



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

PRESIDENTIAL PALACE The President

It is with great pleasure that on this auspicious occasion I extend this message of warm greetings and heartiest congratulations to the leadership and members of the American Hellenic Institute.

In the wake of the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus, Gene Rossides founded the American Hellenic Institute aiming to enforce the rule of law in the case of Cyprus, an effort which directly led to the unprecedented US arms embargo against Turkey. Since then, the American Hellenic Institute has developed into a leading organization upholding the rule of law in U.S. foreign policy as regards to Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Fifty years after the illegal invasion and continued occupation of more than 36% of the territory of Cyprus by Turkey - fifty years of missing people, destruction of cultural heritage and enforced division - AHI's mission is more pertinent than ever. Its tireless advocacy in Washington D.C. and throughout the whole of the United States, of Cyprus' just struggle towards a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem based on democracy, the rule of law and human rights, is invaluable. I speak on behalf of all Cypriot when I underline our deep appreciation for AHI's great work.

I am also very pleased to note that the bilateral relations between the Republic of Cyprus and the United States are going from strength to strength, as the strategic cooperation between the two sides further deepens and expands. AHI's contribution to this has been and continues to be of paramount importance.

Tonight, we recognize and applaud the tremendous accomplishments and impact to public service of Angelo K. Tsakopoulos and Caterina Papoulias-Sakellaris. These awards serve as a reminder that in difficult times, nothing is more important than coming together and joining forces in upholding the fundamental values of freedom, justice and democracy.

In closing, I would like to commend, once again, the American Hellenic Institute, and especially its President, Nick Larigakis, for the tremendous achievements and reiterate my appreciation and best wishes for the continuation of its important mission.

Nikos Christodoulides

Nicosia, 19 March 2024