

To the esteemed Mr. Nick Larigakis, President and C.E.O., the distinguished leadership, and esteemed members of the American Hellenic Institute, our beloved in the Lord: Grace be unto you and peace from God.

With joyous hearts and a profound sense of gratitude, we extend our warmest greetings to all those gathered at the 50th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Gala Dinner. On this momentous occasion, we are privileged to join you in spirit in celebrating the remarkable journey of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) since its founding in 1974, a testament to steadfast dedication and tireless advocacy.

As we reflect upon the last five decades, we are humbled by the invaluable contributions of individuals who have played pivotal roles in advancing the multifaceted issues of the Eastern Mediterranean. Tonight, we are honored to commend two outstanding individuals for their exemplary achievements and firm commitment to the Hellenic heritage and the values cherished by the AHI.

Firstly, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Co-Chairman of A.K.T. Development Corporation, for being bestowed with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award. His visionary leadership and diligent efforts have not only left an indelible mark on the business landscape but have also served as an inspiration to countless individuals seeking to make a meaningful impact in their respective fields.

Secondly, we sincerely congratulate Ms. Caterina Papoulias-Sakellaris, a retired business executive and philanthropist, who is honored with the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award. Her dedication to public service and philanthropy exemplifies the highest ideals of citizenship and stands as a beacon of hope for those in need.

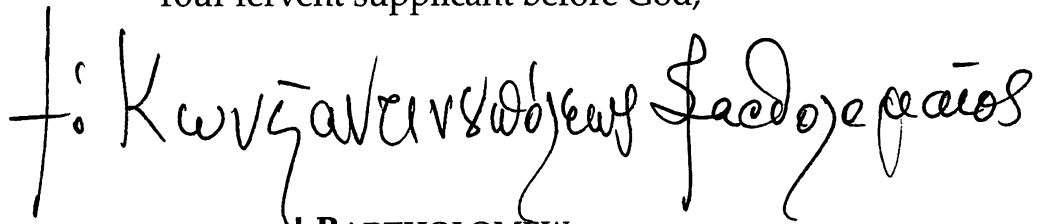
As you gather together at Washington, DC's renowned Warner Theatre in celebration of our shared Hellenic ideals and heritage, we express

our deepest gratitude and congratulations to the AHI from the Sacred Center of Orthodoxy for its unmatched perseverance in advocating for the protection of religious freedom and of the Holy Great Church of Christ in Constantinople.

In closing, we extend our paternal and Patriarchal blessing to all those present, and we commend the AHI for its tireless efforts to foster dialogue, understanding, and cooperation in pursuing justice and the common good. May this celebration be a source of inspiration for generations to come as we continue to uphold the timeless Hellenic values that unite us as a community.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, April 8th, 2024

Your fervent supplicant before God,

A handwritten signature in Greek script, reading "† Κωνσταντίνος Πατριάρχης Κωνσταντινουπόλεως", written in black ink.

† BARTHOLOMEW

*Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch*