



Yankee News



Publication of AHEPA District #7
Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts
In Continuous Publication Since 1949



September 2020



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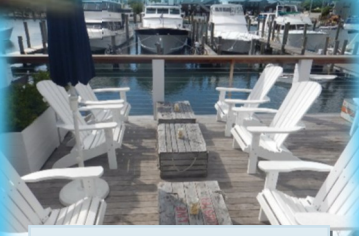
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The Yankee District 7 District Convention Live at the Hilton Mystic Mystic, Connecticut



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Saturday, September 19, 2020



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A MESSAGE FROM THE D7 AHEPA GOVERNOR

Greetings Brothers,

I want to thank all of our members who sent cards, gifts, and well wishes during my various health problems. I continue to improve daily and am making progress on my journey toward recovery. I want to thank members of the District Lodge who have assisted me with my various duties as District Governor. A special thank you to District Secretary

Greg Simones and Supreme Governor Jack Isaac who really stepped up with major assistance. Additionally, I want to thank Dr. John Grossomanides, PSP for accepting convention chairmanship.

Currently we have established September 19th as the date for the 2020 District Convention. The event will be held at the Hilton Mystic in Mystic, CT, using 6' social distancing for meetings, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Supreme President George Horiates has provided us with AHEPA face masks for the event. Everyone is required to wear a face mask at all times. Please note that you must contact the hotel directly should you require room reservations. Delegate Report Forms and Ad Blanks for the commemorative book can be requested from me: john.melonopoulos@comcast.net and from Greg Simones: pdgahepad7@gmail.com. Note that you must send in a delegate registration form along with the proper registration fee to be seated.

Fraternally,
John Melonopoulos



A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Sisters,

As our world is in turmoil over recent events we are learning to adjust to a new normal. We have learned about ZOOM meetings, watched church services on TV and visited with friends and family by social distancing. We have seen loved ones struggle through these difficult times, we have lost friends to the pandemic, but we are strong and we will survive.

As you know our AHEPA National Family Convention which was to take place in Disney World was cancelled, which was disappointing, but necessary. Next year's convention will take place in Greece. More information will be forthcoming. Our District Convention is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 19th at the Hilton in Mystic, CT. I would love to see you there. We will socially distance and wear masks. I will be emailing the registration forms to your chapter President and secretary.

I would like to congratulate all of our District 7 Scholarship recipients. Our Scholarship Dinner was held on August 16 in Waterbury. I can't imagine having to attend college under the current circumstances. If you can handle this you can do anything.

Lastly, we will not be able to sell raffle tickets this year due to the lack of events where we sold them. We will be selling face masks for a short time. Chapters will be receiving information on this fund raiser soon.

Sisters, please stay safe!

In Theta Pi,
Marianne Boutsoulis

AHEPA Statement in the Wake of the Killing of George Floyd and Civil Unrest

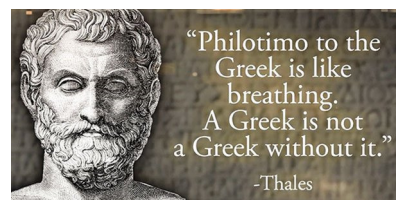
Supreme President George G. Horiates has issued the following statement:

The Greek American and African American communities have shared strong ties and moments of history together in America.

Young Greek men in the South were taken along with young black men from their jobs by the KKK to lynching "parties" in the woods as a means of intimidation where Greeks were roughed-up and were told to leave town. The black men were not so fortunate and were lynched. Archbishop Iakovos marched with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Selma. Fifty years later, Ahepans returned to Selma to walk with the African American community. AHEPA has partnered with organizations to combat modern-day bigotry.

AHEPA today is firmly committed to the principles that undergirded its founding and encourages the public to learn more about it. We unequivocally condemn all acts of racism, discrimination, bigotry and hatred and senseless acts of violence. We stand with the African American community in the pursuit of justice in the killing of George Floyd and in holding all those responsible for his tragic death accountable, including the other three police officers present with officer Derek Chauvin. The civil rights of every person – regardless of the color of their skin, of their creed or religion, from where they or their family have come, of their health or ability, of their gender identity, or whom they love – are protected by law, and the state and its officials are bound by those laws. As much as we encourage swift, transparent, fair and thorough justice from state and federal governments that are accountable to We the People, we also remind everyone who is angry and outraged that the best way to continue the fight against racism and bias in our culture is for all of us to unite in informed, honest, respectful and passionate advocacy. Together.

Peaceful, non-violent protest is a core principle in effecting change and administering justice. Those that pervert this core principle by rhetoric or senseless destruction damage our union and inflict harm on our society. In a 2015 address to AHEPA, Civil Rights Icon U.S. Congressman John Lewis quoted the late A. Philip Randolph, organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, saying: "Maybe our foremothers and forefathers all came to this great land in different ships, but we are all in the same boat now." Congressman Lewis also thanked the Greek American community for answering the call in 1965 and 2015. The hand of *philotimo* (φιλότης) is extended once again.



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EDITOR'S NOTES by Jack Isaac
The "E" in AHEPA

In this issue, I'd like to focus on one of the most important things that AHEPA does, namely, promote Education. Every year AHEPA helps support our youth by vigorous scholarship programs. Over the years, millions of dollars have gone to our young scholars to help alleviate the high cost of higher education. We also take seriously the need to educate our members about issues important to the Greek Community. With that in mind, I'd like to highlight the contributions of some of our District leaders in terms of Education. The New Haven, CT chapter, under the leadership of Pres. Evangelos Hadjimichael, has had remarkable success in providing opportunities for Ahepans to learn more about Hellenic issues. They have instituted a lecture format inviting scholars to teach about various matters of interest to Ahepans. The members are kept informed about pertinent issues by an inclusive email report done on a regular basis. Pres. Hadjimichael has turned the New Haven Chapter into one of the most influential chapters in our District, and for that we thank him. Pres. Ioannis Apostolakis, of the Pawtucket R.I. chapter has emerged as one of the leaders of District 7 in terms of his passion for Hellenic Affairs. Working with long time Hellenic Affairs Chairman, George Rados, Bro. Ioannis has become a

regular contributor to the Yankee News educating the membership on the implications of events in the Eastern Mediterranean. He has written eloquently on the need for action against the continued provocations of Turkey against both Greece and Cyprus. He has explained the history of Hagia Sophia and why its conversion to a Mosque is an act of outright belligerence on Turkey's part. His passion for these issues is applauded and we hope it continues to reach all our members.

Finally, we are honored to have Bro. Nick Nikas as one of our iconic leaders of District 7. Bro. Nick was a long time Pres. of the Stamford CT chapter, served as District Governor and then served as Supreme Governor of Region 4. He is the architect of the highly praised Hellenic History Tournament program. This brings students who spend time studying the history of Greece together in a "college bowl" format where they compete in teams against other students. The winners and runners up receive cash prizes and get the honor of a run off contest at the National Convention where a National winning team is declared. Because of the success of this program, it has been replicated across the country so that we get a true National Winner.

We in District 7 are fortunate to have such capable and dedicated Ahepans who promote Education to our Brothers. Every chapter should try to assist and support the work of these men. We should be spreading the good news of the contributions of these Ahepans, not only to our fellow Brothers but to the vast number of Philhellenes with whom we come in contact.

Letters to the Editor

Maybe there should be an "O" in AHEPA! I think there should have been an "O" to describe what AHEPA means! That "O" would stand for Opportunity. No! I am not suggesting we change our name or the acronym of AHEPA. The "O" is never written in ink but is ever present in the Order's activities and outlook. When I am compelled to explain to people who don't really understand AHEPA about why I am an AHEPAN and why I love our Order, I bring up two principals that have always and still continue to motivate me: Opportunity and Philanthropy. AHEPANs are missing the chance to market membership in AHEPA as an opportunity. For example, as a direct result of my involvement in AHEPA, I was able to attend an official reception at the Greek Embassy in Washington, DC a couple of years ago during the Governor's Conference, where I met and spoke with the Greek ambassador to the U.S. That unique "opportunity" would not have

been available to me without my involvement in AHEPA. Also, the ability to participate in acts of philanthropy greater than most individuals have the financial means to initiate is another benefit of membership in AHEPA. My chapter, Winthrop #250, gives away around \$12,000 a year (in excess of \$150,000 over the years) to local charities as a direct result of our chapter supervising the building of 5 affordable senior housing projects as part of our participation in the AHEPA National Housing program. I am not personally a wealthy man but through AHEPA, I have the "opportunity" to participate in the giving away of much needed financial resources to a variety of charitable institutions. So, for those that ask me "what do the Districts and the Supreme Lodge do for us?", I answer "they provide the opportunity of a lifetime, but you have to be willing to accept it and work for it."

Fraternally,
Gregory C. Simones, PDG

GEORGE G. HORIATES



**ORDER OF AHEPA
SUPREME PRESIDENT**

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Chapter #48**
District Mother Lodge
Waterbury, CT



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Proud chapter of AHEPA District 7.

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Be sure.

Smith Brothers Insurance, LLC is proud to support Yankee News and I am personally honored to have been part of the efforts of the AHEPA organization in their Affordable Senior Housing program for over 20 years.

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Salute to a Veteran. Gus Koulouris

Constantine "Gus" Koulouris served in the United States Air Force from August 1965 until February 1969. After basic training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) in Texas, Gus was assigned to a school in Amarillo, Texas as a ground crew fuel specialist. He was assigned to K. I. Sawyer - a strategic air command (SAC) base in the upper peninsula of Michigan in September 1966. Gus was then assigned to Kadena AFB in Okinawa, Japan in May 1967 as ground support, refueling aircraft during the Vietnam conflict.

Gus graduated from Bridgeport Central High School in 1965. Gus and his wife Linda, whom he met in the 8th grade, married September 11, 1966 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Bridgeport, CT. Linda went with Gus to Michigan and then to Okinawa where their son Jim was born on October 31, 1968.

After his USAF commitment was completed, Gus, Linda and their son Jim moved to Waterbury in March 1972. Gus convinced Father James Diavatis of Holy Trinity in Waterbury to join the Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Basketball League in November 1973. As Waterbury's basketball coach, Gus led the team to the CEOBL Intermediate Division championships in 1978 and 1979 and the Junior Division championship in 1982.

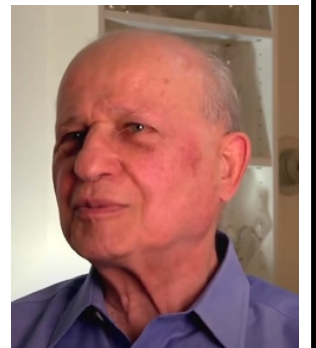
Gus and Linda, Jim and his wife Julie, and Jim's children Alexandra and Dean are very active members in Waterbury's Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church community. In addition to volunteering at the annual Church Festival, Gus, Linda Jim and Julie are also very involved with many annual AHEPA Chapter 48 and Daughters of Penelope Chapter 199 fund raising events.

To acknowledge his many years as a Holy Trinity volunteer, Gus was honored as the Greek Mayor for a Day in the 2014 Greek Independence Day ceremony at the Waterbury City Hall.



Dear Brothers,

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that one of the members of the AHEPA Hellenic Athletic Hall of Fame, but even more compellingly, one of the greatest and most accomplished and dedicated Greek-Americans, Eugene Rossides, has passed away. Gene, as he was known, was an all-American quarterback at Columbia University in the late 40s leading Columbia to what college experts would tell you, one of the greatest upsets and victories in college football history, Columbia University beating number 1 Army before a sold-out crowd at Yankee stadium, 21-20, breaking the Cadets' 34 game winning streak. Gene was drafted by the New York Giants to play quarterback, but elected to pursue his legal, political and advocacy career, advocating for Greek-American causes throughout a very distinguished legal and political career. Among his many accomplishments were serving in two Presidential administrations at high levels (pictured with Richard Nixon in October 1969), but most importantly, a lifetime of advocacy for the reunification of Cyprus, and in particular, serving as the founding member and for many, many years, the Executive Director of the American Hellenic Institute ("AHI"). AHI's formative mission was the reunification of Cyprus, but eventually expanded its mission to serve as a Clarion for issues relevant to the Greek Diaspora, serving as the preeminent voice in Washington politics on these issues. He authored numerous books on Hellenic issues, even a few years ago, a scathing critique of Kissinger's high handed foreign policy.



From A Conversation with Gene Rossides Oct. 2013
<https://youtu.be/xifKorhMfY>

I am pleased as both a Brother AHEPAN and personally that Gene Rossides was the first recipient of the Stamos Family Lifetime Achievement Award at the New Orleans Convention in 2014, actually created in his honor to champion an Athletic Hall of Famer who after his sports exploits had ended, has accomplished worthy achievements in his life. Most certainly, Gene was an appropriate selectee for the Lifetime Achievement Award, as its first recipient.



c/o Columbia Athletics

Ironically, and sadly, we recently selected his daughter, Eleni, accomplished and esteemed in her own right, as a member of our Hall of Fame, and I was so looking forward and would have proudly trumpeted the fact that they were the first father/daughter combination selected to the Athletic Hall of Fame. When Eleni informed me of her dad's passing and thanked us for her inclusion in the Hall, she kindly noted that she had told her father of her selection to our Athletic Hall of Fame, prior to his passing, and he was immensely pleased. May his memory be eternal.



Asst. Sec. of Treasury Rossides with President Nixon, Oct. 1969

Gregory Stamos, Chapter 98

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AHEPA SERVICE DOGS FOR WARRIORS

The program raises much needed funds to purchase service dogs for wounded warriors suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD. 22 veterans die every day from suicide as a result of PTSD. This valuable AHEPA program has already purchased 42 service dogs!

Districts 12 and 21 funded dogs, and District 4 has funded two! The combined AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope of Districts 8 and 16 have funded dogs, as have the Sons of Pericles Supreme Lodge and the National AHEPA Housing.

Please contact Greg Simones or Donna Rados if you are interested in helping District 7 fund a **Service Dog for Warriors** today!

Memory Eternal

My Brother and friend, what fun we have had in the times we shared. Brothers 'til the end.



Past Supreme President James S. Scofield Mourned *from Ahepa.org*

The members of the AHEPA mourn the passing of Past Supreme President James S. Scofield, announced Supreme President George G. Horiates. Brother Scofield passed away May 22, 2020. He was 91. "We mourn the great loss of Past Supreme President James Scofield," Supreme President Horiates said. "Words cannot adequately describe the wealth of knowledge Brother Scofield possessed about the Greek American community and Hellenic history."

Brother Scofield, a Life Member of the chapter that bears his name, James S. Scofield Chapter 15, St. Petersburg, Fla., served as Supreme President in 1990-91. During his term, AHEPA received special recognition from the U.S. Department of Interior for raising more than \$600,000 for the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Brother Scofield participated on a six-man AHEPA delegation that visited Cyprus in October 1974 on a "fact-finding Mission of Mercy" following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. The delegation brought 10,000 pounds of relief supplies that included clothes, canned food, and blankets for the Cypriot people. They also visited several refugee camps to speak with the refugees and met with U.S., Greek, and Cypriot officials. Brother Scofield was a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Past Supreme Governor Michael Firilas will be Deeply Missed

AHEPA deeply mourns the passing of Past Supreme Governor Michael Firilas, who died June 28, 2020. He was 88. Brother Michael Firilas was a 56-year Life Member of James Scofield Chapter 15, St. Petersburg, FL, and previously, Gust C. Kraras Chapter No. 61, Reading, Pa. "We are grateful for Brother Michael's service to his country and to our Order," Supreme President George G. Horiates said. "He will be remembered as a dedicated and upstanding Ahepan. Our deepest sympathies are with the Firilas family. May his memory be eternal." Brother Firilas is survived by wife Kula; children Mary and Anthony; two grandchildren; and four siblings.



Constantine George (Gus) Christy, age 92, of West Hartford, CT passed away on May 26, 2020.

He is survived by his daughter-in-law Theresa Christy, grandson Robert Levine and his wife Diana Krevor, and his special two great-grandchildren Daniella and Nathan Levine. He was predeceased by his wife Catherine Christy and his children Diane Christy and Steven Christy.

Constantine was born May 29, 1927 in Everett, MA. He was educated in the Everett School System, graduating high school and immediately entering the US Navy, serving as Seaman First Cass. After his honorable discharge he attended the State Teachers College at Fitchburg, graduating in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. He continued his education at the UConn, receiving a Master of Arts in 1956. He taught 6th grade for 30 years at Whiting Lane School and was beloved and honored by many students and parents who recognized and appreciated his skill and dedication to his vocation. Gus Christy embodied the spirit of "no child left behind" long before those words became part of our vernacular. After retiring Gus, a talented draftsman who spent summers working at a building engineering firm, started working full time for Bemis Associates, LLC, and continued working there until he retired in his late seventies to stay home and care for his infirm wife. Gus had a beautiful singing voice and was a joyful participant in many Gilbert and Sullivan productions as a young man. He was a choir member at the Boston Greek Orthodox Cathedral, and in 1947 he met a fellow choir member, Catherine Salemis, and the two were married one year later. They were blessed to have many years of married life and celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary together on Dec. 26, 2018. Following their wedding, they lived in Fitchburg, MA for three years and in 1951 moved to West Hartford, CT where they became the proud parents of their two wonderful children Diane and Steven.

In the years since, Gus has been an involved member of the West Hartford community and most notably an honored parishioner of St. George Greek Orthodox Church where he taught religious classes, was Recording Secretary of the Nathan Hale Order of Ahepa, was named Father of the Year in 2003, and was a proud member of the St. George Seniors.

Gus has and always will be known as a gentleman – he was a friend who was always there for anyone who needed him. He was a loyal, loving, and devoted husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, and great-grandfather. The family would like to especially thank the wonderful caregivers at The Holiday Retirement Community in West Hartford, the loving members of St. George's and the gracious Whiting Lane neighbors who were so caring to their friend in his last years. We appreciate your devotion to Gus. God bless you all.


Emmanuel Mihailides, 88, of Cranston, Rhode Island died on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital in North Providence. He was the loving husband of Bessie (Vardakis) Mihailides of Cranston. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Rev. Peter G. and Presbyteria Calliope (Lytrtis) Mihailides. Emmanuel proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps as a First Lieutenant during the Korean War. He went on to work as the Sales Development Manager for Kraft Foods for twenty-two years until his retirement in 1999. He was awarded the Career Achievement Award by Kraft Foods.




Emmanuel was a faithful and active parishioner of the Church of the Annunciation in Cranston where he served as Choir Director and Organist for sixty-seven years until his retirement in 2012. He also served as Music Director Emeritus and was the Toastmaster for many church and civic activities. He was the President of the International Institute and of The Metropolis of Boston Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. He was honored by the Ecumenical Patriarch as an Archon of the Greek Orthodox Church; the highest honor awarded to members of the laity.

In addition to his work for Kraft Foods and his dedication to his parish, he was a past president of AHEPA and was a long-time member of Sophocles chapter 106 in Providence. He was also a past president and member of golf club associations around New England including parts of RI, CT, and Cape Cod.

In addition to his wife, Emmanuel is survived by his beloved sons, Paul P. Mihailides and his wife Maureen of North Kingstown, David G. Mihailides and his wife Lori of Foster, Chris S. Mihailides of Voluntown, CT, a brother, George P. Mihailides and his wife Olga, and a sister, Helen Pappas, wife of the late Ernest Pappas, of Providence. He is also survived by many loving grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



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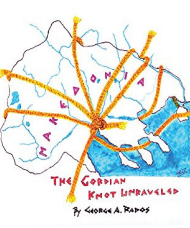
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Past Grand President
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**The Maids of Athena
Celebrates Their 90th Anniversary**

Congratulations to the Maids of Athena as the organization celebrated its 90th anniversary on July 5! In 1930, Supreme Governor Thomas D. Lentgis founded the junior women's Order in Tacoma, Washington, with 12 founding members who formed sparta Chapter 1. Chapters spread throughout the Pacific Northwest and by 1937 there were 20 chapters chartered and membership totaled 444.

The Maids of Athena plans to celebrate the milestone anniversary as best as possible during the upcoming year.

To learn more about the Maids of Athena and how it empowers young women to lead, serve, and advance Hellenic ideals, please visit

www.maidsofathena.org.



The Invasion and Occupation of Cyprus, July 1974

Submitted by Yiannis Apostolakis, Hellenic Affairs Co-Chair District 7

This past July marks over 46 years of the illegal invasion and occupation of the Republic of Cyprus by the Republic of Turkey, a NATO-member country. This was, and remains to this very day, an intolerable act; one that is a gross violation of the rule of law, human rights, and democratic ideals. We pause to remember the innocent civilians who lost their lives and the individuals who went missing. The illegal invasion and occupation caused the displacement of 170,000 Greek Cypriot refugees who to this day are unable to return to their homes which is also a violation of human rights as determined by the European Commission on Human Rights. Moreover, Turkey's restrictions upon religious freedom and destruction of Cyprus' cultural and religious heritage in Turkish-occupied Cyprus have been well-documented by the U.S. Helsinki Commission, the Law Library of Congress, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and several media publications. Today, over 45,000 Turkish troops and thousands of fanatic Islamic nationalistic Turkey residents implanted on the island of Cyprus from mainland Turkey occupy the Northern part of Cyprus with plans to colonize the island.

To this day ...

- No great nation of this world has decisively denounced the Turkish invasion in Cyprus
- Many unanswered questions about the Greek Cypriot prisoners of war who "disappeared" and no one knows what happened to them
- No trial for the atrocities committed by the Turkish invading forces against prisoners of war as well as against civilians (men, women and children of all ages) has taken place
- No price was paid by Turkey for the crimes it committed

Let us pray and never forget ...

- The Greek and Cypriot defenders who made the ultimate sacrifice
- The families, who were brutally murdered by Turkish invaders
- The prisoners of war who never came home to their families
- Those who were forced out of their own homes and villages
- The people of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, who lost their independence

**YANKEE DISTRICT 7 CONVENTION
Saturday, September 19, 2020
AGENDA**

- 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM: **REGISTRATION**
 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: **BREAKFAST**
 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM: **GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS**
 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM: **COMBINED MEETING of AHEPA Family (as needed)**
 Invocation, Prayer, Pledge, Anthems, Introductions & Remarks, Announcements
 Project Summaries (Education, Hellenic History Tournament, Website, YN)
 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM: **YANKEE DISTRICT 7 MEETINGS (AHEPA, DOP)**
1. Selection of Convention Chairman, Vice Chair, and Convention Secretary
 2. Reading/Accepting of Minutes
 3. Supreme Officer Report(s)
 4. District Officer Reports
 - A. Treasurer's Report (John Melonopoulos)
 - B. Secretary's Report (Greg Simones, PDG)
 - C. Lt. Governor's Report (Demetrius Tasoulas)
 - D. District Governor's Report (John Melonopoulos)
 5. Convention Committee Reports and Recommendations
 - A. Grievance (Delegate Seating)
 - B. Finance and Budget Committee / Fundraising (John Melonopoulos)
 - C. Membership (Demetrius Tasoulas)
 - D. Legislation
 Convention City Fee: *Should apply to chapters except NERC years*
 Greg Stamos Proposal: *Funding of a sport scholarship thru Foundation*
 - E. Hellenic Affairs (George Rados, Ioannis Apostolakis)
 - F. Scholarship Foundation and Education (John Grossomanides, Manny Cosmas)
 - G. Hellenic History Tournament (Nick Nikas): *Cancelled 2020 and plans for 2021*
 - H. Yankee News (Jack Isaac, John Melonopoulos)
 - I. PDG Advisory Council (PAC) (Greg Simones)
 - J. AHEPA Housing
 - K. Sons of Pericles: *New Haven chapter started*
 - L. Convention City 2021: *Future Conferences and Convention Locations*
 - M. Chapter and Lodge Officer Succession Planning
6. Chapter Reports/Additional Discussions
 7. For the Good of the Order
 8. Election of New District Lodge Officers (Nominations for all offices)
 9. Swearing in of New Lodge Officers (Except District Governor)
- 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM: **LUNCHEON** - Blessing, Speakers
 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM: **DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION Meeting**
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM: **D7 UNFINISHED BUSINESS** (if needed)
 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: **Post-Meeting SOCIAL**
 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM: **COCKTAIL PARTY/AWARDS**
 Blessing, Speakers, Yankee News and District Awards,
 Swearing in of District Governors,
LODGE PHOTOS

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**Daughters of Penelope
Yankee District
Lodge #7**

District Governor - Marianne Boutsoulis

Lt. Governor - vacant

Secretary - Donna Rados, PDG

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Waterbury AHEPA Chapter 48 and Daughters of Penelope

Chapter 199 2020 Scholarships

Submitted by Alex Boutsoulis

Standing: Alexander Tzepos, Zachariah Tzepos, Andrew Minchella, Gabriella Gagas, Zoe Olbrys, Alexandra Koulouris, Micaela Gagas, Father Niko Mataragas, George Kotsaftis, Stefanos Bilis, Matthew Bouzakis, Niko Bouzakis, and Constantine Bouzakis
Seated: Claudia DeMatteis, Aniela Olbrys, Christianna Tzepos, Christina Constantinou, Victoria Gagas, and Marina Setaro

Here are the Hartford Chapter 58 Scholarship Winners

Submitted by Andrew Walsh

We had many well qualified applicants this year. The scholarships, totaling \$6,500, were awarded on St. George Scholarship Sunday on June 21.

High School Graduates:

- George Constantine Andrews**, Conard High School, University of Connecticut, Business
- Alyssa Anne Fluet**, Glastonbury High School, University of Alabama, Business/Marketing
- Hayden Christopher Laske**, Wethersfield High School, Endicott College, Exercise Science
- Steven George Vournazos**, Newtown High School, University of Pennsylvania, Electrical Engineering

College Students:

- Claudia Maria Dijmarescu**, University of Connecticut, Engineering
- Zachary Falvey**, University of Massachusetts, Public Relations
- Evgenia Christina Papageorge**, University of Hartford, Marketing
- Vasoula Eirene Papageorge**, Hofstra University, Accounting
- George Zugravu**, University of Connecticut, Management information Systems and Pre-Medicine



I'm so proud of this Chapter 98 Ahepan

Submitted by George J. Scarveles

My grandson David Patrick graduated Summa Com Laude with a 3.95 GPA. He is going to UCONN School of Medicine, Farmington Campus. He received several awards and was captain of the Lacrosse team at UNH all while working nights in the Saint Mary Waterbury emergency room. Patrick was active in the University community throughout his time as a Charger, vice president and safety officer for the men's lacrosse club, sergeant at arms for the Emergency Medical Services Club, and student ambassador for the School of Health Sciences.



The is the first pre-medical studies designation student at the University of New Haven to get into medical school and a first-generation student. A founding member of the University's Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) chapter, he served as the chapter's president. He also served as vice president of post-secondary and alumni affairs for the state's HOSA chapter. A health sciences and biology double major, Patrick will take the next step toward his goal of becoming a healthcare professional when he begins his studies this fall. Interested in emergency room medicine and orthopedic surgery, he is open to learning as much as he can about different areas of medicine before deciding on his career path.

Waterbury 199 AHEPA Family Additions

Submitted by Alex Boutsoulis

James David Harlamon born to George and Jessica Harlamon on March 13. First grandchild of AHEPA Brother James "Jay" Harlamon. First great-grandchild of Angeliki Tziavas and Katherine Harlamon (pictured left).

Gabriel Luis born to Mario and Matoula Luis (pictured right) on May 30. First grandchild of Michael and Despina Tsetsos. Matoula and Despina are both members of Daughters of Penelope Waterbury Chapter 199.



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The AHEPA Stamford Chapter 99 salutes the

**Yankee News editorial team
for their dedication,
hard work and good taste.**

Chapter 98 News Submitted by E. Vagos Hadjimichael, PhD

Chapter 98 held its last public event in this fateful year, 2020, on Tuesday, March 10. That was a trifecta of joyous activity on the same evening, namely, the initiation ceremony for five new AHEPA brothers, the recognition and honoring of two New Life members of the Chapter, and the awards to the winners of the first annual Chapter 98 Essay Competition.

Soon after that day, the COVID-19 curtain fell and physically isolated us from our extended family and friends; the tempo and quality of life have diminished for all of us. But not for long. We would need to draw upon our energy reserves and imagination to navigate through this challenging time. As Ahepans, we must hold fast to our principles and Hellenic values, must act to relieve suffering due to the pandemic, and attend to the needs of our AHEPA fellowship with compassion and generosity.

The monthly meetings of the Chapter have continued without interruption via the Zoom platform. The Board of Governors has also met once in the spring to review ways and tools the Chapter might employ to maintain its momentum.

Relief Fund - Importantly, in April, the Chapter established a COVID-19 Relief Fund supported by contributions from the Chapter membership. The purpose of the Fund is to assist with the needs of individuals and of philanthropic organizations in the fulfillment of their social responsibilities.

We have donated to our church of Saint Barbara, Columbus House in New Haven, and the National AHEPA Relief Fund. This effort is ongoing, and will continue as long as there are needs to be fulfilled, within the Chapter's capacity.

College Scholarships - In June, Chapter 98 awarded college scholarships to entering and continuing University students, as is its long-term annual tradition. The 2020 recipients are George Antonellis (Mechanical Engineering, CCSU), Paul DeBassio (Biology/Premed, RPI), Peter Debassio (Biology, U. of St Joseph), Ephemina Nicolakis (Communications & Design, Quinnipiac U.), and Katerina Spanolios (Communications, Marist College). In addition, the Chapter has contributed once again to the St. Barbara Scholarship fund.

The District 7 college scholarships have also been announced and include three students with Chapter 98 connections, namely, Michael Antonellis (Grad Degree, Physicians. Asst., Thomas Jefferson U.), George Antonellis and Katerina Spanolios.

The Veterans in Harkness House - The Chapter continues with its commitment to the welfare of homeless veterans housed in the Harkness House in New Haven, which is under the authority of Columbus House. The Chapter's Veterans Committee (George Scarveles, Chris Hadjimichael, Manny Cosmas) coordinates the bimonthly delivery of household goods to Harkness House. This schedule has been slightly perturbed this year because of the pandemic; deliveries were made in January, in May, and in July, and were further supplemented with monetary donations. The Veterans project is expected to be continued in the foreseeable future.

Chapter 98 Leadership - At the June meeting of the Chapter, by unanimous vote, the current slate of officers was approved to continue in 2020-2021. The current leadership consists of E. Vagos Hadjimichael (P), George Scarveles (VP), Jim Benas (S), George Antonellis (T), Gregory Stamos (Corresponding). The Chapter's Board of Governors includes Brothers James Bitzonis, Ilias Diamantis and Eugene Esares, in addition to brothers Vagos Hadjimichael, George Scarveles and Gregory Stamos.

Going Forward - To the extent possible under the present precarious conditions, Chapter 98 will continue with its outreach and fellowship activities in the second part of 2020. At this point, the Chapter hopes to be able to hold its third annual Golf Tournament this year, on September 11, 2020, in the Orange Hills Country Club in Orange, CT. Proceeds from this event support education activities, including the college scholarship program. Should COVID-19 remain a threat to public health in September however, the event will be postponed to May 2021.

Regrettably, the eleventh annual Hellenic History Tournament, which was to be hosted by Chapter 98, as in the past, on November 14, 2020, has definitely been postponed to May 2021. However, the annual Chapter 98 Essay Competition will be held canonically this year. The starting date for submissions and the Essay topics for this year will be announced in September 2020.

New Haven Chapter of Sons of Pericles

By the initiative of a group of young men with connections to Chapter 98, the ground work has been completed for the founding of a chapter of Sons of Pericles. Members of the founding group have been involved with the Hellenic History Tournament for several years, and with the Chapter 98 Essay Contest this year, and establishing a SOP Chapter under the mentorship of Chapter 98 seemed a natural extension of their current connections to AHEPA. The group has applied for a Charter, held elections for officers, authored a Statement of Purpose for its members, has selected the name "Constantinople" for the Chapter, and is planning its fund-raising activities. We are all thrilled with the prospect of the new SOP in our midst and will, of course, provide guidance and support as needed during the initial steps of the Chapter. The Chapter's Statement of Purpose is as follows:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF THE NEW HAVEN CHAPTER OF SONS OF PERICLES

This Chapter will be dedicated to three causes: Defense and Promotion of Hellenism and Orthodoxy, Service to others, and forming a Fraternal Brotherhood among its members. We will spread Hellenic values by acting on the culture of our ancestors and the faith of our forefathers. In order to help others, we will undertake service projects with the intention of improving the world and supporting our communities. To build connections with one another, we will organize social events that enable our members to interact with each other. By doing this, our members will create lifelong bonds. Furthermore, the Sons of Pericles Chapter will do its work with six values in mind: truth, reason, excellence, philanthropy, free mind, and joy of life. We will also strive to be an organization devoted to learning. Through these values, and the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom, the Sons of Pericles can achieve the principles of Hellenism, Service, and Brotherhood.

Signed 6/26/2020,

Andreas Lolis, President Theodore Maniatis, Vice President George Antonellis Jr., Treasurer Giovanni Panagiotakis, Secretary
Luke Berner, Kyle Magri, Emmanuel Mastromanolis, and Robert Andreas Wagner


From Columbus House to Chapter 98:
Submitted by George J. Scarveles
"You are vital to the operations of Columbus House, and we are so grateful for your ongoing partnership. As we continue to navigate through this pandemic, your thoughtfulness and generosity ensures those experiencing homelessness are staying safe and healthy. Your contributions...help protect our neighbors and provide basic needs that are essential for survival. You are integral to our work. On behalf of all our neighbors that we serve, thank you for your enduring support."



Harkness House for Homeless Veterans

"Thank you to AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope for supporting, encouraging and inspiring the Youth of our Community."
~
Angie and Ted Augustinos

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Farewell and Best Wishes to Kathy Bemont

We wish Kathy Bemont, Service Coordinator, AHEPA 110 I & II, Norwich, Connecticut, a very happy retirement! Kathy is seen receiving a retirement gift from PSP Dr. John Grossomanides on July 2nd. Kathy has been the Service Coordinator for Buildings 1 and 2 in Norwich for over 16 years. She was presented a clock with a plaque on it from the Norwich AHEPA 110 Housing Corporation during a gathering on her last day. Also present were board members John Louziotis and Tony Petros, and Managers Miranda Poore and Michelle Hopkins. Kathy has been a valuable member of the Service Coordination team. She always shared a wealth of information, an encouraging word, a caring spirit, and a wonderful sense of humor. **We will miss Kathy!**

Norwich AHEPA 110 News Submitted by George Grossomanides

On May 22, AHEPA 110 Foundation President George Grossomanides presented Ilias Tomazos, UConn Paideia Director a \$1,000 grant. It will be used for the new Spartan Museum which is now being constructed. It is located next to the Greek Amphitheater which is the only one of its kind in the USA.

On June 9, AHEPA Norwich 110 Foundation President George Grossomanides presented Kathleen Stauffer, CEO of the ARC of Eastern CT, a \$1,000 grant. This organization serves the intellectually and developmentally disabled in Eastern CT. They have 200 clients in 20 group homes. They also run day programs in Eastern Connecticut.



PDG Tony Petros from Norwich AHEPA 110 received the Hometown Hero award from the 2020 Norwich Rose Arts Festival Committee. Tony, a life long resident and life member, is Vice President of the chapter. He was instrumental in the Chapter's Senior Housing projects for 3 buildings and 138 low income Senior apartments. He is also the author of the book "A Story that Should be Told", about Greek veterans of Norwich from the Civil War to WWII. He is a National Guard vet and very patriotic. He and his wife Heidi recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Pictured is Tony (on the right) being presented the award by Chapter President George Grossomanides on July 8 on behalf of the Rose Arts Festival committee.

New Britain 117 Donates to the Music School of Giannitsia

Submitted by Andrew Aros

Chapter 117 New Britain has five sister cities, as designated by Sister Cities International. Part of the goal is that the sister cities visit each other to better understand their respective cultures and create relationships. One of the sister cities is Giannitsia, Greece. Giannitsia is located in Central Macedonia.

District 7 Hellenic Affairs Chairman, PDG George Rados, is a member of New Britain's Sister City Committee, and has made several trips to the city of Giannitsia. While in the city, he visited the Music School of Giannitsia. He quickly realized the school was in great need of financial support. The building was in need of repair, some of the administrative equipment needed to be replaced, and the students' musical instruments were in equally poor condition.

After returning to Connecticut, Brother Rados began a vigorous fund-raising campaign. This included a 50/50 raffle and solicitation of funds from his brother AHEPANS of the New Britain Chapter. He was able to raise \$1,000 for the school. Meanwhile Brother Aristotelis Nasiakos and some fellow restaurateurs raised an additional \$ 200.00 on behalf of the students.

The money from New Britain AHEPA's annual fundraiser on behalf of a non-profit organization in Greece is usually delivered to the organization by a member of the chapter. The Covid-19 pandemic made this year's trip impossible. Therefore, the money was sent to Eleni Pismisi, Head Mistress of the Music School of Giannitsia.



ATTENTION VETERANS/AND OR FAMILIES OF VETERANS

Most AHEPAN Veterans and their families can request free Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF & DD-214) of their loved ones. It's a good way to honor your family member. Any member/person who served in the US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, Reserves or National Guard can request service records. With this information you can share the members' life in the military with family and also honor them with an article in the AHEPA – YANKEE NEWS! A form can be requested from:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>.

After the form is completed you can email or mail it to:

National Archives and Records Center
1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138-1002

If I can be of help feel free to

email: john.melonopoulos@comcast.net or call 860-938-6262.



AHEPA DISTRICT SEVEN LODGE

The 2019 - 2020 Yankee District 7 Lodge is working for you! Please support the Lodge by providing Chapter information & events!

- John Melonopoulos – Governor
- Demetrius E. Tasoulas – Lt. Governor
- Gregory C. Simones, PDG – Secretary, Advisor
- John Melonopoulos – Acting Treasurer
- Jack Isaac – Marshall, Region 4 Supreme Governor
- Andrew Aros, Warden
- Greg Stamos, PSC – Athletic Co-Advisor
- Alex Boutsioulis, PDG – Athletic Co-Advisor
- Emanuel Cosmas – Education Chair

Pawtucket, RI Chapter 121 - AHEPA Cares!

Submitted by Yiannis Apostolakis, Chapter President

In these times of great need, uncertainty, and of many challenges ahead our AHEPA 121, Pawtucket Chapter takes the initiative to help and give hope. We are part of the fabric of this land and we will join the effort against the pandemic to bring hope to those who need it most. We have started a fundraising campaign to support two very heartwarming causes, to provide funds to two very worthy causes! We will use the donations:

To Support Covid-19 Research and Treatment!

Dr. Thomas Walsh, a very active AHEPAN with Chapter 121, devout parishioner at the Assumption Church, and his staff at Weill Cornell Medicine/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital are concentrating intense efforts 24/7 on the frontlines of the New York epicenter in caring for critically ill COVID-19 patients and focusing their research efforts on finding successful, life-saving treatments for this devastating pandemic disease. Dr. Walsh and his staff are participating in studies regarding COVID-19 treatment, either by direct research or participating in drug trials.



Dr. Thomas Walsh

Dr. Walsh, a passionate Philhellene, is also a Visiting Professor at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School and also volunteers at "Elpida" hospital in Athens (the Greek equivalent of St. Jude), "Laikon" hospital in Athens and "Hippokraton" hospital in Thessaloniki. In recognition of all that he has done, Dr. Walsh is the recipient of two honorary Doctorates from Greece: one from Aristoteleion University in Thessaloniki and one from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School. Funds to Dr Walsh for his research will be given through his supporting charitable organization, **soskidsfoundation**.

To Support Our Neighbors in Need!

The pandemic we are going through has made marks on our lives, not only from related medical needs but also through extreme financial needs. People are losing jobs and food kitchens cannot meet demand. We have decided to also support our own



Pawtucket Soup Kitchen, right here at Pawtucket Chapter! The Pawtucket Soup Kitchen is a non-profit organization serving the homeless and low-income population. The Pawtucket Soup Kitchen is housed in the basement of St. Joseph's Church, with entrance in the rear of the Church, near the parking lot. The Soup Kitchen serves breakfast and supper five days a week, as well as brunch on Saturday.

Gregory C. Simones
Past District Governor
 challenges all brothers
 to continue the
 good works of AHEPA

Chapter 250 News Submitted by Tony Vallombroso

On July 20, Chapter 250 conducted an installation ceremony for our new President Adam Rand, Vice-President Rick SeMon and Treasurer Ted James along with veteran Secretary John Fakis and Corresponding Secretary Joe Josephides. President Adam Rand received the gavel from outgoing President Tony Vallombroso and Treasurer Ted James accepted the financial responsibilities from outgoing Treas. Walter J. Barry. VP Rick SeMon, who was not able to attend the event, will be installed at a later date. The ceremony was presided over by D7 Lt. Governor Demetrius Tasoulas and D7 Secretary (PDG) Greg Simones. This was the first 'masked' ceremony conducted also utilizing the advantage of 'Zoom' to allow members to observe from the safety of their homes.



Pictured is newly installed President Adam Rand receiving a bit of family history while being pinned by his Papou Terry Mitchell with newly installed Ted James observing.

Adam is a fourth generation Ahepan and was honored to be pinned by his Papou Terry Mitchell - a past Chapter President, PDG for District 7 and Supreme Secretary.



D7 Lt. Gov. Demetrius Tasoulas, PDG, PSS and PCP Terry Mitchell, Adam Rand, John Fakis, Ted James, Joe Josephides and D7 Secretary (PDG) Greg Simones.

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The Waterbury AHEPA Family Respects the Life and Legacy of Louie Lintgeris

Submitted by Alex Boutsoulis

Leonidas "Louie" Lintgeris was born on July 22, 1922 in New York City, son of the late Nikolaos and Marigoula Lintgeris. Louie, raised in Greece, came to the United States at the age of 16. He joined the US Army and proudly served his country during WWII. Louie and his wife Sophie came to Waterbury, CT where they owned and operated many restaurants – Oscar’s Luncheonette, Brophy’s Coffee Bar and the Metro Restaurant & Deli. He later spent twenty years at Spartan’s Restaurant, making everyone’s favorite soup before retiring at age of 85. Louie and Sophie were both very active volunteers of Waterbury’s Holy Trinity Church, AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope chapters for many years. Louie, as Sick Committee Chairman for AHEPA Chapter 48 for over 25 years, always contacted or visited fellow AHEPA family members after illness, usually with a fruit basket. Louie was a 53 year Life member of AHEPA when he passed away on May 17, 2012.

Louie is survived by his two daughters, Margo Ricciardi and her husband George of Waterbury, Georgia Lacman and her husband Steve of Naugatuck, 9 grandchildren and their spouses: George (Audra) Ricciardi, Nicholas Ricciardi, Sofia (Keith) Swaby, Larissa (Chris) Litke, Louis Lacman, Billy (Cassandra) Lintgeris, Alexis (EJ) Porto, Nicole (Manny) Arruda and Kristina Lintgeris and 12 great-grandchildren: Aleece, Niccola, Grace, Keith, Evan, Ryan, Christian, Cayden, Nikolas, Isabella, Giovanni and Isabel. Louie was predeceased by his wife Sophie and son Nicholas Lintgeris.

Louie and Sophie’s legacy with the Waterbury AHEPA & DOP continues strongly today as their two daughters, Margo Ricciardi and Georgia Lacman, one granddaughter, Sofia Swaby, two grandsons George and Nicholas Ricciardi and one grandson in-law, Keith Swaby are currently members of the Waterbury DOP and AHEPA chapters. In fact, Sofia Swaby was recently the Waterbury DOP Chapter 199 president while her mother Margo Ricciardi, who is currently the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (Waterbury) Parish Council President, received the District 7 Penelope of the Year award in 2019.




Eptahorian Saint George Society
Founded in Nashua, NH in 1903
Since its inception, June 3, 1924, Greek-Americans from Eptahori, Greece have taken an active role in AHEPA Chapter 48 of Waterbury, Connecticut. Currently, over forty Eptahorians are also involved fraternally in the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope.



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Lost AHEPA History – The Star of AHEPA

Adapted from Tony Petros, PDG (AHEPA 110, Norwich, CT) by Greg Simones, PDG (AHEPA 250, New London, CT)


On April 1, 1947, an AHEPA delegation departed from Logan International Airport in Boston, MA on the first airborne excursion to post WWII ravaged Greece. The reported 23 to 25 (different sources have different numbers) members of the AHEPA Family were gathered around the Trans World Airlines (TWA) Constellation 4-engine plane, as Father Jacob Coucouzis (Later to become Archbishop Iakovos) formally christened this new plane with the name - "Star of AHEPA". Shortly after the ceremony, the AHEPA delegation, headed by then Supreme President - Harris Booras, embarked for Athens. The plane stopped briefly at Newfoundland, Ireland, Paris and Rome before reaching Greece. The trip took 30 hours in total. They were on a journey to Greece to bring two-million dollars, raised by AHEPA in the United States, to build two new wings for Evangelismos Hospital in Athens and the AHEPA Hospital in Thessaloniki, Greece. They also were there to dedicate the cornerstones for both hospitals.

The next day, April 2nd, they arrived at Athens Airport to learn that the then King of Greece - King George II had died while they were traveling. Members of the delegation attended the funeral. The Ahepans also attended the coronation of the new King Paul during their visit. While in Athens and Thessaloniki, the AHEPA delegation was welcomed by officials in both cities with banquets and numerous other functions.

We found it strange that an AHEPA event this historically significant wasn’t recorded in much detail that could be easily accessed. At present, we were able to recover 13 names of people who traveled on that historic flight. There are still a few leads to be tracked down such as getting a response from the TWA museum for a flight manifest (if it exists) and knowing some of the home cities of the remaining unidentified delegates.

AHEPA, over its 98-year history, has accomplished wonderful things. Some of those accomplishments have happened so long ago that we have lost much of that history. Every so often, we should take a look back and see the amazing things our founding members did, in our early years. Among some of the great accomplishments were the Albuquerque, New Mexico Sanitorium, the WW II U.S. War Bond Drive, the Statue of Liberty Restoration Project, all the buildings at St. Basil's Academy, and many more. It gives us all the more inspiration to continue the good works of AHEPA.

But in rediscovering what our founders did in 1947 with establishing the two hospitals, we again pay tribute to their hard work and vision. In a recent correspondence with a member of the Athens Chapter AHEPA HJ-002, Glyfadas, he summed it up this way: "Both hospitals have helped the people of Greece, for many decades and it was our organization (AHEPA) that made that possible, at a critically important time in Greece's recent history".



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The Next Yankee News Deadline for submissions:
November 8, 2020 to: YankeeD7News@AOL.com
PLEASE send pictures and articles TOGETHER whenever possible, with those in the pictures named in the context of the article or with it.

Upcoming Events: Yankee District 7: 2020 - 2021
9/19/2020: Yankee District 7 Convention, Mystic Hilton, Mystic, CT
10/27/2020: AHEPA Magazine (Winter Issue) Story Deadline
11/8/2020: Yankee News (December Issue) Story Deadline
1/31/2021: Yankee News (February Issue) Story Deadline
2/28/2021: 12th Hellenic History Tournament - Registration Deadline
3/25/2021: Greek Independence Bicentennial: Parade Dates to be determined
4/1/2021: Yankee News (May Issue) Story Deadline
5/15/2021: 12th Yankee District 7 Hellenic History Tournament, New Haven, CT
July 2021: 99th Supreme Convention (Athens, Greece)

AHEPA District 7 Yankee News
Production dates are scheduled in conjunction with Conferences & Conventions.
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