



Embassy of the United States of America

**Message from the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Hellenic Republic
H.E. George J. Tsunis
On the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of
the American Hellenic Institute's Hellenic Heritage Achievement
and National Public Service Awards Dinner**

March 1, 2024

Each year brings with it the opportunity to reflect on the important contributions of the American Hellenic Institute to strengthening ties between the United States and Greece. However, this year we also recognize 50 incredible years since its founding. I extend my deepest gratitude for your continued efforts to bring our nations closer together and to recognize the individuals from the Greek-American community who best exemplify the value of *filotimo*.

This year's AHI Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, is a mentor, friend, and the person who has had the greatest influence on me as a leader in the Greek-American community. It is Angelo's example that has inspired me and so many others to understand the transformative power of education. I applaud his lifelong commitment to supporting and enriching the educational and cultural life of his community. I also congratulate AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award recipient Catherine Papoulias-Sakellaris, my great friend. She is strong and kind. She has shown incredible commitment to helping the lives of others through public service and philanthropy. Let us take inspiration from the examples of these two remarkable Americans of Hellenic descent and their work in service to others.

I am proud to represent the United States and the Greek-American community as Ambassador to Greece. Together, the United States and Greece work every day to advance our shared goals for peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, Western Balkans, the Black Sea region, and beyond. We celebrate our strong and enduring friendship with Greece and our shared democratic values, which are now more important than ever. Both nations benefit from the support of organizations like AHI that are dedicated to bringing our two nations even closer together. I thank you for the work you do and I wish you my heartfelt congratulations on the fiftieth anniversary of your founding.

Sincerely,

George J. Tsunis

U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic