



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Washington, D.C.

The Ambassador

**Message of the Ambassador the Republic of Cyprus to the United States of America
Mr. Evangelos Savva on the occasion of the American Hellenic Institute 50th
Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards
Dinner**

It is a distinct honor to be here with you tonight on this commemorative event and to convey my very best personal regards and congratulations to the American Hellenic Institute, its leadership and all who are associated with it.

The story of the formation of the American Hellenic Institute continues to inspire us all. The brutal military invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974 galvanized the Hellenic community in the United States to take decisive action and to demand from the US Government and US legislators to hold Turkey responsible and to face substantial consequences for its illegal and immoral acts.

Gene Rossides and the American Hellenic Institute were of course instrumental in this effort by putting the principle of the rule of law front and center in their outreach. Their continuous efforts ever since have transformed the Institute into a leading advocate for the tangible involvement of the United States political establishment in finding a just, comprehensive and lasting solution of the Cyprus problem, restoring its territorial integrity, safeguarding the rule of law and ensuring the respect of human rights for all Cypriots.

In celebrating tonight the 50th anniversary of the Institute's finding and its many achievements over the past five decades, we also commemorate the 50th milestone of the tragedy that befell Cyprus in 1974. Cyprus and its people are deeply appreciative to the American Hellenic Institute and its leadership for their continuous work and support, including as regards the tremendous progress that has been achieved in the bilateral relations between Cyprus and the United States over the past few years.

Allow me also to congratulate tonight Angelo K. Tsakopoulos and Caterina Papoulias-Sakellaris for their richly deserved awards.

In closing, I would like to wish the American Hellenic Institute and its President Nick Larigakis nothing but success in the years to come and more great achievements in promoting the values and interests of Hellenism throughout the United States of America.

Evangelos Savva