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Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each of you gathered here this evening to attend the American Hellenic Institute's (AHI) 50th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner. Tonight, we come together to honor Mr. Angelo K. Tsakopoulos and Ms. Caterina Papoulias-Sakellaris, whose contributions have illuminated the essence of Hellenic heritage in the tapestry of American society.

AHI has long stood as a pillar of the Greek American community, fostering the ties that connect us to Greece, Cyprus, and the broader Hellenic diaspora. By honoring individuals like Mr. Tsakopoulos and Ms. Papoulias-Sakellaris, AHI continues to highlight the contributions of Greek Americans to our country.

This year, as we come together to commemorate the enduring legacy and vibrant future of the Greek American community, we also celebrate the indelible marks left by our esteemed honorees. Mr. Tsakopoulos, a dear friend and a fellow Sacramentan, has not only elevated the standards of excellence within the development industry but has also championed the causes closest to our hearts. As the founder of the Sacramento Tree Foundation, Mr. Tsakopoulos has played a pivotal role in nurturing Sacramento's identity as the City of Trees. His passion for environmental conservation echoes the Hellenic tradition of revering nature and understanding its critical role in our lives and communities. His leadership, unparalleled dedication, and philanthropic spirit are a source of immense pride for our community. His receipt of the AHI Hellenic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award is a testament to a lifetime of achievement and steadfast commitment to the essence of the Hellenic spirit.

Ms. Papoulias-Sakellaris's unwavering commitment to public service and philanthropy serves as an inspiration for future generations. She channeled her resources, expertise, and service into a myriad of community, philanthropic, and Hellenic organizations, including the Museum of Science in Boston, the Hellenic Initiative, the Faith Endowment. These efforts speak volumes about her commitment to public service and embody the spirit of giving back and leadership. It is with great honor that we recognize her with the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award, celebrating her profound impact and selfless contributions to society.

Welcome to all those in attendance for a memorable and joyous celebration. May tonight serve as a reminder of the strength, generosity, and enduring spirit of the Hellenic community.

Sincerely,



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress