OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT 21

Summer/June 2021

## 99th Annual AHEPA Family Supreme Convention

Volume 71, No. 2

Under the direction of our Supreme President George G. Horiates, and with the guidance of the AHEPA Board of Trustees, AHEPA has worked over two years preparing for events and programs which our members will enjoy and remember for years to come.

Greece will be celebrating their 200th anniversary of freedom from Ottoman Rule. AHEPA is excited to be part of the events and for you to join. This Supreme Convention is celebrating our 99th anniversary and will launch the countdown to our 100th Anniversary which will also be monumental. Your attendance and support of AHEPA is appreciated, we look forward to creating memories together in Athens.

For more information visit: https://ahepa.org/supreme-convention/ and on pages 21 and 22.



### Golden Gate District 21 Convention

### Frangos and Belba elected District 21 Governors.

Maybe for the first and only time in history a Golden Gate District 21 Convention was held as a virtual reality on Saturday, June 12, 2021.





Congratulations to Chris L. Frangos. Jr., AHEPA San Mateo Chapter 391 and Linda Belba, Daughters of Penelope San Jose Daphne Chapter 29 our 2021-2022 District 21 Governors.

Additional AHEPA District Lodge officers include Mark Hallock, Lt. Governor; George Koumis, Secretary; Demos Papadopoulos, Treasurer; Dr. Vassilis Zarifis, Warden; and George Buck, Marshal.

Governor Belba lists the Daughters of Penelope 2021-2022 officers with her message on page 5.

2021 District 21 Scholarship Awards are on pages 6 through 13.

More convention news and Chapter election results will be included in the Fall/September issue of the Traveler.

"AHEPA TRAVELER is published quarterly, four times a year March, June, September and December by Order of AHEPA, 3327 Lake Albano Circle, San Jose, CA 95135."

AHEPA TRAVELER is the official publication of Golden Gate District 21 Order of AHEPA (American-Hellenic-Educational-Progressive-Association). It is published and distributed to members and friends. There are thirty Ahepa, Daughters, Sons and Maids Chapters in Northern California and Western Nevada.

Article III – This Order shall be non-partisan in politics and non sectarian in religion. All partisan political and all sectarian religious discussions are prohibited in any official deliberations thereof.

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**AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21** 

### AHEPA District 21 Governor's Message



Review of the District 21 the last two years 2019-2021:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the AHEPA family,

As my last DG 21 message - I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank you! Efharisto! to everyone for your great support and hard work at the district and chapters for all our endeavors.

- 2019 Supreme President George Horiates visited our District and chapters. In 3 days SP-Brother George and I traveled near and far from San Mateo to Sacramento visiting many of our chapters. The hospitality was unbelievable!
- 2020 we hosted successfully the Winter Conference at Holy Trinity, SF and in March 2021 the Zoom Spring Conference, with Supreme President, George Horiates and Supreme Governor, Alex Soles in attendance.
- **Chapters,** thank you for inviting me to your meetings and sharing with me your chapter initiatives, thoughts and concerns. It was a great opportunity to meet many of you in person and bring forward new ideas.
  - o Overall we had conference calls over 5000 minutes, 160 meetings and 600 participants
  - o Golden Gate Pacific 150 President Peter Kireopoulos I as DG-21 and Brother George Fonti (Secretary of the San Mateo Chapter) supported Golden Gate to send mailings, host zoom meetings and collect membership dues.
  - o Due to Covid lockdown I put on hold the pursue to start a new Chapter in Santa Cruz and reinstate the 217 Solano (Vallejo) Chapter.
- Lectures Series We established a successful monthly lecture series presented by prominent Greek Americans and Philhellenes, authors of books and experts in their field were invited by AHEPA District 21. The first presentation took place on October 3rd,, 2020 by Brother Dr. Ioannis Kokkinidis commemorating the 2500 years from the Persian Wars. All lectures are recorded and hosted at our Ahepa DG21 YouTube channel available for those who would like to view them.
  - o AHEPA GOLDEN GATE, District 21 YouTube Link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsu078O-RKaqP6hv25jfHuQ/featured
- **Scholarship,** Congratulations to the graduates! Great job with the chapter representation changes and the newly established Archivist role, increase of scholarships amount granted in 2020-21, \$26000 granted to 12 students. Thank you Mark Hallock!

But the good job does not stop here. We need increased transparency as regulated by 501 C3, share and publish the new Bylaws, Financial Statements performances, investment strategy regarding the principal capital, publish amount of donations and most of all to promote the program.

- The AHEPA Traveler, our official publication of AHEPA District 21 successfully run by Brother Bill Christie kept informing and updating us with the latest information.
- Highly recommended all Chapters and members to contribute to the newsletter with content. It's critical to keep our Traveler strong! Thank you Bill!
- **Ahepa21.org website** Thank you Wynn! Keeping our district website current and running and updating at a moment's notice.
- **Senior Housing** The committee under the leadership of Brother Steve Bolaris worked with the National AHEPA Housing to learn the steps required to our goal to build one day a Senior Housing for elderly of lower income and memory problems. I am looking forward in the near future the sisters of DOP to join us in this effort.
- Commemorating March 25th, 200 years, our Brothers and Sisters worked hard to light in blue & white the city Halls of Fresno, San Jose, State buildings of Reno and Sacramento, help to issue proclamations and provide us with great pictures.

  continued on next page

• LinkedIn Initiative, I would like to thank Brother Vasilis Zarifis who set up a successful AHEPA Silicon Valley LinkedIn site with over 400 connections and recruiting 8 new members the last two months. I also set up a **District 21 LinkedIn** site with 480 connections and growing. **LinkedIn** will continue play significant role in our new members recruiting efforts and spreading the AHEPA message to the broader Greek American community.

Due to Covid 19 and the pandemic lockdowns a lot of our activities this past year went virtual or were postponed:

- Public policy and relations we missed few good opportunities:
  - o To congratulate and engage with the November 2020 elected members at local and state level.
  - o Support National and SP G. Horiates in his initiatives,
  - o Contact Lt Kounalakis regarding the fire disaster National fund and
  - o Connect with other organizations ex the Armenians of Northern California, regarding the Armenian and Pontic genocide (Greek genocide) 1913-1922
- Membership and Fundraising Automation.

Due to Covid lockdown and lack of expertise at the Chapter level, the project didn't advance.

Online banking and accounting, online payments, and using marketing platforms for our membership and communications are key goals at the district and chapter level. It would save significant administrative time and help us to grow faster, managing our membership and fundraising efforts more efficiently.

At the district level - I have established an automated mailing communication, increased communication with chapter members, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Teleconferencing.

Other activities stalled due to Covid lockdown

- St. Nicholas Ranch Dormitory Renovation project
- · Athletics and
- · SOP & MOA

I would like to thank the DOP and DG Linda Belba for the great team effort, cooperating and coordinating visitations in 2019/2020. Although we missed the opportunity of the joint meeting this year's convention due to Zoom, I am hoping for the coming year continued collaboration and synergy in our shared projects!

#### Congratulations to newly elected AHEPA and DOP District Lodge!

Also congratulations for this year to:

- Chapter of the Year: #153 Sacramento Chapter,
- Chapter President of the Year: Brother Bill Christie (#251 Silicon Valley) and
- AHEPAN of the Year: **Brother Vassilis Zarifis** (#251 Silicon Valley)

Thank you to 2019-2021 District 21 Lodge Officers: District Governor Alex Mallas

District Lt. Governor Chris L. Frangos Jr. District Secretary Mark Hallock

District Treasurer **Demos Papadopoulos** District Marshal **George C. Buck** 

District Warden Alex Aliferi District Chaplain Steve Miller, PDG

District Athletic Director **Stamus Cocoles** Appointments District Auditor **Andy Mastoras** 

SOP Advisor **Dr. Ioannis Kokkinidis** Executive Secretary **Tom Chiarchianis PDG** 

District Legal Committee George Petrulakis District Legal Council Steve Alfieris Chris Wm. Papas Andy Rockas

District Lodge Advisor **Dr. George Zioulas, PDG** Scholarship Committee **Mark Hallock** 

Ahepa Webmaster Wynn Storton PSG Ahepa Traveler Bill Christie

Have a wonderful summer and see you all at the National Convention in Athens! Stay Safe - Stay Well!

Alexander Mallas - District #21 Governor

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### Daughters of Penelope District 21 Governor's Message



Dear Sisters and Brothers.

Happy Summer to all! I want to wish you all a glorious summer making memories with your friends and families. The D21 Lodge hopes to see you all in person beginning this fall for another successful year for our AHEPA family.

We had our 2021 DOP District Convention via Zoom on Saturday June 12th. It was attended by almost fifty members. We were honored by the attendance of our Grand President Celia Kachmarski and our Grand Liaison and Grand Secretary Georgette Boulegeris. Thank you to all sisters who attended. We conducted our District Business and voted on proposals and recommendations.

I'd like to announce our 2021 – 2022 District Lodge:

District Governor - Linda Belba

District Lt. Governor - Alicia Frangos

District Secretary - Maria Karapanos

District Treasurer - Bev Kennedy, PDG, GG

District Marshal - Angie Legakis

District MOA Advisor - Open

I want to thank the D21 members for re-electing me for a final term! I will do my best to encourage our members to participate in and support their chapters. I also want to suggest that this year we should reach out to our friends and families to encourage our young women (starting age 14) to build more MOA chapters in our district. Our order has a lot to offer our young women.

Our 2019 – 2021 DOP D21 Opportunity Drawing was held at our Convention and the winners are listed below. Thanks to all who purchased tickets. We did an outstanding job and will have funds to donate to the St. Nicholas Ranch and our D21 Scholarship program.

\$ 300 - Urania 290

\$ 500 - Bill Ballas (EOS #001 sold ticket)

\$ 500 – Katrina Scamangas (Letó 71 member)

\$1000 - Letó 71

AHEPA Family Supreme Convention 2021 will be held July 25 -31, 2021 in Athens, Greece! If you are attending, I hope you have made your reservations! The Supreme Convention Hotel is the Grand Bretagne located at 1 Vasileos Georgiou A, Syntagma Square Street, Athina 105 64, Greece. It promises to be an exciting week. Check on the www.ahepa.org website for updates. A few of our DOP members will be attending and we look forward to hearing from them later this summer!

I would like to extend my gratitude to AHEPA District 21 Governor Alex Mallas, the AHEPA District Lodge and Chapter members throughout the District for their kindness and support.

On behalf of the District Lodge (Previous and Current) – we all want to thank each and every one of our D21 members (AHEPA /DOP/SOP/MOA) for your hospitality, your hard work and your support. We wish you Love, Happiness and Sunshine this summer and we look forward to seeing you in person this coming year!

Love in Theta Pi.

Linda Belba

District 21 Governor



## ORDER OF AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Katherina Christina Gregoriou
Sponsored by AHEPA Chapter 153 Sacramento
Graduate Scholarship Award \$4,000

**Katherina** writes a stellar personal essay which expresses her goal to complete a Master of Architecture at Columbia GSAPP (NYC) where she now attends. She wishes to address major challenges in health and equality to design spaces and building environments; ultimately, she wishes to own a consulting firm. Katherina holds a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University (top 3% of her undergraduate class). Her school activities include Stanford Hellenic American Society finance officer, rowing student-athlete, equestrian team member, mentor of under-served youth through photography, and others. Her strong references emphasize her being "one of the finest young individuals I've met in 40 years of teaching at Stanford" (from the Director of Undergraduate Teaching Labs in Mechanical Engineering). Katherina's second Stanford reference mentions her strong innovative and practical skills to complete a project to assist Palo Alto youth with eating disorders, as well as other high character traits.



Nikoletta Dimitrios Karapanos Sponsored by DOP Chapter 18 Stockton Graduate Scholarship Award \$2,000

**Nikoletta** completed a B.A. degree in Anthropology with highest honors, and a GPA of 3.8 at UC-Davis. She now seeks a Master's Degree in Cultural Resources Management at Sonoma State University (recently accepted). At UC-Davis she was a Provost's Fellow for her honor's thesis, a Women's Honor Society member, a researcher and Department intern; she also is a published author in a 2020 top archaeology journal. Nikoletta's Church and Civic activities include Dance Director at Sacramento's Annunciation, Church volunteer, and others. Her personal essay is outstanding as it outlines her impressive journey into Archaeology. One reference letter from her Anthropology professor mentions her strong motivation, intelligence, and current invaluable part-time lab work. The second letter also from a UC-Davis professor points out that "Nikki is an excellent writer and public speaker", meticulous, hard-working, and an overall joy to work with.

## ORDER OF AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Demitri Stamos

Sponsored by DOP Chapter 64 Modesto
Undergraduate Scholarship Award \$4,000

**Demitri** of Downey High School in Modesto seeks a Masters and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering (and Bioengineering) at San Diego State. He is well on his way toward this goal with a 3.9 GPA (being ranked in the top 5% of 433 students). Some of his other honors include Citizen of the Year, Scholar Athlete x3, and Straight A's award. A partial list of his High School activities and his Church/Civic activities include baseball, golf, Blue Crew, cross country, dance directing, altar captain, Cretan Youth Club, and others. Demitri writes well and his essay makes positive note of his Greek heritage and wish to help others. His two reference letters are highly complementary. For example, his Social Science instructor mentions his 'kind and gentle spirit', strong critical thinking skills, and resilience during school closure. A second letter from a CVS pharmacy doctor mentions his life-long observations of Demitri's good heart, and "maturity, and respect for all".



# Anthony T. Banis Sponsored by AHEPA Chapter 171 Oakland Undergraduate Scholarship Award \$2,000

**Anthony** attends the University of Washington in Seattle with a goal of a B.S. degree in Construction Management. His first quarter honors are noted with a GPA of 3.5 (from transcript copies). Anthony writes well; his essay mentions his devotion to community (family), education, and athletics. Several school and community activities include a fraternity, chair of recruitment 2021: chairman of social 2021, Altar server, and others. One of his two reference letters from Fr. Zafers of Oakland mentions Anthony being "a natural leader...who inspires others to do their best." A second reference from his De La Salle High School instructor of Religious Studies and Health mentions Anthony's "pleasant outgoing personality, superseded only by the sincerity he brings to others."

## ORDER OF AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Eleni Koumis
Sponsored by AHEPA Chapter 153 Sacramento
Undergraduate Scholarship Award \$2,000

Eleni attends California State University Sacramento where she wishes to complete a B.S. degree in Kinesiology, focused on Clinical Exercise and Rehabilitation. Her personal essay mentions interest in becoming an athletic trainer, physical therapist, or physician assistant. She is a member of the Dean's Honor Roll for four semesters with a GPA of 3.5. She played freshman soccer, was a member of the California Scholarship Federation, participated in Greek folk dancing, Sunday School teaching, and other volunteer activities. One reference letter from her Physiology instructor mentions Eleni's inquisitive nature and positive critical thinking skills. A second reference letter from her employer mentions her "values of compassion, respect, and the need to help our community"...as well as her "maturity and responsibility compared to her peers".



# Elena Apostolopoulos Sponsored by AHEPA Chapter 171 Oakland Undergraduate Scholarship Award \$2,000

Elena attends Montevista High School with a 3.5 GPA. Her objective is a B.A. degree in Psychology. She has been on the honor roll for three semesters. Elena has played the flue for ten years and participates in the marching band often mentoring others. Other activities include volunteering with Greek Festivals, Church summer camp. Her personal essay mentions a career desire in psychiatry or behavioral analyst for the FBI. One of her references (from her school Counselor) mentions her being "positive, determined, and respectful" as well as being a 'clear communicator'. Her second reference from her Director of Music lists Elena as "one of the finest young musicians I have worked with in my teaching career", and that she is "looked to as a role model."

## ORDER OF AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Katarina Marietta Alexander
Sponsored by AHEPA Chapter 153 Sacramento
Undergraduate Scholarship Award \$2,000

**Katarina** attends the University of Utah, Salt Lake City. Her desire is to complete a B.S. and then a Master's Degree in Kinesiology. Katerina is a member of Dionysios Dance Program, Holy Trinity Church, and is a part-time patient transport employee. Her unofficial transcripts note a 2.9 (3.0 rounded off) GPA. Katerina writes an exceptional personal essay which outlines her journey to become a physical therapist, and thereby embrace the Greek philosophy of Philotimo (be of service) to combat wounded military veterans. Her Biotechnology teacher mentions Katarina as "dynamic and enthusiastic"... with a "thoughtful and happy demeanor." Her second reference from the Resource Department Chair mentions that a new award in leadership and positive cultural change will be formed because of her outstanding volunteer efforts to promote awareness of cognitive diversity.



Kylie Affholter
Sponsored by AHEPA Chapter 246 Modesto
Undergraduate Scholarship Award \$2,000

**Kylie** submits official transcripts which note her impressive 3:9 GPA as a Senior at Big Valley Christian School. Her objective is a B.S. degree in Kinesiology at Biola University in La Mirada, California. She is a lifetime CSF member, Scholar Athlete and Basketball team captain, as well as a Choir member, President of GOYA, Church volunteer and others. Her strong personal essay mentions her desire to help injured people, especially in sport rehabilitation. Kylie's first reference from her Math/Bible/Yearbook instructor mentions her being "more than the ideal student" with outstanding work ethic, character, and community service..." Her second reference from Fr. Sergakis of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Modesto lists a broad variety of outstanding contributions and characteristics including "possessing a kind and helpful demeanor" in service of others.

## ORDER OF AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Marika Alexander
Sponsored by AHEPA Chapter 153 Sacramento
Undergraduate Scholarship Award \$1,500

Marika attends Oakmont High School with an impressive 4.0 GPA. Her goal is a B.S. degree followed by a Master's Degree in Kinesiology from San Diego State University (admitted). Her personal essay mentions her passionate desire to "care for others" and become a physical therapist. She is a two-time recipient of the National Charity League Merci Award for most volunteer hours served, and recipient of the National Charity League Senior Service Award for most hours served over a six-year time period. Her listed school activities also include volleyball, and other interests. Marika's two reference letters mention her positive volunteer work with lowincome children at EXCEL Roseville, work with Special Olympics, and local food banks. One reference mentions her being "a model student."



Marina Alexander
Sponsored by AHEPA Chapter 153 Sacramento
Undergraduate Scholarship Award \$1,500

Marina (sister of Marika Alexander) attends Oakmont High School with a 3.8 GPA. Her goal is a B.A. and then a Master's Degree in Early Child Development from San Diego State University (admitted). She outlines her career direction well in her personal essay. Marina's activities include Junior Varsity Cheer (2017 and 2018) and membership in the California Scholarship Federation (2017-2021). She is a Maxima Cum Laude recipient, and has volunteered for Placer County SPCA among others. A reference letter from Marina's Psychology Teacher mentions her as "one of the most genuine, caring, and hardworking students I've had in 10 years of teaching". Her second reference from her Honors Chemistry teacher mentions her hard work as a student and "desire to do well and be a positive member of her community".

## ORDER OF AHEPA GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Ryan Hatton
Sponsored by DOP Chapter 64 Modesto
Undergraduate Scholarship Award \$1,500

Ryan attends Modesto Downey High School. His ambition is to receive a B.S. degree in Electrical Technology by starting his journey at Modesto Junior College. His official transcripts note a GPA is 3.4 with Ryan listed in the top 30% of 433 students. He is a four-year football player, former team Captain, an Altar boy, worker at the parish food festival, and attendance at his local Greek Orthodox Church. His Social Science (and Football coach) reference letter notes that Ryan "always rises to challenges" and is "always comfortable helping others". A second reference letter from his Parish Priest at Modesto's Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, writes that Ryan is "a gifted and talented athlete" as well as a person who is "respectful, kind, and concerned with others". writes that Ryan is "a gifted and talented athlete" as well as a person who is "respectful, kind, and concerned with others".



Diego Anastassatos
Sponsored by AHEPA Chapter 281 Reno
Undergraduate Scholarship Award \$1,500

**Diego** attends Reno High School with a GPA of 3.4. He is active in varsity track and field and lettered in Pole Vault. Diego is also active in his Church dance group, Acolyte, Greek Festival volunteer, and Feed the Hungry Program. Diego's personal essay while interesting (with its focus on community) does not focus on a career direction. Two positive reference letters are included in the application. One from his High School Science teacher mentions Diego's "sharp intellect", team orientation, a good problem solver, and being humble. His second reference from an employer (owner of a food service) notes Diego being "one of my best and brightest employees." The owner observed him as having outstanding interactions with both coworkers and customers.

## DAUGHTERS OF PENEOPE GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Samantha Ellman Sponsored by Urania 290 Chapter San Mateo Ekateri Tsakopoulos Memorial Scholarship \$2,000

Samantha Ellman graduated from UC Santa Barbara in 2020 with a BS in Environmental Studies and a slew of accomplishments already under her belt as she heads to the University of Southern California for her Masters in Urban Planning. Her impressive resume includes multiple academic honors designations alongside many internship roles in sustainability and climate field during her undergraduate career. Samantha was a member of the College of Letters and Science Honors Program and was included on the Dean's List every quarter. Her thesis work investigating the effect on traffic emissions of pedestrianizing streets during the COVID-19 pandemic was designated with highest honors. Her recommenders describe her work ethic with the most glowing of terms and say she is "easily in the top 1% of all UC Santa Barbara students." Ms. Ellman celebrates her Greek heritage volunteering at the Church of the Holy Cross Greek Festival. She is clearly an ambitious and highly-achieving student as well as an upstanding and thoughtful individual.



Erica Lagios
Sponsored by Ellis 89 Chapter Reno
District 21 Re-Entry/Continuing Education Scholarship \$2000

Erica Lagios is a returning student, having previously earned a Bachelors degree in Hospitality Services and working in that sphere before determining that her devotion to caring for others would be better utilized in a medical context. Ms. Lagios has earned her place on the Dean's List in her return to education pursuing her Bachelors of Science in Nursing at Duquesne University. She attributes her strong values for education, hospitality, and caring for others to her Greek heritage, and clearly imbues these values in her actions in her previous professional pursuits as well as her current ones. She even treated her fellow nursing students to her homemade spanakopita and baklava during their pinning ceremony celebration. Erica volunteered for 3 years in a hospital emergency department, developing her ability to handle the most challenging situations. Erica's admirable work ethic and wonderful personal qualities ring through in her actions, her own words, and those of her recommenders.

## DAUGHTERS OF PENEOPE <u>GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT 21 2021 SCHO</u>LARSHIP AWARDS



Georgiana Papavasiliou Sponsored by Urania 290 Chapter San Mateo District 21 Scholarship \$2000

Georgiana (Giana) Papavasiliou is an incoming first-year college student at College of San Mateo studying Business and Accounting with an intention to transfer to a university

for her Bachelor's degree. Her excellent high school academics have prepared her well for college. Ms. Papavasiliou is a long-time member of Annunciation Cathedral's Greek Dance community, performing with, and instructing the dance groups and competing at FDF for many years. Through dance, she grew closer to her heritage, and community, developed a sense of leadership, and discovered a passion for performance and drama. Giana has also acted and directed in her high school theater program. Even through the pandemic conditions, Giana found ways to bring performance to her community and was awarded by the City of San Mateo for her work in this area. Giana is a thoughtful, intelligent young lady who takes initiative and acts on the strong values instilled by her family and her church.

### Congratulations!



To all in the Ahepa Family - Enjoy your summer, stay safe and well.

## Thank you to these Ahepa Traveler Sponsors 2021





Sparta Chapter #18 Stockton, California

Founded September 28, 1924

Nick M. Tousounis, President Doannis Kokinnidis, VP

Compliments of

#### **FRESNO CHAPTER No. 151**

Meets 2nd Thursday, each month St. George Church • 2219 N Orchard Ave., Fresno

George Gianopulos, Secretary Ted Bodikis, Treasurer

Bill Christie, President Nick Pries PDG, Vice President Compliments of

#### **SILICON VALLEY CHAPTER No. 251**

Meets 2nd Tuesday each month 1260 Davis Street • San Jose 95126

Dr. George Zioulas PDG, Treasurer Bill Christie, Secretary

Daughters of Penelope Elis Chapter 89 Reno, Nevada

Join us www.dopreno.org and www.facebook.com/dopelis89

Dr. John Lagios, President George Pauls, Vice President

Compliments of

#### **RENO CHAPTER No. 281**

Meets 3rd Thursday, each month St. Anthony Church • 4795 Lakeside Dr., Reno, NV

John Copoulos, Secretary/Treasurer

Wish every Brother to stay safe during this pandemic

**MODESTO CHAPTER NO. 246** 

Andrew Sirogiannis, President

Stamus Cocoles, Secretary

Dr. Paul Forakis, Vice President

Alex Klabanos, Treasurer

## Stockton DOP Sparta Chapter Hosts Bingo Fundraiser to Support National Projects

Submitted by Kathy Leles from the National Herald - April 1,2021

STOCKTON, CA – The Stockton Daughters of Penelope (DOP) Sparta Chapter #18,which was originally established in 1934, hosted its first virtual Bingo night fundraiser on March 25 via Zoom. The evening began with player introductions and a special guest from Sons of Pericles Phoebus Chapter #207, Vasili Karapanos, who sang the Greek National Anthem in honor of the 200th year of Greek Independence.

There were 21 eager participants from California. New Jersey, New York, and Oregon who joined in the fun. Bingo caller Stephanie Leles efficiently called out the numbers and kept the players engaged. Six games were played including Border, Letter X, plus sign/Letter T. Traditional



(five in a row - either horizontal, vertical or diagonal), Coverall/Blackout and Border including plus sign or T. Prizes included \$50 gift cards to the following businesses: Greek-American Home Goods by SincerelySophoula on Etsy, Kallisti Natural, Target, Amazon, and Starbucks.

The lucky winners of the evening were Teri Blum, Chris Pappis, Eugenia Giouzelis, Stella Natsis, Stephanie de Melo, Angie Legakis, and Nikki Karapanos. The proceeds will benefit the DOP National Projects including The Penelope House, the Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation, and Limbitless Solutions.

The Chapter was honored to have AHEPA District 6 Secretary Chris Pappis, as well as District 21 Governor Linda Belba, District 21 Marshal Angie Legakis, and District 5 PDG Karen Marousis. Also participating was the Grand Advisor to the Maids of Athena Kathy Leles and District 21 PDG JoAnne Panagopoulos who both belong to Sparta Chapter #18.

The 2020-2021 officers of Sparta Chapter #18 are President Maria Karapanos, Vice President Mary Carroll, Corresponding and Recording Secretary Maria Franco, and Treasurer Stephanie Leles. The Chapter thanked the Bingo committee for their time and effort of putting this evening together.

"We also greatly appreciate everyone's donations and support for these special causes," the Chapter noted in a statement. "It was a fun evening seeing and enjoying each other's company via Zoom. We are already planning another virtual Bingo night, so look for information through social media and word of mouth.

# City of Fresno Celebration 200th Anniversary of the Independence of Greece.

by George Gianopulos, Secretary Chapter 151.

It was on Thursday morning, March 25, 2021 that a small group gathered in front of the Fresno City hall and witnessed the raising of the flag – that was the flag of Greece!. That day was being celebrated for the 200 Year anniversary of the Independence and the founding of Modern Greece! The event had been cited and approved by the City Council of the City of Fresno, CA. As a result, that flag would join the American flag and that of the State of California, both of which fly daily there.



Master of Ceremony Paul Dictos, Fresno County Assessor & Recorder and member of AHEPA Chapter #151, called the gathering to order and gave a rousing address on the purpose of the event. He concluded with a rousing "Zito I Ellas"! The ceremony then began with a Greek prayer for Greece's Independence recited by Fr. James Pappas, Priest of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Fresno. That was followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Singing of the Star-Spangled Banner. For those of Greek heritage, the singing of the Greek National Anthem followed.

Some weeks earlier, a Proclamation appropriate to the occasion posed "A Celebration of Greek Democracy in Greece and the United States." It was signed by the Mayor of the City of Fresno, Jerry Dyer. It reviewed events that led to the liberation of Greece. That Proclamation was now read by Fresno AHEPA Chapter #151 President Nick Tousounis.

At this point, Dr. Ioannis Kokkinidis was called upon to present a talk on the history of Greece leading to the War of Independence. He was able to cover a series of incidents that lead to that event, that which is celebrated today. Articulate, obviously well informed and described, that history was well received by the attendees. Copies can be found in Church bulletins.

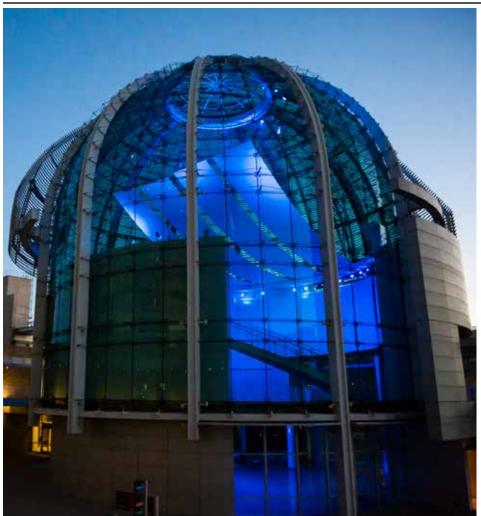
This event went off as planned and scheduled. Because of the Pandemic, only a few participants were permitted to be present. But there were enough to capture the event on cameras, cell phones and video. Kopi Sotiropulos, local television program host, videotaped much of the event, part of which was shown on the news that evening. Some photos are included here. That same Greek flag stayed high on the pole from that date to at least April 10.



As the special celebration ended, MC Paul Dictos thanked all who were there. He closed the program with his special statement of Adjournment followed by a closing prayer by Fr. Pappas.

Let us recognize those who were able to carry out this event. Begin with Paul Dictos, then Chapter President Nick Tousounis and Vice President Ioannis Kokkinidis, Kopi Sotiropulos, Fr. Jim Pappas, and Robert Sexton, AHEPANs all.

Photos by Robert Sexton, PSG





### San Jose City Hall Illuminated for 5 Nights March 23-28 in Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence

by Jacqui Argyres - Daphne 29 - San Jose

A very big thank you to Councilmember Pam Foley and her team of San Jose City Council District 9 for making this happen! This was also made possible by the combined efforts of the San Jose Chapters of AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope and the United Hellenic American Societies of California (UHAS).

A City of San Jose Commendation which read in part "I, Sam Liccardo, Mayor of the City of San Jose, together with Councilmember Foley and our colleagues on the San Jose City Council, on this 25th day of March 2021, do hereby proclaim today The Bicentennial Anniversary of Greek Independence Day." The Commendation was presented to the San Jose Chapters and to the Greek Community of San Jose. Father Demosthenes of St. Nicholas Church represented the Greek Community, Jacqui Argyres and Bill Christie the Daughters and AHEPA Chapters of San Jose.



### San Jose AHEPA Chapter News

On Sunday, May 30, 2021 the San Jose Ahepa and Daughters of Penelope Chapters participated in honoring the St. Nicholas Church High School Graduates. Individual Scholarships were awarded by the church community. Daughters Daphne Chapter presented a gift to each graduate. AHEPA Chapter awarded a Certificate of Achievement and a monetary gift to each attending graduate. Past District Governor and Daphne Chapter President Laurie Sahines awarded gifts from the Daughters. Past District Governor Nick Pries and Mike Frangadakis awarded the certificates and monetary gift from AHEPA. Brothers Mike Frangadakis and Ted Tsortos are the 12 grade Sunday School teachers. 2021 marks the 16th year honoring the graduates by the San Jose Ahepa Family.



Pictured are from the left are Father Demosthenes, Big Mike Frangadakis, Graduate Recipients Athanasios Kontinos, Sevastiani Praskevaidou and Emela Negash, Past District Governor Nick Pries and AHEPA Chapter President Bill Christie

### Mark your Calendars and Save the Date!



Be prepared - you can purchase your "Foustanella Skirt at: https://www.amazon.com/Women-School-Uniforms-plaid-Pleated/dp/B01M1CS1O9/ref=sr\_1\_4\_sspa?crid=2HIO973F5LYMI&dchild=1&keywords=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+%2Caps%2C224&sr=8-4-spons&psc=1&smid-pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+%2Caps%2C224&sr=8-4-spons&psc=1&smid-pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+pleated+skirt+plus+size&qid=1620305412&sprefix=white+plus+size&qid=162

#### In Memoriam



**William (Bill) L. Anton**July 6, 1942 - March 24, 2021

Bill was born in East Chicago, Indiana, and moved to California when he was 4 years old. He, an only child and his mom, Lillian, settled in Oakland where other family members were located. Bill graduated from Oakland High School in 1959.

At 18, Bill enlisted in the Air Force, and after 4 years of duty, was honorably discharged.

Bill worked for a time for Kaiser Sand and Gravel; owned a paint contracting business; owned Cachet Limousine Service in the 80's for about 12 years; and finally entered the world of Thoroughbred Horse Racing, as owner, breeder, and trainer. He retired from his 25-year career in 2010.

In 2013, he reincarnated Cachet Limousine Service and co-owned and operated the business until 2019 with his life partner, Marlene. Bill was energetic, smart, quick-witted, generous, compassionate, and always ready to jump in to help friends and family. He was a member of AHEPA for more than 50 years and was passionate and dedicated to its purpose and objectives. His favorite project was the restoration of the St. Nicholas Ranch AHEPA dormitory. He felt the Ranch is for our children and grandchildren.

The memories of Bill Anton will last another lifetime.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to honor Bill, to the St. Nicholas AHEPA dormitory project.

Please make check payable to St. Nicholas Ranch. In the memo write: In Memory of William Anton for the AHEPA Ranch Renovation Project

Mail donation to: Metropolis of San Francisco Attn: Foula Vasilogiorgis 245 Valencia Street San Francisco, Ca 94103



James (Jim) Argyris Nicolaou June 7, 1928 - May 6, 2021

Jim was born on June 7, 1928 in Keene, NH to Argyrios and Helene (Tsalis) Nicolaou and peacefully passed away on May 6, 2021 in Fresno, CA after a long, well-fought battle with Alzheimer's.

His parents left their home on the island of Evia in Greece and immigrated to the United States through Ellis Island in the 1920s. They settled in Clinton, Massachusetts where Jim and his three siblings were raised. He graduated from Clinton High School in 1947 and began a career in the grocery store business as a young man. He enlisted in the US Army and served as a tank driver and commander during the Korean War.

In 1950, just before being deployed overseas, Jim met his future wife, Sophia Chiames, while she was visiting relatives in Clinton, MA. Their long-distance relationship blossomed over the following years and in 1952, while he was stationed in Germany serving as part of the Allied occupation forces after WWII, he decided to propose to her. Determined to get a ring on her finger, but unable to leave base in Germany, he sent her engagement ring via the trusty United States Postal Service. For decades to follow, James and Sophia would find themselves joking about how the mailman delivered her engagement ring!

They married on Oct. 2, 1954 in Fresno, CA where they lived throughout their lives, celebrating 65 wonderful years of marriage. They were blessed with two children, Gary, born in 1958 and Gina, born in 1962. James and Sophia raised their family in the Greek Orthodox faith and were members of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Fresno. Their faith and Greek culture were the foundation of their family and played an integral part in each of their lives.

Jim worked in the grocery business for over 40 years where he was known as "Jimmy the Greek"

continued on next page

#### Jim Nicolaou continued

throughout his career. He started as a clerk and worked his way up to store manager for Food Banks, later known as Foodland Markets, until his retirement. He then became a grocery sales rep for a few companies, including Ketl Marketing, until he fully retired. He was honored with many sales awards throughout his second career.

Jim was very involved in a number of organizations in his church and Greek community. Some of which included the parish council, the church choir, and the Order of AHEPA, where he served in various positions, his favorite, of course, was being "Mr. Bingo". He served as treasurer of the Fresno Greek Fest and St. George Sunday School for over 30 years. He was named St. George's Father of the Year in 1989, the day after his daughter's wedding.

Jim loved traveling and learning about other countries, he had an extensive collection of stamps from all over the world that he prided himself on. Some of his favorite trips were family visits in Utah, Massachusetts, and California, an Alaskan cruise with his wife, and numerous other special family vacations all across California.

In 1991, James became a Papou, his favorite title yet. His three grandchildren, Zachary, Nicholas (Niko), and Melina, were his pride and joy. He would do anything and everything for them. He was a blessing to them and they to him.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife, Sophia E. Nicolaou, parents Argyrios and Helene Nicolaou, siblings Theodore Nicolaou, Chrysoula Nicolaou, Eva Detsikas, brother-inlaw Paul Chiames, and nieces, Terese Caire, Christine Detsikas, and Elaine Thompson.

He is survived by his son Gary and wife Vicki of Phoenix, AZ, daughter Gina and husband Rick of Fresno CA, grandchildren Zachary Kazanjian of Los Angeles CA, Niko Kazanjian of New York NY, and Melina Kazanjian of Fresno CA. Other relatives include sister-in-law, Anita Chiames, nephews Chris Detsikas, John Nicolaou, Chris Chiames, and Paul Chiames, niece Marianne Lukenda, Goddaughter Denise Stringer Topliff, and many other beloved relatives and friends. He was blessed to live a happy, long, and full life. He will be so deeply missed.

The funeral service was held on Thursday, May 13th at St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made in the name of James Nicolaou to the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Memorial Fund.

### **AHEPA Emergency Fund**

The AHEPA Emergency Fund was started in the early part of 2006 in response to natural disasters which occur around the world. The Order of AHEPA has donating hundreds of thousands of man hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars in financial aid for devastating natural disasters. From providing water to the first responders or milk for those in need.

We have helped clean up after Super Storm Sandy and rebuild homes in Houston. We feed thousands of homeless people through our chapters and we assist the elderly. All of our action need funds. We ask you and your chapters to donate to the AHEPA Emergency Fund.



Ahepa Service Dogs for Warriors



Ahepa Veterans Affairs

Learn more plus you can donate to these National Projects by going to ahepa.org

## Saint Nicholas National Shrine Tops \$95M in Fundraising, With an Additional \$55M Since January 2020



#### Non-Profit Organization Has Raised \$8.5M in the Past Two Months, Including Twenty-Five \$100K Donations

New York, NY – June 2, 2021 – Yesterday, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros met with The Friends of St. Nicholas, the non-profit organization formed to complete the construction of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. At the meeting, it was revealed that recent vigorous donation activity has brought the total of the fundraising on behalf of the Shrine to \$95 million. Funding has accelerated over the past year, with \$55 million raised since January 2020 and \$8.5 million in the past two months alone. Twenty-five of those recent donors each contributed \$100,000.

Responding to this extraordinary news, the Archbishop said:

"As a community, we can be very proud of the generosity and commitment of the benefactors and supporters of Saint Nicholas. Even in the midst of the pandemic, Greek Orthodox leaders came together from across America to resurrect the Shrine. Now the finish line is within our grasp as we approach two poignant and important milestones. This

September 11, 2021, marks the 20th Anniversary of 9/11, and we are preparing to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch for the dedicatory Thyranoixia on November 2, 2021, the 30th Anniversary of the Enthronement of His All Holiness."

In a statement issued by The Friends of St. Nicholas, Chairman Dennis Mehiel and Vice-Chairman Michael Psaros, along with Vice-Chair of the Archdiocesan Council and Board member of the Friends of St. Nicholas, John Catsimatidis, they said:

"Our gratitude to our fellow Board members and those who have had the vision to stand with the Shrine is truly inexpressible. The embrace of this sacred responsibility to rebuild the only house of worship destroyed on 9/11 will be a legacy that endures for centuries. With the leadership of Archbishop Elpidophoros, and the guidance of Father Alexander Karloutsos, we have raised an additional \$55 million since January 2020 — and we did it during a pandemic. This is the stable and enduring foundation for Saint Nicholas."

Construction on the National Shrine continues, and the exterior is expected to be completed by September 11, 2021. The Church will open completely in the Spring of 2022.

# The Handshake: The Ancient Greek Gesture May Fade Away Post-Covid

by Philip Chrysopoulos - Lifted from the Greek Reporter



Hera (left) shakes hands with Athena. Acropolis Museum, Athens

Out of all the gestures of greeting used until recently around the globe, the handshake is the most widely used. The first nearly-universal way of greeting someone, portrayed for the first time in the arts of ancient Greece, has now been suspended indefinitely due to the coronavirus pandemic after thousands of years of use.

The oldest indication of the handshake as a gesture of greeting is an Ancient Greek sculpture, specifically one found on a funerary naiskos from the grave of Agathon and Sosykrates.

Dating from approximately the fifth century BC, the relief sculpture, showing three figures, is exhibited at the entrance Cloister of the Kerameikos Archaeological Museum in Athens.

Another sculpture from the same century, on a gravestone, depicts two soldiers shaking hands. This latter stone is in the Pergamon Museum in Berlin.

Additionally, the base of a column at the Acropolis Museum in Athens shows Hera, the wife of Zeus, shaking hands with Athena, the goddess of wisdom.

References to handshakes can also be found in Homer's Iliad, which dates to roughly the year 800 BC. The gesture is described in that work variously as a symbol of agreement or oath, an offer of comfort to the bereaved, or as a pledge of trust.

Significantly, a handshake in ancient Greece meant that the two parties were equals: Gods shook hands with gods, warriors shook hands between them, and athletes shook hands as a sign of acknowledging respect for their rivals.

This became a pattern of behavior throughout the western world — and it still applies today.

State leaders in most of the world today shake hands, athletes shake the hands of their opponents before a game, colleagues shake hands routinely as a gesture of greeting, respect and trust.

Overall, a handshake indicates that there is a level of comfort between the two parties.

A handshake also seals a business deal. A warm, sincere handshake indicates that a person can be trusted. A firm handshake also usually symbolizes that a person means exactly what they say.

Will the pandemic be the end of the ancient gesture?

The gesture became common in the artwork of ancient Greeks, who called the handshake  $\delta\epsilon\xii\omega\sigma\iota\zeta$  (dexiosis). This term literally means offering the other person one's right hand - the "good" hand - to make friendly contact.

Some historians even believe that the practice of shaking hands goes back to the times of cavemen, originating

as a gesture of peace by demonstrating that the hand holds no weapon.

Today, the Covid-19 pandemic seems to be making the gesture a thing of the past. In the post-coronavirus era, at least for a while, people will likely develop new, safer ways to greet one another.

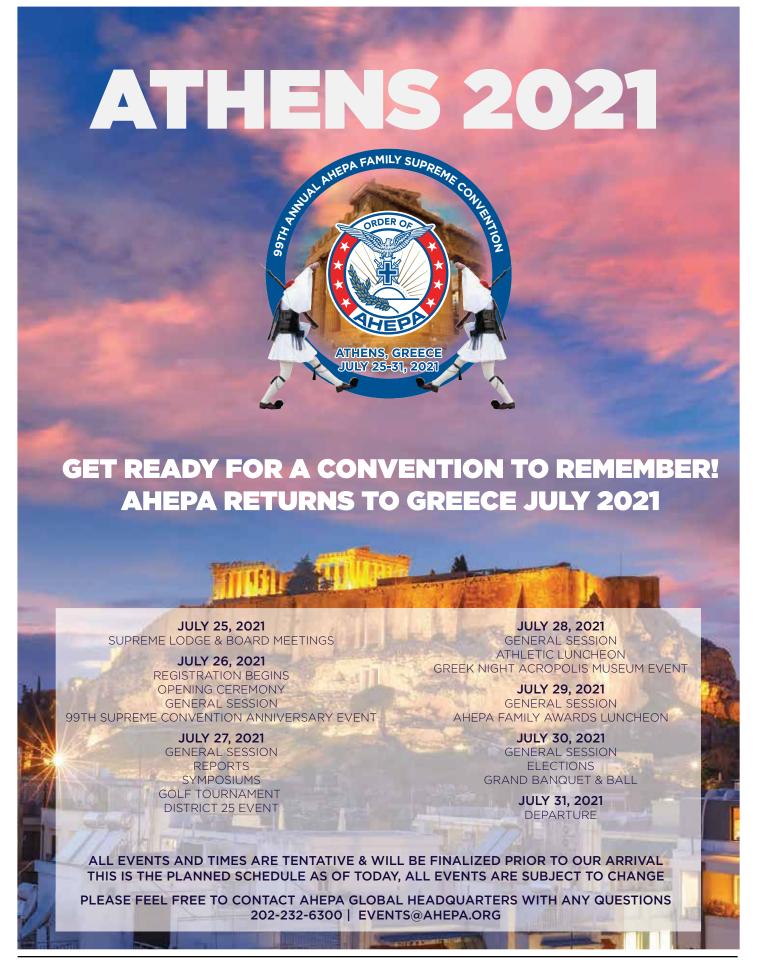
They will certainly be touchless gestures that will lack the

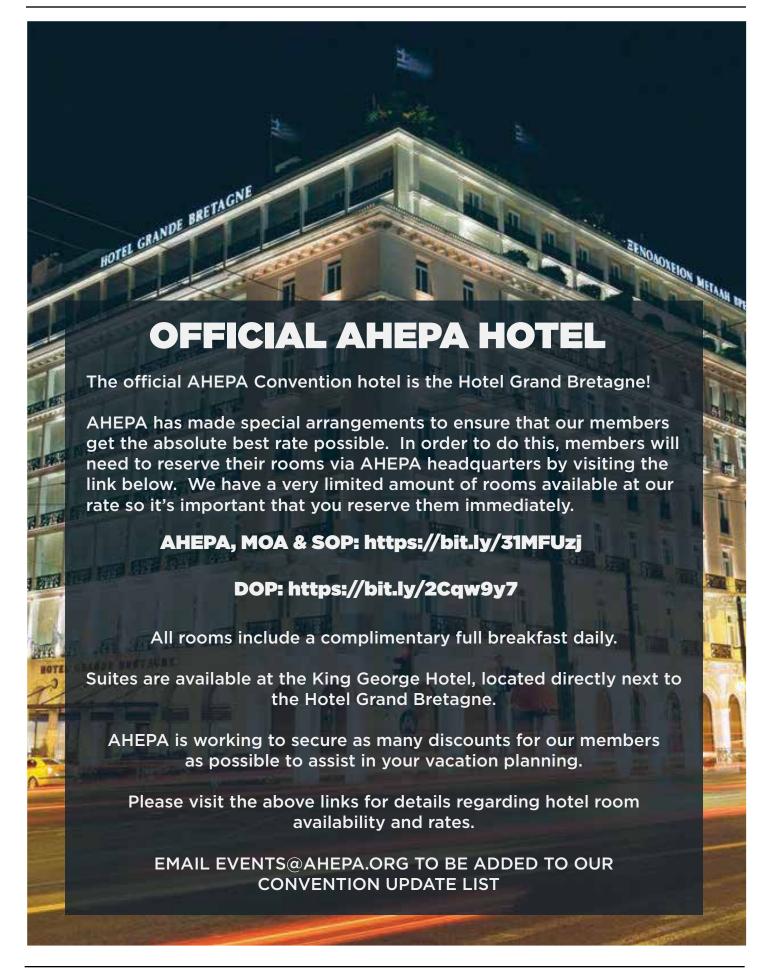


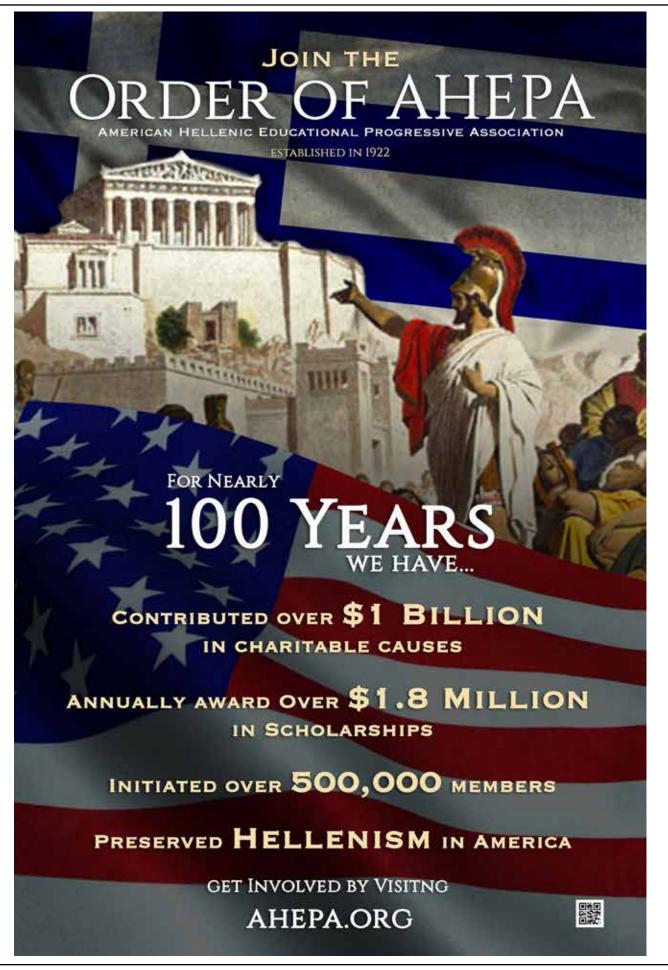
warmth, the friendliness and the comfort of the handshake. Hopefully, these more sanitized, sterile practices will not last for too long.

We can only hope that the many new vaccines will make Covid-19 a thing of the past - and not the ancient practice of the handshake.

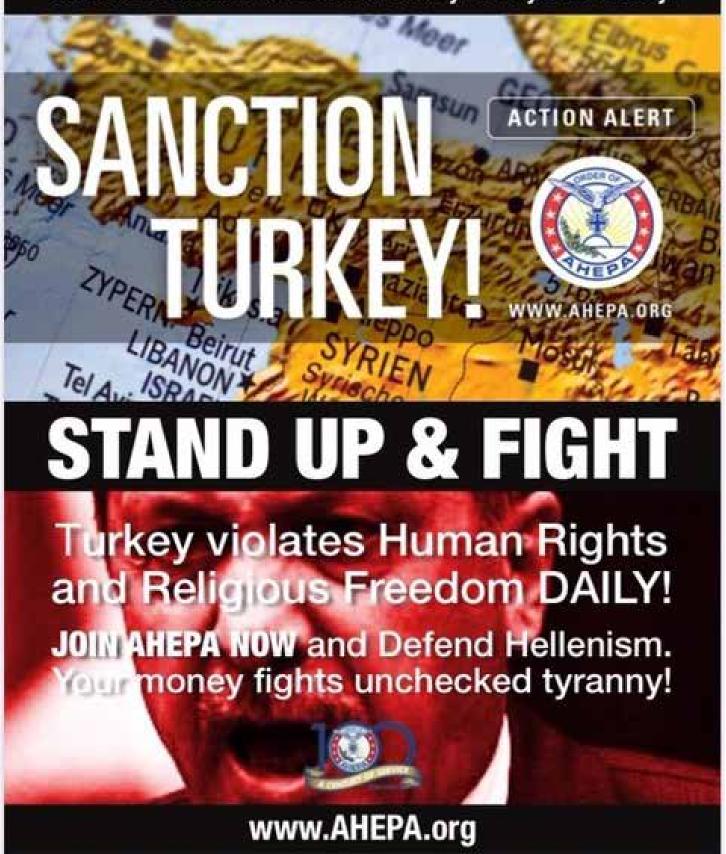
Image above - Antiochus I Theos of Commagene, shaking hands with Heracles 70–38 BC, Arsameia.







AHEPA Supreme President George G. Horiates maintains AHEPA's stance to Sanction Turkey & Boycott Turkey!





#### **AHEPA VETERANS REGISTRATION**

AHEPA Medal for Military Service is awarded to all veterans in Honor of their service to the United States.

"The Mission of the Order of AHEPA Veterans Committee is to archive and recognize all veterans of the Order and Hellenic community through sound communication and publication. Furthermore, to conduct fund raising and philanthropic outreach through a cohesive, limited, yet well defined activity that reflects well on the Order of AHEPA and brings credit to the organization at large."

The AHEPA Medal for Military Service, approved by the 106th Congress, was presented to all AHEPA veterans present at the 34th Biennial Congressional Banquet, March 29, 2000. The Supreme Lodge then encouraged its districts and chapters to present this medal to its deserving veterans unable to attend this banquet. It is this committee's intent to register AHEPA Veterans and have the AHEPA Medal presented at appropriate events at the District and Chapter levels. Funds collected through this effort cover medal production and other administrative costs to include shipping. Remaining proceeds will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Program annually.

Eligibility requirement for AHEPA Medal for Military Service includes Honorable Service and Discharge. Service includes Active Duty, National Guard, or Reserve status of the United States Armed Forces.

**Register online at www.ahepaveterans.org.** File a copy with your chapter Secretary after registration is complete. Medals are normally shipped in the fall and in time for Veteran's Day celebrations in November.





#### **AHEPA Supports Military Family**

#### Reading Program Through The USO!

AHEPA National President Dr. John Grossomanides announced the organization's support of military families by selecting the United Through Reading? Military Program as a national service project, working in cooperation with the United Services Organization (USO). United Through Reading is a program that enables service members to video record themselves reading books to their children back home and provides a DVD of the recording and a copy of the book to the child.

Go to the following links to learn more and make a chapter or individual donation for as little as \$10

Join Team USO-AHEPA and Make a Donation Read About the Last "I Love You" Feature in The Ahepan Magazine Read the AHEPA News Release

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Sacramento #153

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Our Mission - To promote the ancient Greek ideals of Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, Family and Individual Excellence through community service and volunteerism.

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