likely to live in poverty and not have a college education. We're trying to change that and that is work that is very rewarding for me.

### Is it hard to be a Democrat in your district?

No, I don't really think it is. I think the people I represent are moderate and have common sense. In the past they may have affiliated themselves with the Republican Party more than the Democratic Party, but I think at this point they are looking for leadership that is not bound by the confines of partisanship and they are more interested in the person than they are in the party. I'm doing my best to maintain a strong connection with them and I think in the end they are going to be more concerned about whether my heart is in the right place, whether my head is in the right place, whether I'm grounded, whether I remain ethical, and I intend to do all those things. And if they are satisfied, they are going to be able to overlook my party.

**Does the Democratic leadership in Washington understand you have to slant right in some cases, such as illegal immigration, because of the conservative makeup of your district?**

The leadership of my party understands that and they're going to want me to come back and in order for me to come back I have to represent the interests of my district. I need to trust the people that I represent because they need to trust me. I need to trust them and follow their lead. And Nancy Pelosi and the others in leadership know that. We don't agree on a lot of initiatives, but we do agree that we want to keep a Democratic majority and me keeping this seat is going to go a long way in doing that.

### How well how does it look for your reelection?

I think it looks pretty good, I mean you never know. Outside groups spent about \$4 million dollars last year against me, and it's always possible that they could do it again this year. We're maintaining a strong profile, we're raising money, we're doing everything right because we can't afford not to and I'm very confident that in the end the best form of campaigning is doing your job effectively, doing it right. I think I've been doing that and I think that in the end we'll pick up another term.

**Are you supporting anyone in particular in the presidential race?**

I think the Democratic Party has two very good candidates and I will support whoever is the nominee. But I find it distasteful - though I respect my colleagues - I think there is something distasteful in a system that would have political insiders determine the outcome of an election. I hope that this will be determined by the voters through the pledged delegate system in advance of the convention in August and by the time the convention comes around we will have our nominee and whoever that is I will support vigorously.

**How important do you think a change in the administration is in a state like yours?**

I think it's absolutely imperative that we get a president who understand the need to extend health care coverage, for example, who understands the need to use federal resources

and cure diseases through stem-cell research funding, who understands that this war we're engaged cannot be a one-hundred-year fiasco.

**Do you feel a change in administration will change support for Greece and Cyprus?**

This administration has not been supportive. You respect that the new president, no matter who it is, will give a fresh look to issues like FYROM, Cyprus and the travesty associated with the Ecumenical Patriarchate--that these issues will be taken seriously. These issues are rooted in basic human rights and respect for international law and these are things that have been lacking. I think that what has been lacking in the current administration from a general perspective, without making this overly political, is the lack of leadership at the international level. I think what this country desperately needs is to restore that, and as a part of the restoration, I look for the

effectuation of justice, not just in Greece and in southern Europe, but throughout the world. I think there is a lot on the line right now and I'm hoping the next president will understand the importance of restoring all the goodwill that we lost at the international level.

**Now that Greece and Turkey are talking more openly what do you think are the prospects for movement on the Cyprus issue?**

Well, I'm hopeful, but not necessarily optimistic. It's good to see that they are beginning to resume talks, but nobody really knows where Turkey is coming from, the extent of their role in these discussions, and Turkey's ultimate position. But because the world is evolving, and because Turkey, I think, has a serious interest in eventually ascending into the European Union, I am hopeful that we will begin to see some progress. And again, I think the effect of a new administration on those negotiations could be significant. It could be a nudge or a prod that will be required to get something done.

**What do you think personally about the Macedonian issue and FYROM?**

It goes beyond a mere name, it's a cultural issue. I can understand the indignity associated with it or the offensiveness of the use of the name, but I have to tell you, many of my colleagues have a hard time understanding it, because they simply don't understand anything of the history and for them it's difficult to perceive how this could be such a big deal. What's in a name? is what I've heard from a number of my colleagues. Having said that, however, we're gaining steam with people like Gus Bilirakis and John Sarbanes being very strong advocates for this in Congress in terms of its gaining awareness and recognition. When I was in Greece in December I met with Karamanis and had a chance to speak with him personally about the importance of this in Greece and was advised of its extreme political importance: it's a very volatile issue right now in Greece, something I wasn't even aware until Karamanis explained to me some of the repercussions in his actions in attempting to work out a compromise. I understand where many Greeks are coming from in this issue and I think some of our work in Congress has paid off with the State Department. I'm hopeful we'll keep the pressure on and we'll see some real progress in the issue.

**With you and John Sarbanes and Gus Bilirakis, is there a new Greek lobby forming in Congress?**

With all three of us being freshmen, there is a sense of freshness and new blood.

I agree with you, its exciting—I love my heritage, I'm proud of it, I know that John and Gus feel the same way—they're both becoming good friends of mine. I think it's nice that we've got representation from both parties that are in this new Congress, three Greeks, the new Greeks, and I'd like to see more. Our culture values hard work and personal responsibility, the value of family and planning and protecting the family for the future. And who better to serve these sort of values but Greek-Americans--people who have been raised in our culture, our faith, and our economic value system.

**You entered public service almost by accident after the death of your friend Tom Watson, the law director in Dover?**

You should know that Dover has about 11,000 people and there aren't even that many people eligible to run for a law director—it's not even a big political job, it's more just representing the citizens in the interests of the city. And Tom was a friend, I helped him when he ran, and tragically his life was cut far too short. His wife, who was a good friend and his father, who was a very good friend of mine as well of as my father's, urged me to consider filling his place and I did, and I ended up enjoying it very much. I've always tried to give back to my community, whether it be through serving on the mental retardation board in the past or coaching little league or helping to raise funds for local charities, but I found the public service through elected office was a very meaningful way to do that.

**You carried that to the next level when you ran for Congress.**

I've been always interested in politics, whether on the local or national level. I was following some of the very people that I'm working with now, which is somewhat of a thrill for me. But I wasn't very happy with my previous congressman, and the honest truth is that I tried to recruit three or four people to



run against him. I thought that he was vulnerable, I saw some of the handwriting on the wall, and I couldn't find anyone interested in taking him on, so I decided to do it myself. And I was certainly benefited by exceptionally good timing. I had luck on my side. But we also had a lot of hard work and I think a very clear and important message we were trying to deliver to the people that I now represent. I think it paid off.

**So there's no turning back for you then?**

I don't know. In my entire life I never had grand aspirations. I try to do what my father taught me to do, and that is always to try to do the right thing and I learned sometimes doing the right thing is not the easiest thing, but in the long run that's the best thing. You know if this career is two years and I'm back practicing law in Dover after that, so be it. I will make the most of it. If it keeps me in this position for many years or takes me elsewhere, I'll be okay with that, too. I'm going to follow my gut, my instinct, and do what's right. Public service is something that right now I find extremely rewarding, I hope that I can continue to exhibit leadership through service, as I've tried in the last 18 months, and with God's blessing and the blessing of the people my district, I'll be able to continue doing that.

**What is the story again about your name and how the name became Space?**

Well, there's some dispute about that, but

here's what I got. I was in Ikaria in December, late November, and stayed with family and got the whole story, and hopefully this is the true story. Up until about three generations ago, the name was Karras, and in fact there are still some people on the island, cousins, named Karras. But my great-great-grandfather, as the story goes, performed a heroic act. When the Turks occupied the island, he reportedly did something of a heroic nature, there's dispute as to what that was, whether it was to convince the Turks to refrain from shelling a church on the island or taking the honor of a woman, we're not sure. And there's a Turkish word—I don't know the exact word—for the term heroic deed and it sounds something like Space and they gave my great-great-grandfather the nickname. Then, in all his humility, he decided to formally change his name to Heroic Deed, and ever since then that's been the family name.

**And Zackarias was your great great grandfather?**

I bear his name.

**So we expect you to keep performing heroic deeds in Congress.**

Well, I'll keep trying!



*Congressman Space participates in a press conference on Capitol Hill.*



*Zack Space talks to a local farmer during his 2007 Farm Tour. (This tour was a series of listening sessions held throughout the district to gather insight and concerns from agriculture producers.)*

*Zack Space addresses a local Flags of Honor veterans memorial service.*

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# PANOS KAMMENOS

## ON TERRORISM AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: THE EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

By Konstantinos Rhombotis

Deputy Minister of Mercantile, Aegean and Insular Policy of Greece  
Panos Kammenos with members  
of the Greek Coast Guard.



For Deputy Minister of Mercantile, Aegean and Island Policy of Greece Panos Kammenos, problems such as terrorism and illegal immigration, perhaps the toughest issues the West is facing nowadays, are very familiar. He served as Chairman of the Committee for the Security and Collaboration in the Mediterranean, Vice-Chairman of the General Committee of Political Affairs and Security of OACE-PA (Organization for the Security and Collaboration in Europe) and he is currently Special Representative of the Chairman of OACE-PA on Antiterrorism issues. President

Sarkozy of France made him recently Knight of the National Order of Honor for his service in those fields. Although pro action and tough minded, he is very careful to point out that these problems need concerted effort to be dealt with and require looking at the causes provoking them. "Our obligation is not only to focus on developing strategies and systems to combat terrorism and illegal immigration... The real challenge is to improve life conditions in poor underdeveloped countries." Panos Kammenos was elected Member of Parliament for the first time in 1993 with the

party of New Democracy (the youngest in the history of the party) in Athens' Second District. He was re-elected in 1996, 2000, 2004 and most recently September, 2007, when he was also named Deputy Minister of Mercantile, Aegean and Island Policy, one of the most important ministries given the fact that Greece ranks number one in the world in vessels carrying her flag and its mainland is surrounded by more than 3,000 islands! He is married to lawyer Helena Tzouli and besides his native Greek he is fluent in English and French.

In Greece and in the EU, you served in committees dealing with terrorism and President Sarkozy of France made you Knight of the National Order of Honor for your service. Terrorism is a big concern in the US and number one threat for our national security. How do you evaluate the international effort in combating terrorism and what in your opinion the major challenges will be in the time being.

After the terrorist actions on US, Spain and many other countries around the world, security measures - especially in airports - reached a level that minimized significantly such threats. Additionally the cooperation and the exchange of information between countries are considered now a major tool to combat terrorism. Countries more than ever are willing to share important information that can prevent terrorist attacks.

The international effort in combating terrorism is in a very good path. However, we must not rest because terrorism is an "industry" that advances in a very fast pace. We have to be always one step ahead and this is a major challenge for all countries. Today, fight against terrorism is essentially an alliance among Democratic states and citizens as counter terrorism requires a common front of citizens and authorities. Terrorist targets are not public persons or politicians anymore. Their attacks have mass destruction effect and highly affect the psychology of the people of the country under assault. In addition to that, we can observe that terrorist organizations cooperate - Al Qaida is the first to do so - with Middle East terrorists and others acting in Chechnya for example. There are active cores all over Europe. Modern day terrorism concerns all citizens in the free world.

In the maritime field there is ISPS Code dealing with possible terrorist action against cargoes, trades but also passengers. The US has taken some additional steps concerning vessels' traffic due to the constant threat your country is subject to. Greece and the Ministry of Mercantile Marine, Aegean and Island Policy is, in my opinion, an illustrating example of accepting these international rules without causing any obstruction to free trade and transactions.

Q) What about illegal immigration, as countless are the cases of Turkish ships smuggling desperate people from the Middle East to the Greek shores.

A) The Ministry of Mercantile Marine, Aegean and Island Policy is responsible for the surveillance of border illegal migration in

Greece which has increased a lot during last year and in particular in the eastern Aegean. In 2007, we received more than 8.000 illegal migrants. The Hellenic Coast Guard carries out surveillance operations on a 24 hours basis. However, as human life is the most important aspect to us, these operations become search and rescue operations. Illegal migrants when approaching Hellenic territorial sea coming from international sea waters, sink their boats and fall overboard so that the Hellenic Coast Guard is called to rescue them rather than forbid them to enter the country. As Greece is responsible for search and rescue operations in the Aegean, they enter the country as persons retrieved by sea following rescue operation. Our position in this issue is that European cooperation must be sought and implemented. According to Hellenic law, they are subject to trial for 6 months, their personal data are recorded and they are set free. About 85% of them head to European Union and other Schengen Treaty countries. Most of them are migrants seeking a better life in the free world. Some come from countries where terrorism is flourishing. The majority come from Palestine or Iraq in order to avoid extradition, as there is no extradition



With Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis in Parliament.

treaty between us and those countries. This issue does not concern Greece exclusively. Our government has proposed the establishment of a European Coast Guard dealing with this problem, starting from North Africa and going all the way to Turkey, which, despite the fact that it has signed a protocol for repatriation of illegal migrants, does not observe it. There are cases in which Turkish Coast Guard rather facilitated migrants trafficking than inhibit it. This is a serious problem and we have requested US and European Union assistance.



With President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias.

Q) Greece has managed to become number one maritime power in the world, an impressive feat. What does that mean for the country, for the world and how did you get to be on top?

Greece without her merchant fleet would be just a country surrounded by sea. Thanks to Greek seamanship and maritime tradition and values, our ships surround the whole world! Places in Greece with maritime tradition as Andros, Chios, Galaxidi, Mytelene, Oenousses, Kassos, as well as most of the other islands are where seamen are born and raised. This human element is what made Greek shipping a big power.

Today, in the middle of another international economic crisis, shipping flourishes. This is due to the fact that in highly populated countries such as China and India, living standard is rapidly and constantly increasing. These markets have now opened to the rest of the world and oil and goods traffic demand is going upwards while production and exports follow a rate of increase.

We will make Piraeus a big international shipping centre. I can tell you that currently, shipping exchange inflow in the country is about 18 billion dollars yearly and that accounts only for 25% of shipping transactions. If we manage to bring back to Greece the remaining companies, we shall boost our national economy significantly. This is what Mr Voulgarakis – Minister of Mercantile Marine – and I fight for every day and shall continue to do so.

We have an excellent cooperation with U.S.A. and I would like to officially announce something which is not known yet: The US government has donated to Greece, by a special Congress law, a Liberty vessel, the last one found in the country. The Liberty-type ships were among the first vessels which led to the development of our mercantile marine. As a Deputy Minister I had the pleasure of obtaining the amount of 5 million dollars from Greek ship owners so that the vessel gets approval of the Maritime Department to sail to Greece this summer. It was an important work carried out by the initiative and efforts of Greek-American politicians. The vessel will be a floating museum which will show the major assistance Greece received after the Second World War by the U.S.A. in the field of mercantile marine. It is a landmark in the history of Hellenic shipping, born ten thousand years ago and thrived through the millenia in order to become today world leader.

Q) Greece's low birth rate to what extent affects insular policies and what measures are you taking in order to address this problem? Are you planning to create zones where

people, Greeks and non-Greeks, could come and settle, create, organize cultural heavens or things like that?

A) We have initiated big projects for the support of our small islands. Greece is an island country with many peculiarities and islands which during these last decades tend to lose their population due to their isolation.

At this moment, we try to change non-profit ferry lines to Greek islands into profitable ones. We have started big projects for the development of diving sports, which on account of the sea's high temperature can be pursued 7 – 8 months a year. We are also moving on with island autonomy projects. The islands with desalinators of their own, have sufficient water throughout the year. We promote broadband, all islands will have quick and easy access to Internet by October 2008, so that students will be able to have access to information, libraries etc. We are also implementing e-learning projects that offer children foreign language courses and assistant teaching.

In addition to that, we have established the Aegean Festival which shall take place in Lemnos, Kasos etc and shall promote the tradition, culture and customs of each island.

Another field included in our policy, which shall be developed in the future, is the environmental tourism. We have established in low populated islands zones free of environmentally damaging products. They will be ecological destinations for any tourist to come and live in a place free of plastic, pesticides and other chemicals, just like in the old days.

We are also developing religion tourism. Pilgrimage in the Aegean is a unique experience. Mantamado in Mytelene, Archangelos Panormidis in Simi, Madonna in Tinos, in all islands with a long religious tradition we seek to attract tourism who can appreciate Christian spirituality.

There are also destinations of particular interest such as Nissyros, where we invested in hot water springs turning them into a big modern spa complex. We created geological parks, as is the case with the fossil forest in Mytelene, Santorini, Nissyros and Milos. We promote particular products of each island such as the mastiha resin in Chios. All these actions are aimed at extending the tourist season, which in turn will lead into further economic development, keeping locals on the islands. In Simi, for example, home value has gone up fifty times during the last four-five years.

Q) Most Americans view the Greek islands as places to visit and have unforgettable

vacations. I'm sure there is more than that though. What about investment opportunities?

A) The initiatives that I just mentioned are also aimed at providing new conditions for people to both visit and invest. For example, the big hotel complex of Agios Kyrikos, in Ikaria, is the result of such an investment by Greeks who returned from abroad.

What we also seek to do as a government is to ensure that all people coming to invest, will find a safe environment to put their money in. We are doing our best to see that both national and foreign investors in Greece are protected against fraud. Everything is done according to law with corruption and red tape allowed no place.

Q) You've done work in promoting Orthodox Christianity in the world and you've been honored by the Patriarchates of Jerusalem and Prague. According to the Archons of St. Andrew website, the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople is facing enormous challenges from the unceasing efforts on behalf of the Turkish government to drive it to extinction. A few months ago an old church was demolished by the authorities in Pringiponesa, hours before Prime Ministers Karamanlis and Ergogan inaugurated the new gas line. In what ways your government is dealing with Turkey's intransigence and inconsistency regarding its obligations to international treaties and its bid to join the European Union.

A) As far as the European Union is concerned, Turks will not be the exception to the rule. They have to comply with the EU directions and standards if they want to become a member. I strongly condemn such actions as the demolishing of religious and cultural facilities, Greek or other. One's civilization is judged from his ability to recognize and respect different religions and cultures. I would say that it was a rather provocative and useless action aiming to jeopardize the meeting. Such actions at the end have reverse results and influence the public opinion in the victim's favor. I will continue my efforts to protect our civilization and religion not only in Constantinople but all over the world.

As regards the Ecumenical Patriarchate issue, the Chalki School and the human rights issues in Turkey, the US has always been on our side, because our position is in accordance with the international law. Turkey has signed the Treaty of Lausanne and its provisions are clear when it comes to the above mentioned issues, the Hellenic community's property rights and the status of the Imvros and Tenedos islands. In this case we simply ask that the international law be observed and enforced.



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Aris Anagnos and 1988 Presidential Candidate Governor Michael Dukakis



March in Support of Cyprus, 1984

# Aris Anagnos: A Champion for Democracy and Human Rights

By Ken Kassabian

Aris Anagnos is one of the co-founders of the American Hellenic Council of California, a non-partisan grassroots organization dedicated to educating and informing the American public and elected officials on Hellenic issues. Long a prominent real estate developer on the west coast, he came to America with just \$200 in his pocket and got a business degree from UCLA, where a professor told him to change his name, Aristides Anagnostopoulos, to Andy Anderson, and Anagnos compromised on Aris Anagnos: "I had to cut it at least in half to function," he laughs. He also started investing for clients, "and real estate, of course, was a very fine investment. So I became licensed and put clients into good real estate investments. I'm proud to say my clients never lost any money."

His life-long commitment to democracy and human rights intensified in 1974, after the brutal Turkish invasion in Cyprus. Educating American politicians and the American public as well, became a parallel full time job for him, with no "retirement" plans in view. PSEKA, the leading Cypriot organization in the US seeking a just solution in Cyprus, honored Aris Anagnos two years ago during its annual convention in Washington DC, recognizing his service and leadership for a cause that "concerns all Americans, Greek and non-Greek."



Aris Anagnos and California Congresswoman Linda Sanchez

**When and where were you born and what has inspired your lifelong devotion to raising political consciousness?**

I was born in Athens in 1923, but as a young man I witnessed the abuse of power by the Metaxas dictatorship and this is what steered me really to a life long struggle against the abuse of power. I stayed through the German occupation until December of 1941 and witnessed more the abuse of power, and the tremendous crimes committed by the Nazis, and the starvation of the population.

**What are the roots of the American Hellenic Council and its involvement in advocating for Hellenic issues?**

The Greek community mobilized after the invasion of Cyprus and in our community here there was a large committee that was formed called the Save Cyprus Council. This was in the summer of 1974 when the Turks had invaded Cyprus. The Greek community mobilized all over the country and, as we remember, we were influential enough to

force the Congress to impose an arms embargo on Turkey. Unfortunately, President Carter fell for the Turkish propaganda alleging 'we can't back down and withdraw our troops from Cyprus under duress. So first you have to lift the embargo.' So Carter used all his influence on the Congress to have the embargo lifted.

The Save Cyprus Council has continued its efforts for over thirty years now. Then to show that, in addition to the threats against Cyprus, we were concerned about the other threats against Hellenism, we changed our name to the Hellenic American Council, because obviously the Turks coveted and still do half the Aegean, looking for ways to gain control over uninhabited islands. Even the incident at Imia was an attempt to control Greek territory.

**How do you go about educating U.S. elected officials about these various threats?**

Our efforts have evolved since 1974 and we

have improved our techniques. We early realized that while an administration controls the foreign policy, Congress has a lot to do. While it was difficult for us to influence the administration, we could make contact with Members of Congress and present the issues to them with concerned constituents from the representative's district. Today we present the case that the U.S. national interest is best served by a free democratic Greece and Cyprus and is best served by not encouraging the expansionism of Turkey. Turkey has expansionist views not only against Greek territory but against Armenia, Syria, Iraq, the Kurdistan portion of Iraq and so these issues are relevant today. If Turkey's expansionism goes unbridled, it could be a major potential problem for the U.S. – a potential war in the Eastern Mediterranean.

**What role can Congressional resolutions play in influencing policy?**

Congressional resolutions are important because they represent a view of the Congress and it is up to the leadership of the Congress to



*Aris Anagnos and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Middle East.....?*



*Aris Anagnos and the late Tom Lantos, Chairman of the House*

try to force the administration in a certain direction. We all know the administration controls foreign policy but Congress controls the purse strings and therefore Congress has a very important and influential role and Turkey is very cognizant of that and has lavished on many members of Congress great deals of support through the small Turkish communities but also from some businesses controlled by Turkish interests. In fact, some of the aid to Turkey has come back through these companies and found its way into Turkish lobbying efforts. The Greek government has not expended any major amounts on lobbying. So, we as Greek Americans have to really intensify our efforts. It would be a very successful accomplishment if we could have congressional district committees in the majority of congressional districts and we can do this because there are Greek Americans in practically every congressional district. We have limited our efforts to California but we would hope that similar efforts will be organized and expanded in other states.

**But Turkey spends a lot of money on lobbying Washington. What can we do to neutralize the millions spent in DC by the Turkish lobby?**

Politicians ultimately have to be reelected. Showing our strength in votes is sometimes more effective than throwing money at politicians because they ultimately use the

money to buy television ads and send out literature in order to acquire votes. If we show we can produce the votes, we can offset the influence of money.

**What can Greek American communities do to get organized at the grassroots? What does it take? Where does it begin?**

It really takes a little leadership. It takes one person to contact a few friends or neighbors in the district and say let's form a congressional liaison committee. And with some preparation as to what issues to present and how best to present them, they can then contact the Congressional office and make a visit. Our Council is always available to assist no matter where other committees are. Even if they are out of state, we are willing to offer materials, our aid, and our experience.

**What changes do you hope to see in a new U.S. administration's orientation to these issues over the next few years?**

The most important would be the removal of the Turkish troops from Cyprus, because that would eliminate that particular sore point and dangerous point. It would also reestablish the rule of law that a stronger country cannot invade a smaller neighboring country and get away with it simply because they persisted over the years. Ultimately justice and international law have to prevail. The next, of course, is the importance of saving the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We all know that the hundreds of thousands who lived in

Constantinople (Istanbul) have been reduced to a couple of thousand aging people and that the Greek community may disappear. This ethnic cleansing has been practiced by Turkey for years without any major objection from the international community and, just like the Armenian Genocide, the Genocide of the Greeks of Asia minor is something that we need to bring to the attention of the international community. We have no hostility against Turkey but we don't want them to be a constant threat in the Eastern Mediterranean - not only to Greece but to practically all its neighbors. This is for the benefit of the Turkish people who need peace and stability themselves and not military misadventures. We are also concerned about the repression of the Greek community in Southern Albania (Northern Epirus) and hope FYROM (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) cooperates in agreeing to a suitable name.

**How do you coordinate with other organizations advocating for Hellenic issues?**

It is important to support efforts at the national level like the annual PSEKA/CEH conference which brings together Greek Americans from all over the country and is well attended by our elected officials. We also support the efforts of AHI and all organizations working to advance our common issues.

# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Cyprus, Hellenic and Orthodox Issues Conference in Washington, D.C May 21-23, 2008

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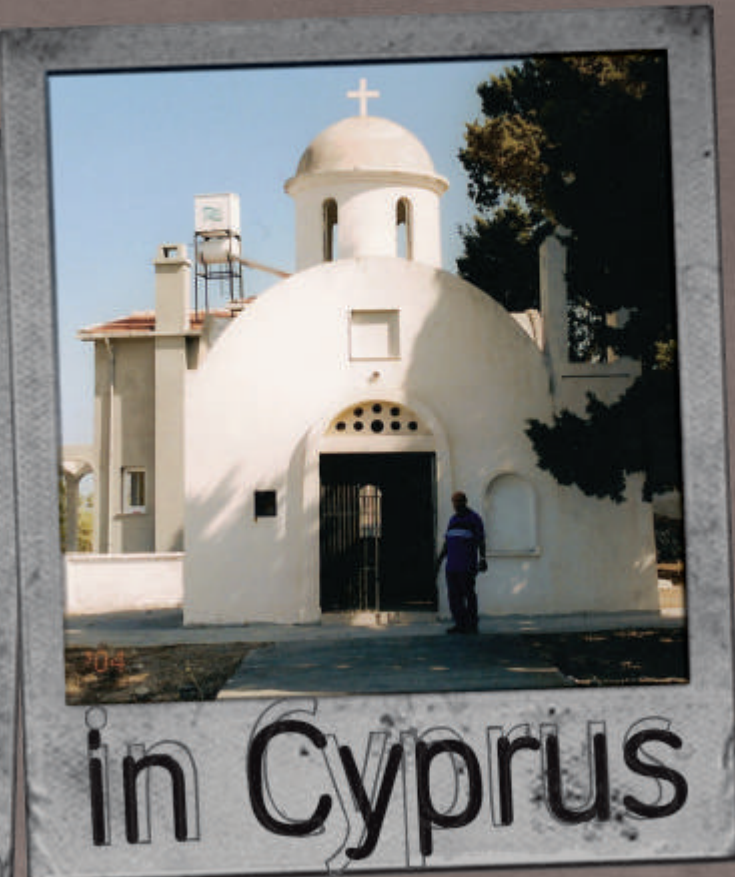
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*At previous conferences participants have met with Presidents, Vice Presidents, cabinet members and senior officials, and we anticipate doing so again this year.*

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Telly Fiouris shows pictures of his father's vandalized grave in the Turkish occupied Cyprus to Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney.



# The real face of Turkish occupation

## in Cyprus

By Demetrios Rhombotis

Telly Fiouris hardly cuts the figure of a lobbyist, but he certainly became one, albeit unwillingly, after witnessing firsthand the ugliness and barbarity of the 1974 invasion in Cyprus. And he was reminded of that while visiting his father's grave a few years ago in the village of Karavas.

"Some relatives had gone before me and they saw that my father's grave was open," he says, lowering his eyes over a demitasse of Greek coffee. "I didn't believe that ... So, I went there myself and yes, I found the grave open and empty. I only found a bone, probably a part of the arm, anything else wasn't there ... I got sick from it, very depressed, but I managed to take some pictures and I couldn't wait to come back to the US."

Participating in the annual PSEKA (World Coordinating Committee for Justice in Cyprus, from its initial in Greek) conference, held May of every year in Washington DC, became for Mr. Fiouris an annual pilgrimage, a duty, which will not abandon until justice is done. With several photos in his hand, he will approach every senator or representative who comes by and show them the toll the Turkish invasion in Cyprus had not only on the living but also on the ... dead!

"Other graves were in the same or worse condition. The church door was missing, the icons were gone and there were human remains in it, another thing that made me sick, people to have used a sacred place as a toilet!"

He is currently looking for ways to pass the material to Evangelical communities throughout the US. "I don't know how to use computers and I have to depend on other people. It's kind of hard for me, but I'm not gonna stop".

Asked about the legislators' reaction, Mr. Fiouris, a very humble but iron-willed man, who was born in Cyprus an American citizen, grew up in Jersey and now lives in Florida, "most of them were shocked and outraged," he says. "Some asked me for copies of the photos and other information." As in everything, there was an exception, though. "Only one, Congressman Robert Wexler (D-FL), the co-founder of the Turkish Caucus in Congress, when he looked at the pictures and I told him what were about, 'So what,' he answered! I replied to him that I am very sorry you are a representative of the American people. Coming from you this answer is not acceptable. He then ran away. (This reporter witnessed the exchange.) This year I'm going

to find out whether Mr. Wexler had a change of mind. This is an election year and I hope that he's not making it if he hasn't changed his attitude. And I'll work for that in Florida."

To his credit, Congressman Wexler has asked the Turks to significantly reduce the number of 43,000 occupying forces on the north of the island that equal to one third of the area's indigenous population! Mr. Fiouris' adventure in trying to visit his occupied village started long before crossing to the occupied areas was permitted. "I was trying for 28 years to go to my father's (Joseph) grave, which is in Karavas, part of the occupied prefecture of Keryneia." He did contact his area's congressmen and senators but to no avail. Then, Senators Toricelli from New Jersey and Barbara Mikulski from Maryland gave him letters and instructed him to go to the American Embassy in Nicosia to see if they can help go across the division line.

"They turned their back on me. They told me they had no jurisdiction, to sign papers etc... They just pushed me away and they told me it was something that I had to do on my own."

He did it four years ago, when some crossings opened. Last year, he decided to visit the

house of his early youth, in which other people dwell since the invasion of 1974. "A Turkish fellow from Paphos is living now with his family in my house, which by the way, my mother had given to my sister after my father's death. He offered to let me go upstairs to my room, where I used to sleep, but I didn't take on the offer. Instead I went around and looked outside. He made me feel at home when I went there, and he believes that some day he will go back to his home too. He himself had problems with the ones who came from Turkey."

Today the number of illegal settlers (over 160,000) that Turkey brought in exceeds the population of the Turkish speaking Cypriots, the majority of which was forced to seek a better fortune in England, the US and whatever other country they could go to, except Turkey. On top of that, more than 43,000 Turkish soldiers, heavily armed, are stationed in the occupied area, creating, according to the UN Secretary-General, "one of the most militarized regions of the world".

The damage on Cypriot culture and monuments has been ... monumental! Evidently, the effort to wipe out the religious and cultural heritage in the northern part of Cyprus, is systematically carried out and acts

of vandalism as the case with Mr. Fiouris' father grave indicate, are condoned if not tacitly encouraged. Byzantine churches, monuments and antiquities were destroyed or looted and many items were smuggled abroad.

Sadly, the island's cultural heritage that reaches back to the 7th millennium B.C. and is part of the common heritage of mankind continues to this day to be systematically and deliberately destroyed in the occupied areas. According to information provided by the competent authorities of the Government of Cyprus, more than 500 Greek Orthodox churches and chapels and 17 monasteries located in towns and villages of the occupied area, have been pillaged, deliberately vandalized and in some cases, demolished.

Until today, the whereabouts of the ecclesiastical items of these churches, including more than 15,000 portable icons, remain unknown. It is estimated by the Cyprus police that since 1974 more than 60,000 ancient artifacts have been illegally transferred to different countries around the world. The most significant and priceless icons came in possession of auction houses and were illegally sold by art dealers abroad. Moreover, 77 churches have been converted

into mosques, 28 are being used by the occupation forces as depots, dormitories or hospitals, 13 are used as stockyards or hay barns. In particular, the recent conversion of the church of Haghia Anastasia, in the occupied village of Lapithos (Kyrenia region), into a luxurious hotel and casino and the use of the Armenian Monastery of Sourp Magar (founded in the Medieval period) as a cafeteria, constitute concrete proof of the illicit purposes of the occupation authorities.

Faced with this sad reality, Telly Fiouris has no hatred in his heart and still believes that the two people can live together if left alone. "Only if the politicians stay out of it and let ordinary people solve their problem. Without the outsiders. While I was next to my father's desecrated grave, a Turkish-Cypriot fellow who spoke Greek stopped by. He was born in the free area of Nicosia and he moved to the occupied sector when he was a child. He explained that all those terrible things happened when the Turkish colonizers were brought in after the invasion. He said most Turkish-Cypriot did not agree with this kind of actions."

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PSEKA

International Coordinating Committee  
Justice For Cyprus

# Cypriots in DC for the annual PSEKA Conference

Philip Christopher



The 24th Annual Cyprus, Hellenic and Orthodox Issues Conference is about to take place in Washington, D.C. on May 21-23, 2008. Hosted by The International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA) and the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, it provides Greek-Americans and Cypriot-American from across the country and Hellenes from around the world, the opportunity to meet with the highest-level administration officials in charge of U.S. policy toward Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

"We are thrilled that this year we have a very strong representation from the occupied municipalities of Cyprus," said Philip Christopher, President of PSEKA. "Every year it becomes more and more important to maintain a strong foothold on Capitol Hill and push on the Cyprus issue. Having an international presence at the conference makes a strong impact on our representatives and administration officials."

Conference participants will also be meeting with over 30 key U.S. Senators and Members of Congress who serve on the pertinent committees and subcommittees and others who play a major role in the formulation of these matters. At previous conferences they have met with Presidents, Vice Presidents, cabinet members and senior officials, and "we anticipate doing so again this year," Christopher said.

The International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus", also known as PSEKA, was founded in 1975 by the late President of Cyprus Archbishop Makarios. The organization, with headquarters in Nicosia, Cyprus, has chapters all over the world. Its North American headquarters are located in New York City. Today PSEKA is staffed by professionals and volunteers working together in cities all over the United States and Canada. Over the last few years, PSEKA and its Board of Directors has begun a push via the Internet, to raise awareness over the plight of the people of Cyprus.

PSEKA's mission remains the pursuit of a just and viable solution to the Cyprus Problem, which will see the people of Cyprus free from the tyranny of an invading force - that of the Turkish Armed Forces - which occupies over 35% of its territory. While the history of the conflict between Turkey and Cyprus is rooted in the 60's and 70's, the repercussions of that conflict has definitely spilled over to the new millennium.

Today, the Cyprus Problem remains the major source of military and political tension in the southern sphere of influence of Europe and the Balkans region.

"We will never forget, we will never cease. Our mission is to see Cyprus free of occupying forces. This is a fate its people, both Greek and Turkish, deserve," concluded Christopher, himself a refugee from the occupied city of Kyrenia.

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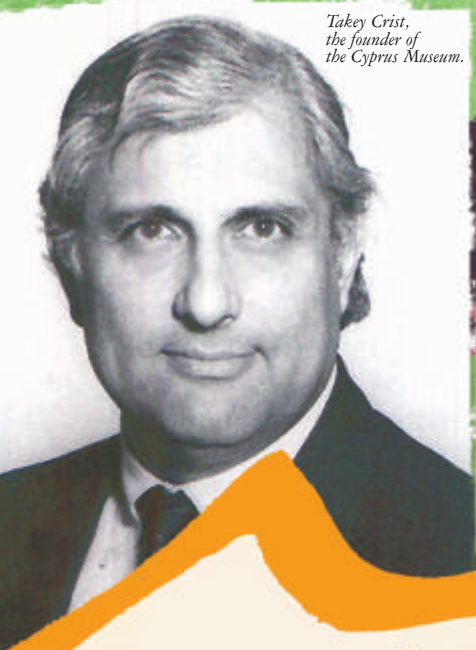


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Takey Crist, the founder of the Cyprus Museum.

## Cyprus Museum in Jacksonville, NC

In July 1974, Turkey forcefully invaded the island of Cyprus with Turkish forces occupying 37% of the island's northern territory. The operation led to the widespread death and displacement of Cyprus's ethnic communities, dividing the island between a Turkish Cypriot north and Greek Cypriot south. In offering this extremely brief history of a part of the Cyprus experience, I hope to reveal to you the importance of the Cyprus Museum in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The history of Cyprus was being inextricably lost on a devastating level prior to the invasion and thereafter even though there were laws in place to prevent removal of antiquities from the country.

These acts of theivery could have disseminated the centuries old history of a country had it not been for the foresight of an extremely proactive individual . . . Dr. Takey Crist. Concerned about the cultural heritage of his parents' homeland, Dr. Crist recognized that "the cultural heritage and beauty of a country was being destroyed, traded, bartered and exchanged every single day." While on a visit to New York City, Takey saw two artifacts and, knowing that by this time nothing was moving out of Cyprus, he purchased these works of Cypriot art. "After seeing the two pieces in New York, I thought it would be a great idea if we (Cypriots and lovers of Cyprus and Greece) could all get together and start collecting this stuff?" The collection started to grow with the assistance of famous auction houses, donations, as well as a network of contacts.

The collection grew and now includes: ancient pottery and sculptures which date from the early Bronze Age, medieval maps, folk

handicrafts, Byzantine icons and religious items, archaeological studies, resource materials on Cypriot governmental documents, videos, photographs and many materials on the Women's Walk Home campaigns. The Cyprus Museum has preserved and houses more than 4,000 years of history through its accumulation of the numerous antiquities. The objects are identified by carefully prepared labels and temptingly displayed in beautifully appointed modern wooden cabinets with lighting designed to accentuate color and form.

The Cyprus Museum, established in 1988, is located in Jacksonville, North Carolina, known as the home of the largest Marine amphibious base in the world. It has welcomed visitors from Ireland, Greece, Cyprus and England and it is hoped that, in the future, a more convenient location will be found to house the collections. The museum, housed in a 2,500 square foot building, contains source materials on modern Cyprus and a myriad of Cypriot antiquities which have been carefully and lovingly collected by the members of the Cyprus Museum. It also acts as a resource center where, every year, students spend time researching information about the island and its history. The museum is the only place in the United States that immortalizes the history of Cyprus.

With the assistance of the museum and its protector, Dr. Takey Crist, several books have been published, including Cyprus Coins by Gar Travis. Mr. Travis, a coin collector since youth and a numismatist for more than a decade, is a native North Carolinian but now resides in southern California. From Cyprus to Onslow County, North Carolina, a history of the Cypriots and Greeks immigrated to and

assimilated into the society of Jacksonville and Onslow County, North Carolina. This book, written by this author, was written for two reasons. First and foremost, it is and was a gift given to the families of Harry and Gus Crist, Steve Stefanou, Lawrence John Melts and the other families of Greek heritage with whom I was fortunate enough to know my entire life; but, most especially for Ireni Savas, Costas Christofide . . . Irene Crist . . . better known to her adoring public as YaYa. The secondary motivation was that these wonderful men and women helped to mold the county and our lives and I wished that everyone could know the same wonderful people that I know. Takey Crist, the adored son of Irene and Harry Crist, has been the brother with whom I was never blessed; however, I was blessed to have been allowed to be a part of his family and be one of YaYa's many children and grandchildren.

It is my sincere prayer that you, the readers of this article, will recognize the desperate need to continue the collection and protection of the antiquities of Cyprus. It is essential that lovers of Cyprus, Greece and the associated history and antiquities assist with fundraising for The Cyprus Museum. We need not only the ability to rescue additional pieces of art but funding to keep the museum open and available for research and instruction of historians and the lay public who garner so very much from the mere fact of its existence. Should you wish to make a completely tax deductible donation, it can be sent to The Cyprus Museum, 250 Mwmorial Drive, Suite 1974, Jacksonville, North Carolina 28546.

From left are Andy Manatos, Andy Athens, Dr. Takey Crist, Nikos Moutyaris and Philip Christopher at the 2007 PSEKA conference.



From left, Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus, Hon. Andreas Panayiotou, the artist Constantinos Zannetos, Mrs Calliopi Mavroyiannis, Spouse of the Ambassador- Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, and the Art Curator Panos Dimitropoulos.



PHOTO: GLORIA STARR KINS - OCCAM

## YOUNG CYPRIOT PAINTER'S DEBUT IN NEW YORK

The Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus in New York, Hon. Andreas Panayiotou, the Spouse of the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, Mrs. Calliopi Mavroyiannis, and the Art Curator Panos Dimitropoulos hosted a Painting Exhibition by Constantinos Zannetos at the New York's Cyprus House, introducing the young artist to the US public. Archbishop Demetrios of America was among the dignitaries who along with another 200 guests filled the hall to capacity, making the event an astounding success.

Constantinos Zannetos (k.zannetos@gmail.com) was born and raised in Nicosia, Cyprus, in 1981. He graduated with honors in 2007 from the studio of Zacharias Arvanidis at the Athens School of Fine Arts. He made his debut with a personal exhibition in Cyprus in 2006 and a few months ago at the Mala Galleria in Poland. Constantinos is a young, true and talented Cypriot Artist with a promising career. "By looking his paintings, we enter in a world of colors, dreams and feelings. He is making another step here in New York today," Calliopi Mavroyiannis observed during her introduction of the artist. "Zannetos' technique draws inspiration from the Impressionists, the ancient Greek art, Byzantine icons and the modern movements. In his paintings, allegoric characters in theatrical scenes create a unique atmosphere that transcends time and place."





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PHOTO: ETA PRESS

Trade Commissioner of Cyprus in New York Aristos Constantine.



PHOTO: ETA PRESS

Pedro Fugas of Ernst & Young



PHOTO: ETA PRESS

From left are, Victor Manev, MM Consult, Bulgaria, Christos Christodoulou, Rafael Group, Chris Pelagias, Seaward Management, Mike Mavrides, Bingham & McCutchen, Pedro Fugas, Ernst & Young, Marco Groen, Ernst & Young, Valentin Stoev, Head Bulgarian Trade and Economic Relations Office, and Aristos Constantine, Cyprus Trade Commissioner.



PHOTO: ETA PRESS



## Experts on

“Investing Through Cyprus – A panel presentation on investing in Bulgaria Via Cyprus,” was hosted recently by the Cyprus Trade Office in New York. The event was organized in co-operation with the Bulgarian Trade and economic Relations Office, companies Bingham & McCutchen LLP, Ernst & Young, MM Consult Ltd, Seward Management Ltd, The Repton Group LLC and The Rafael Group, one of the leading Cypriot owned investment groups in Bulgaria.

The well attended meeting was held at the Harvard Club in Mid Town Manhattan and drew some of the top investment firms, hedge funds and members of the US Financial and Investment industry. The Opening address was given by Mr. Aristos Constantine, Trade Commissioner of The Republic of Cyprus, and was followed by Mr. Valentin Stoev, Head of the Bulgarian Trade and Economic Relations Office.

A detailed and insightful presentation regarding the benefits and methods of doing business through Cyprus for foreign investors was offered by an array of top experts in the field. The panel discussion focused on the benefits of investments in Bulgaria, the use of Cyprus as a location for financial holding companies vis-à-vis Bulgaria, and touched on legal, economic and tax developments of importance.

## Investing Through Cyprus

The specific topics elaborated on included: Cyprus tax treaty developments, Investment opportunities in Bulgaria, Investing in Bulgaria via Cyprus, formation and administration of investment funds in Cyprus and Bulgaria.

Mr. Constantine described Cyprus as “the gateway for American corporations conducting business in the Balkans, Russia and the Middle East.” He further pointed out the many benefits of Cyprus that make it a center for business and investment such as its geographic position at the hub of three continents, linking Europe with the Middle East and Asia, state of the art technological, financial and legal infrastructure and a significant investment in intellectual property. The fact that 78% of the Cyprus economy is comprised of the services sector having one of the most highly educated workforces in Europe with a uniquely global perspective, combined with a liberal and attractive tax structure, provides unique benefits to American companies establishing operations there.

Mr. Stoev stated about Bulgaria that “as one of the newest member states of the European Union, since its accession to the European Union, International and in particular U.S. investments in Bulgaria have increased at a soaring rate.”

He further emphasized that “Bulgaria is the largest recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) per capita in the Balkans region, with a dramatic increase in the last couple of years, a large percentage of which has come through Cyprus.”

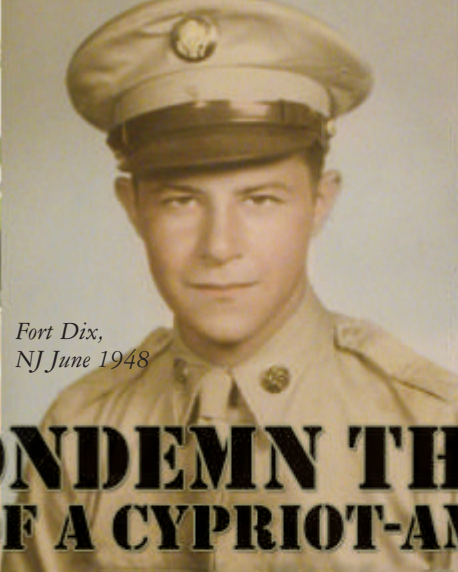
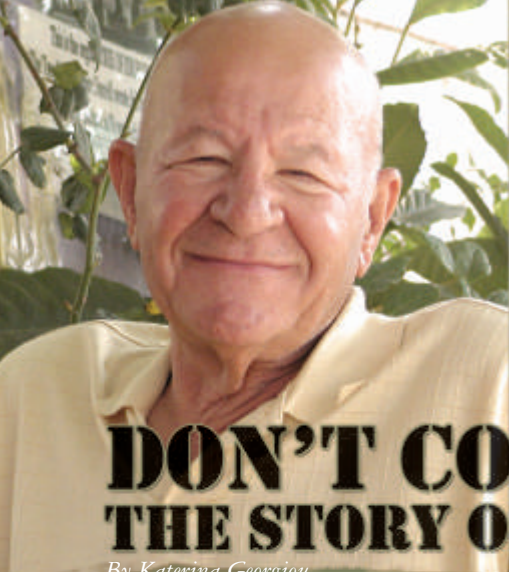
Mr. Pedro Fugas of Ernst & Young described Cyprus as one of Europe’s leading corporate holding jurisdictions due to its advantageous corporate tax system which includes a flat 10% corporate tax rate and no withholding tax and extensive and favorable double tax treaties with other countries.

Outlining its strategic location and membership to the European Union, Mr. Pelagias of Seaward Management spoke of the ability for American and other companies to penetrate new markets such as Bulgaria.

Rafael Group, one of the largest Cypriot owned investment Groups in the region with a network of agents and representatives throughout Bulgaria and Cyprus described their own model utilizing Cyprus Special Investment Vehicles (SIVs) for investment into the Balkans. Rafael gave a detailed analysis of its methodology and benefits for its international investors utilizing a model to carry out direct investment in Bulgaria through Cyprus.

In an interview with NEO, at the end of conference, Christos Christodoulou, representing Rafael Group, summarized some of the benefits. “Cyprus offers, and Bulgaria as well, tax advantages... The combination of using Cyprus as the basis of the holding company to have a subsidiary in Bulgaria that will owe the property, gives maximum tax advantage to the investors.” Moreover, “in Bulgaria there are great investment opportunities basically in real estate and energy projects. And Rafael group which is the end destination project management, is offering great opportunities co-investing with the investors. Rafael shares risks and benefits. There are currently 12 projects in place, some of them well under way. It’s not just talking and giving numbers, it’s a fact.”

Mr. Christodoulou went ahead to remind that “Cyprus has traditionally been an international business center. It also has a huge number of international business companies doing activities outside of Cyprus, using the island as a holding company base.”



Fort Dix,  
NJ June 1948



Asbiya Airfield,  
Japan 1951

# DON'T CONDEMN THE DREAMER: THE STORY OF A CYPRIOT-AMERICAN SOLDIER

By Katerina Georgiou

At the age of 11, Constantinos (Gus) Georgiou's impressionable mind was filled with newspaper images of German paratroopers landing on the island of Crete. It was 1941, and though he lived in nearby Cyprus he wanted to recreate, what seemed to him, an unfathomable sight. So he climbed to the roof of his family's outdoor kitchen and eyed the soft earth sixteen feet beneath him. Then he opened an umbrella and jumped off the ledge.

He landed in a pile of kopria (manure) but that wasn't enough to deter him from his dream of joining the army. Despite his youth, he sensed that the changes sweeping the world might someday fill history books. Seven years later, he found himself leaping from planes as a paratrooper in the U.S army.

His decision meant dropping out of high school in the 10th grade, devastating his Cypriot-born parents. His mother left school prematurely to care for her five siblings and the harsh reality of an illiterate life had her often warning her seven sons: "don't be blind for the rest of your lives like me." His father hoped Gus would become a schoolteacher, the classroom being a safer outlet for his son's unbridled curiosity.

With life in Cyprus relatively peaceful, his parents couldn't understand why their son would choose such a dangerous path. To Gus, the answer was clear one evening when he overheard a revelation: the village of Neo Chorion (Kythrea)—the only home he'd ever known—wasn't his birthplace. He, and two of his brothers were born in Clairton, Pennsylvania, the steel mining town where his father had worked as a laborer on and off for almost 14 years. Eventually, he saved enough money to buy a farm in Cyprus from his Armenian former employer. This farm, on which Gus and his brothers were raised, now remains under Turkish occupation.

"When I learned that I was born in one of the strongest military countries in the world I felt pride," says Gus. "I read in the newspapers what the American troops were doing in

Europe and considered them my compatriots."

He left Cyprus in 1947 on the *Saturnia*, the same Italian vessel that transported him from America as a 2 year old. Unable to speak English, he took the army entrance exam three times before becoming a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. Then, the Korean War began at the end of his three-year commitment and his enlistment was extended for another year.

Complicating matters, his American-born brothers who had also moved back to the States were drafted and sent to Europe.

"In one year my mother had three boys in the American army. There aren't too many families that had three kids serving at once!" he chuckles.

While stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, he took correspondence courses and received his high school equivalency diploma. A mentor encouraged him to apply to the Georgia Institute of Technology but to gain admission he had to pass an American history exam. So before leaving for Korea, he loaded his duffle bag with 16 volumes of text.

The military had formed a special team known as the Airborne Rangers (later renamed the Green Berets) to implement the UN resolutions aimed at stopping the invading North Koreans. Soon Gus found himself not only studying history but also making it.

When he was later wounded and operated on to remove the shrapnel from his leg, a fellow soldier discovered the encyclopedic books.

"I'll never forget what he said when he opened my bag," says Gus. "What did this Greek come here for—to study history or to fight a war?"

He smiles before continuing. "I always thought that the knowledge I had about the ancient Greeks made me a better soldier. I

admired those who fought the battles of Thermopylae, Marathon and Salamis."

History taught him that freedom is an ideal everyone must possess before anyone can truly experience it. He witnessed it in the Cypriot struggle to break free from British colonial rule. Bitter disappointment followed when resolutions he went to implement in Korea weren't upheld in Cyprus during the Turkish invasion, but it didn't undermine the importance of his work in Korea.

"I always felt that the greatest mission of any man in life is to serve his country honorably," he says. "And I still believe it."

By the time he received his honorable discharge, Gus had not only passed his American history exam with distinction but was awarded a Purple Heart.

He completed his degree in chemical engineering from Georgia Tech in three years and relocated to Wilmington, Delaware, beginning a 41 year career with Dupont, a leading American chemical company.

Along with his now departed wife, Georgiean, he has supported the advancement of Greek studies through various causes, including being benefactors of the Odyssey Charter School in Wilmington, an AHEPA sponsored Greek immersion school for inner city children. They also created a professorship at Stockton College in Greek History through the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture.

"We wanted to help kids get as much pleasure from life as we did," he says. "When you study Greek history and the classics you learn the essence of *sophrosine*—everything in moderation."

"I took a lot of risks in life," he says. "But in the end, education helped me achieve harmony and balance."



Since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, the Cyprus Museum has managed to retrieve 450 stolen antiquities, 60 maps, icons and other artifacts.



We still need help to continue our work to save the cultural heritage of Cyprus.

Please send your tax deductible contributions to Cyprus Museum, 250 Memorial Dr., Suite 1974, Jacksonville, NC 28546

You are also invited to visit the Museum and check our website: [www.cyprusmuseum.com](http://www.cyprusmuseum.com)

Dr. Takey Crist, Founder and Assistant Director



Debbie Kamilaris (in pink polka dot shirt) with members of CYCA and others during a special night with Cyprus Consul General Andreas Panayiotou.



With former president of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos at the Cyprus Convention.



(Second from right in white shirt) Spiro Xenophontos, vice president of CYCA, with others during Greek Night at Ammos.

# Spotlight:

# Cypriot Youth

# President Debbie Kamilaris

Debbie Kamilaris had visited Cyprus before and for years had joined her parents as they became involved in the various Cypriot organizations here in America.

"I would hear the issues growing up, see what happened, how it had affected my family and both my parents," says the 24-year-old president of The Cypriot Youth Committee of America (CYCA), the six-year-old official Youth Division of the Cyprus Federation of America (CFA). "I just couldn't imagine what it would be like to lose your home and leave a place where you grew up and all your family was there and leave behind everything you knew."

But now in 2004 her parents Stavros and Maria were taking the family back to the occupied area for the first time and to the reality of the homes they had left behind.

And Debbie says the trip was both memorable and emotional.

"For the most part the homes looked the same from what my parents said, just kind of rundown," she remembers. "Both houses were occupied. In my dad's house, they let us walk around and I think for him it was really emotional, because it wasn't just a house his family had: they had a farm, they had stores, and a lot of different things that were left behind. For him it was emotional because he's always been so passionate about Cyprus and the Cyprus problem."

Her father had been in the army and had left Cyprus when he was a teenager. His daughter has been formally involved in Cyprus organizations at least since she was a teenager and she's just as passionate about the country and the issues that face it.

"I feel it's important for people to know about their heritage, to be involved in different cultural activities, because this is something I guess we need to keep alive," says Debbie. "For me it's important, number one, to motivate other youth to learn about their culture, about their heritage, and to go to Cyprus and know the history of the island and different customs and things that go on."

She's been president of CYCA for a year, and putting a modern spin on an old tradition, the group's meetings are held monthly at the Starbucks in Edgewater. "We have people coming from New York and New Jersey so we just thought it was easier to get to," she explains.

Most CYCA members from ages 17-30 come from New Jersey and New York, though there are members from other states, and the group is a member of NEPOMAK, which stands for Neolaia Pankosmias Omospondias Apdhimon Kyprio, or the World Organization of Young Overseas Cypriots. This organization has member branches around the world in eight countries, including the UK, US, Australia, Canada, Greece, and South Africa.

"And every summer we have a conference in August where we all meet and different speakers from Cyprus come and brief us on developments in the Cyprus issues," says Debbie. "We do workshops to see what issues people from other countries have and talk about different challenges and things that have worked in one country that might work in others. This happens every summer usually in Lefkosia."

There is also a NEPOMAK Discover Cyprus Program run in association with the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus Youth

Board. This summer program takes applicants ages 18 to 22 from around and immerses them in a three-week intensive language course at the University of Cyprus' School of Modern Greek in addition to a series of excursions to museums, monasteries and the Green Line.

"This is just another way for people who are part of CYCA to learn more about Cyprus and what it has to offer," says Debbie. "We get several applications every year and we try to get people who don't necessarily have an opportunity to visit Cyprus every summer and maybe haven't been there and want to learn more."

Closer to home, CYCA sponsors an annual Cyprus Children's Fund Benefit, a Career Fair, and is an integral part of the major annual events such as the annual CFA Gala Awards and the convention in May.

On its own, it recently sponsored a meeting of the group with the new consul general of Greece, Andreas Panayiotou, a February Cyprus Night in Tenafly with the Lampousa Salamis organization that "focused on educating everyone about Cyprus," says Debbie, and it is a co-sponsor of the annual Horos tou Lemoniou with Lampousa Salamis and the New Jersey Cypriots at the Pines Manor in New Jersey.

"I think people are still motivated to get involved in Cyprus groups, but for different reasons," she says. "It's a little bit harder getting people in college interested because they have a lot going on and it's really hard to do other things outside of school. But once people graduate and get into a working environment, a professional environment, they're more likely to want to join an

organization such as CYCA for networking opportunities and different reasons."

A graduate of Rutgers University with a degree in finance, Debbie now works for Johnson & Johnson and is a world traveler in her own right. "I've been to Belgium, Italy, Holland, Greece, and I'm actually going to China in June. It's business related, but I do

get to see the country and see different things while I'm there."

She fits in all this with her activities in CYCA because she feels the goal of the organization is important. "Basically the mission of CYCA is to strengthen ties to the Cypriot heritage through the development of educational, artistic, professional, political and social

programs in the US."

CYCA members, she says, "want to have ties to their culture and their heritage and become friends with people of the same background. A lot of the time we have similar backgrounds, we have a lot of similarities, and so it's easy for us to become friends and develop relationship and friendships."



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Peter Vallone with Peter Papanicolaou, Cyprus Federation of America President.

Peter and Council Member James Vacca (right) with Ernie Anastos

## Vallone hosts City Council celebration honoring distinguished Greeks

*“Greeks have a wonderful heritage, and it’s always a pleasure to enjoy every part of it, especially the wonderful food.”*

Peter F. Vallone Jr. hosted recently the City Council’s celebration of the 187<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Greek Independence, commemorating the contributions of Greek culture to America and recognizing several Greek New Yorkers for their achievements.

Hundreds of people were on hand to enjoy the event, which included performances of classical Greek dances and delicious Mediterranean cuisine.

“American was built on the Greek ideals of freedom, democracy and liberty. I continue to live by those ideals and carry them out every day through my work at City Hall,” Vallone said. “The Greek American community is a vibrant and vital part of what makes New York City the greatest City in the world.”

joined New York City Council Members and other elected officials in honoring the beginning of the revolution on March 25, 1821, that led to the creation of the modern Greek state.

City Council Proclamations were presented to several deserving individuals and organizations, including Ernie Anastos, Fox 5 News Anchor, The Hellenic Medical Society of New York, The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA), Peter Papanicolaou, President of the Cyprus Federation of America. Anastos, an Emmy award-winning journalist, gave the keynote address, speaking at length about his experiences as a Greek American.

The evening also included performances by The Archdiocesan Metropolitan Youth Choir and The William Spyropoulos Greek American Day School Dance Group.

Following the reception, guests enjoyed a banquet of classic Greek dishes, such as souvlaki and pita.

“Greek have a wonderful heritage, and it’s always a pleasure to enjoy every part of it, especially the wonderful food,” Vallone said.



Peter Vallone with young dancers.

The ceremony took place at Emigrants Savings Bank, located across from City Hall, a renovated bank building used as an event space by the Council. Celebrants from the Greek-American community



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PHOTOS: Mario Mibas | www.CameraAction.net



Laying of the Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

## Baltimore's Mid-Atlantic Greek Parade

Former Senator Paul and Mrs. Christine Sarbanes, Congressman Gus Bilirakis, 2008 Baltimore Parade Grand Marshall, and Aris Melissaratos.

By Georgia Vavas

Over 5000 spectators from across the Mid-Atlantic region flocked to Baltimore's officially designated Greektown, festooned with Greek & American flags, to enjoy the Greek Independence Day Mid-Atlantic Parade 2008: "Spirit of America, Legacy of Greece, Freedom & Democracy for All."

More than 80 marching groups in colorful ethnic costumes and inspiring floats took part, among them the Maryland State Police Color Guard, the Coast Guard Honor Guard and the Baltimore's own "Evzones"-Greek Honor Guard.

Marching bands included Poly-Western High School, Loch Raven Pipes & Drums, Westsiders and Westminster Municipal Band. Government officials & media personalities paraded in celebration of the independence of the birthplace of democracy, Greece, in one of the largest Greek Independence Day parades in the country.

US Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) was this year's Grand Marshal with Member of the Parliament of Greece & former Deputy Speaker of the House Mr. Panagiotis Sgouridis, Mr. Constantinos Alexandris, Consul, Mr. Karolos Gadis, Minister Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Greece, and Mr. Aris Melissaratos, former MD Secretary of Business & Economic Development and currently Senior Advisor, Enterprise Development for Johns Hopkins University, as Honorary Grand Marshals.

Military attaches from the Greek & Cypriot Embassies, US Senator Barbara Mikulski and retired Senator Paul Sarbanes were some of the key dignitaries. WBAL-TV's Rob Roblin (he's married to a Greek!) MCed this year's parade.

Children & adults marching in colorful, traditional Greek costumes, representing various regions and islands of Greece, Greek Orthodox clergy in brocade vestments and thousands of spectators made the event an unforgettable experience.

## DETROIT GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE



Detroit's annual Greek Independence Day parade took place on Sunday, April 6, 2008. A United Hellenic community celebrated the Greek Independence Day with a Doxology at the Annunciation Cathedral followed by the parade and ceremony at the heart of Greektown. For the seventh year in a row, the parade set an attendance record, with close to 20,000 marchers and spectators attending from Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario.

The famous Evzones and Amalies group from the Holy City of Mesolonggi, Greece and its Mayor Yannis Athanasopoulos, 14 Greek Orthodox churches, 19 Hellenic organizations, 3 University Hellenic student groups, seven Greek dancing groups in full costume marched in the parade, which was led by 7 Honorary Grand Marshall recipients of the 1st Hellenic Heritage Awards, Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, Michigan State Senator John Pappageorge, Representatives Bob Constan and Fran Amos, and other dignitaries. Participants marched up Monroe Street from Woodward Avenue to the heart of Detroit's Greektown. Greek hero Alexander the Great led the Macedonian Society of Michigan. The theme of the parade this year was "Makedonia is Greece".

After the parade, a ceremony was held at the end of the parade route. Rich Mayk, a longtime Detroit TV personality and parish council member at Assumption of St. Clair Shores, acted as master of ceremonies. The program concluded with a presentation of the flag of the city of Mesologgi to the President of the parade committee Mr. George Reganis and ended by revealing the American flag while a vocalist and the crowd sang god bless American.

The Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade was revived in 2001 after an absence of several decades and is sponsored by the Detroit Greek Independence Day Committee, a non-profit corporation. The committee's web site can be found at <http://detroit.greekparades.com>.



Baltimore parade



PHOTOS: DIMITRIOS CONSTANTINIDES





## Congressman Ed Royce Salutes Greek Independence Day!

*Representative Royce says:*

*"we are indebted to the Greeks for  
their influence on our own society."*

U.S. Representative Ed Royce (R-CA) took part April 9 in a celebration organized by the American Hellenic Institute on Capitol Hill to commemorate the 187th anniversary of Greek Independence. Joined by the Hellenic Co-Caucus Chairs Rep. Gus Bilirakis and Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Representative Royce spoke of the struggles Greeks endured at the hands of the Ottoman Empire and the friendship that the United States and Greece have come to share.

"Greece has not only been a long ally of the United States, for which we are very thankful, but also served as a vast influence on our own society," said Rep. Royce. "Two thousand years ago, the Greeks ushered in one of the most important ages in Western Civilization, bringing about the poetry of Homer, the philosophy of Aristotle and Socrates, and the birth of democratic government."

In addition to paying tribute to a close relationship between the U.S. and Greece during the Second World War, Representative Royce

spoke on the current situation surrounding the Ecumenical Patriarch and His Holiness Bartholomew's subjection to Turkish restrictions on the Patriarchal see. Last year, Representative Royce joined several of his colleagues in sending a letter to Prime Minister Erdoğan urging him to end his limits on religious freedom. Rep. Royce is a cosponsor of H.Res.373 "Urging Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate." He is also a cosponsor of H.Res.356 "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) should stop the utilization of materials that violate provisions of the United Nations-brokered Interim Agreement between the FYROM and Greece."

Representative Royce is a Senior Member on the Foreign Affairs Committee and a member of the Hellenic Caucus. In 1999, he was selected by the American Hellenic Council of California as the recipient of the Pericles Award given to elected officials who have demonstrated a commitment to Hellenic issues, ranging from support of the Ecumenical Patriarch's right to existence and an end to the occupation of Cyprus.

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## mastihashop opens Its 1st US Location in NYC's Lower East Side

*From left, Alia Papanastasiou, Ioanna Giannopoulos, Calliopi Mavroyiannis  
and Nikos Belias, Trade Counselor of Greece in New York.*



PHOTO: ETA PRESS

Drink from the tree of life and live forever... well, until that exists we have become obsessed with mastiha, the natural antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anti-bacterial miracle sap that ONLY seeps from evergreen bushes found in the southern part of the Greek Island of Chios. Until this year, the full mastiha experience could not be found in the United States, but thanks to sisters Kalliopi and Artemis Kohas, mastiha is now available on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in America's first ever mastihashop. Located at 145 Orchard Street, between Stanton and Rivington Streets, the shop has every mastiha product one could wish for! From lotion to chewing gum, mastiha's natural antioxidants freshen breath, fight plaque and gingivitis, heal and regenerate skin, relieve ulcers, ease digestion and stomach disorders and strengthen hair and nails all at the same time!

With over 300 known applications, the very versatile mastiha can be found in a variety of products from baked goods, sweets, preserves, ice cream, chocolate, chewing gum, candy, beverages, tea, coffee, milk products, pasta, sauces, liquor, wine, dietary supplements, oral hygiene products, surgical sutures, compresses for burns, soap, cosmetics, scented candles and essential oils to name a few! Its' addicting piney aroma and unique earthy flavor can be enjoyed in the raw or as a spice to cook with. Although few in the west are familiar with mastiha, the unique and extraordinary resin was first referenced over 2,500 years ago! It has a history dating back to antiquity and is documented before the 1st century. In an effort to further educate people on the many benefits and uses of this unique resin, the Chios Mastiha Growers Association gave birth to a daughter company, Mediterra SA, which created the mastihashop brand in 2002. There are 11 stores in Greece, one in Cyprus, Jeddah, Tokyo, and now in New York!

*Kalliopi Kohas (right),  
one of the owners, welcomes customers  
and well wishers.*

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## HELLENIC LAND TITLE REGISTRY Information Article by GPME & ADL Law Offices

**FYI: YOU MUST REGISTER / DELCARE YOUR GREEK PROPERTY  
Are You and Your Family PREPARED for the DEADLINES?**

New Summer Deadlines for Registration have been Announced!  
Following are some key issues you need to be aware of when you own Greek Property

The Greek Ministry of Environment Physical Planning and Public Works has created the Hellenic Land Title Registry to protect property owners. 107 new regions of Attica and Thessaloniki prefectures and capitals - approximately 3.1 million stremmas - will be surveyed and 6.7 million property rights registered.

It is mandatory now to register your property in Greece.

The new area registration period opens in June and closes in August.

Any late registrations will be fined, per property, anywhere from 50 to 1500 euros.

Beyond the late registration period any non-registrants will be required to go to court in order to claim their property rights.

Contact us through our 24hr English/Greek answering service at +30.210.810.1561  
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This article was prepared in co-operation with our affiliate law firm:  
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for a meaningful and joyous Easter*

**HAPPY EASTER!**



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A Review by Athan Karras

1st  
WOMAN  
PRESIDENT

# 1<sup>st</sup> Woman President



STEPHEN O. HERO

Women's Liberation is nothing new, at least not to the Ancient Greeks, for the theme was explored explicitly in the plays of Aristophanes, in his bawdy farces with inappropriate language that would have been taboo at the dinner table even then. Yet, he engaged the minds and hearts of his audience by addressing such issues and

Martha Stetson, in her many roles, has many affairs and knows how to deal effectively in the primary world of the military and D.C. She relates to most men strategically and knows their value; in addition, both in war and in peace, she displays an unwavering, loving, patriotic stand for America and its entire people. The streamlined story runs like a rivulet and through it flow many current and historical incidents; however, it sustains an entertaining level, beyond sitcoms, or catchy nuevo films. It takes place in the middle of current wartime conditions and national political unrest. The conditions confront the reader and prompt one to wonder. Is there no other way?

Perhaps Aristophanes' Lysistrata (though a bawdy farce) might expose some basic solutions. Dealing with the irrational in man requires a transition to a better human solution than brute exercise of power: War! Perhaps this century may enable women to provide new realistic ways for life on earth that offer inspiration, excitement, and adventure to fulfill the cause celebre for living a full and comprehensive life. The book does not taunt the reader into altering one's political allegiance nor dictate what must be done by any political party. This novel is fiction at its best and effectively playacts problems and solutions regarding current issues and incidents in Iraq and the Middle East. The valuable conclusion one can come to is that 1st Woman President is a work of art that forecasts that new and better ways, more appropriate for this century are possible.

by revealing underlying truths of equal rights for women.

Throughout history, the Greek male has often been depicted as a "male chauvinist" but if we carefully scratched the surface, we would discover that Greek men realize that it is the woman, as wife and mother, who was (and is) the cornerstone of the family in Greece as well as virtually all societies. Today, Greek women are fully emancipated and participate in many formidable professions including high-level politics. Their most recent role model is Gianna Daskalaki, who did a masterful job organizing the 2004 Olympics. During the eight years preparing for the Games, men in government were caught up in arguments, juggled positions of leadership, over-ran budgets, and constantly mismanaged things to a point where it looked like the Olympics in Greece were doomed to failure until Ms Daskalaki handled this complex task with charm, diplomacy, and professional organizational skills. She persuaded the people to tighten their belts and forth as proud Hellenes whose ancestors had originated the Olympics and had run them for five centuries!

As a long-time advocate of strong women, I was delighted to encounter a recently published novel with the theme of women in politics written by my friend and fellow Greek-American titled 1st Woman President by Stephen O. Hero (Stephanos O. Iroas), which is currently available on the Internet through Xlibris.com, Amazon.com, and Barnes & Noble. The book's title struck me as timely given today's political race for the White House. This novel's unusual intellectual artistic "staging" and sweeping language was moved along by the author's intense insights and Hellenic themes. The heroine Martha Stetson is delineated with perceptive care, covering all the bases from college days, medical training, military service in Kuwait, and her years in Congress. As a deus ex machina, she loses her parents in an accident, but left with a large fortune that is both boon and bane to her existence. She uses her money power to make some profound decisions for herself and her final decision to fight for the U.S. presidency. Stetson's heroics strongly display a stalwart patriotic and political sensitivity but she remains female with ordinary needs and the dream of Love. Throughout the novel, she confronts her experiences realistically, whether they are successes or failures. One time and place where joy and tragedy cross her life is September 11, 2001—she and her long-time "boyfriend" are tied up with financial dealings at the New York Stock Exchange and in two hours, both of these mortals are totally engulfed in the astounding airplane attack that topples the World Trade Center.

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