



# Yankee News



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



## September 2021

More Than 287,000 Acres Has Burned in Greece in 2021



The AHEPA has supported training for firefighters in Greece, and has begun an emergency fire relief program. See pg. 3 for more from Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, from AHEPA Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas, and how you can help.



## Welcome & Congratulate your newly elected AHEPA Family Officers!



Supreme President , AHEPA  
**Jimmy Kokotas**  
Grand President, Daughters of Penelope  
**Kathy Bizoukas**  
Supreme President, Sons of Pericles  
**Timothy Noitsis**  
Grand President, Maids of Athena  
**Maria Ana Pantelous**  
—  
AHEPA Supreme Governor, Region 4  
**Dalton Respass**

### District 7 AHEPA

Governor, Demetrius E. Tasoulas  
Lt. Governor, Evangelos Hadjimichael  
Secretary, John Fakis  
Treasurer, Alex Boutsoulis  
Warden, Jack Isaac  
Marshal, Andrew Aros

District 7 Daughters of Penelope  
Governor, Marianne Boutsoulis  
Lt. Governor Elisa Marotta  
Treasurer, Penny Pecka  
Advisor, Anna-Helene Grossomanides

## YANKEE DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE

**October 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Hosted by Winthrop Chapter, AHEPA 250  
AHEPA Senior Housing, Building #4, 263 Roxbury Rd, Niantic, CT





### A MESSAGE FROM THE D7 AHEPA GOVERNOR

Dear Brother Ahepans and Sons of Pericles,

The successful 99th Supreme Convention in late July invited us to welcome the new Supreme Lodge with James Kokotas as the new Supreme President. I would like to thank PSP George Horiates, for the dynamic leadership of AHEPA and his advocacy for human rights. We appreciate the ongoing diligence of Executive Director Basil Mossaidis, at World Headquarters, as his work is pivotal to the success of the many AHEPA programs.

As the Summer ebbs with muted activities, we hope for increased in-person chapter meetings and programs in the near future to enhance our mission of improving the human condition. We continue to pray and battle the COVID-19 pandemic head-on. It is also our duty to encourage fellow Ahepans and friends to do their part in the same challenge by promoting continued mask usage and vaccination.

I would like to thank all in district 7 who strive to keep their chapters active with creative meetings and events. Let us know of your events and plans by posting to the new website at [Ahepadistrict7.org](http://Ahepadistrict7.org) (you will be directed to the same website by entering [Ahepad7.org](http://Ahepad7.org)). There you can read about upcoming events, including the Fall D7 Conference and the Hellenic History Tournament.

You can do your part to enhance AHEPA by encouraging paid membership in your chapter. I thank chapters for their initiations and reinstatements this year, as AHEPA approaches a century of philanthropy.

Yours in Fraternity,  
Demetrius E. Tasoulas



### A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Sisters,

Thank you for putting your trust in me, and allowing me to serve as your Governor. I would like to thank the outgoing Lodge members, Karen Isaac, PDG (District Advisor) and Donna Rados, PDG (Lt. Governor) for their help and advice over the past several years. I welcome our 2021- 2022 Lodge members, Lt. Governor, Elisa Marotta, returning as

Treasurer Penny Pecka, PDG and District Advisor, Anna-Helene Grossomaindes, PGP.

It was wonderful to have an in-person District Convention! I thank all our Sisters who were able to attend. At the District Convention we awarded Sister Julie Koulouris, President of the Waterbury Chapter with The Estia Award. The Penelope of The Year Award was presented to Sister Maria Tougas, President of The Hartford Chapter. Both recipients are amazing women and very worthy of the respective awards.

On June 13th the District Scholarship Dinner was held at the banquet hall at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. We had nineteen recipients in attendance along with parents and relatives. It was very well attended!

I would like to again congratulate all the scholarship recipients on their well deserved accolades. I also would like to thank all of those you helped setup, serve and cleanup. Your help was invaluable!

For upcoming events we will be having a District Fall Conference. That information will be forthcoming via email soon. I am happy to announce that we will be having a Tri-District Convention with our Brothers and Sisters in Districts 8 and 9 next year. It has been scheduled at the Hyannis Resort and Convention Center for May 13-14-15, 2022.

The AHEPA Family 2022 Supreme Convention is scheduled to be held at the Walt Disney World Resort, July 18-24 at the Coronado Springs Resort. More information on these events will be forthcoming as well.

I am praying that we don't go back to lockdowns and mask mandates again as I would love to start visiting my Sisters at their Chapter meetings and events. If you are comfortable and having an upcoming meeting or event I can attend please let me know.

Until we meet again, stay safe!

With warm regards In Theta Pi,  
Marianne Boutsoulis

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-Demetrius E. Tasoulas-



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**More Than 287,000 Acres Has Burned in Greece in 2021** from *Greek Reporter.com*

The National Observatory of Athens issued a statement in regard to the magnitude of the environmental catastrophe that wildfires have caused in Greece this year. 287,049 acres of land have been burned in Greece in 2021. Due to the destruction that has already been caused in the broader area, an emergency status has been declared for certain regions in five different municipalities of the Peloponnesian peninsula: Gortynia, Megalopolis, Eastern Mani, Oechalia, and Pylos-Nestor. Hundreds of firefighters remain on high alert in the regional unit of Elis (Ilia) where the fires have currently been put out. Also, all firefighters on the island of Evia will remain on high alert as a very high risk of fire is predicted for the island. Additionally, 187 firefighters from Germany will start operating around Ancient Olympia in Elis on Friday to assist their Greek colleagues.



Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis explained that the government's top priority during natural disasters was to protect both human and animal life. "We were able to protect thousands of people but we lost forests and properties. It is important that we did not have casualties in the largest wildfires we have encountered in recent years."

**Kokotas Opens AHEPA Emergency Relief Fund for Greece's Wildfires**

Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas has called on AHEPA members to mobilize and authorized the Emergency Relief Fund to be opened in an effort to provide humanitarian assistance for the victims of Greece's wildfires. You can help by making a tax-deductible donation to the Emergency Relief Fund here: [ahepa.org/donate](https://ahepa.org/donate). "The images and stories coming from Greece are terrifying," Supreme President Kokotas said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have been affected by this tragedy. We are extremely grateful to Greece's first responders and to all nations that have offered support and assistance. We will stand with Greece as we did in 2007, 2018, and during other times of great need." At the Supreme Convention, AHEPA presented a donation of 159,000 Euros, funds raised following Greece's wildfires of 2018, to Evangelismos Hospital for the completion of a burn unit. In 2007, AHEPA transported 270 care packages totaling \$250,000 worth of goods and raised an additional \$250,000 in financial assistance for victims of Greece's wildfires. To donate to the AHEPA Emergency Fund, go to <https://ahepa.org/donate/>.

**EDITOR'S NOTES**



Dear Readers,

I write this as I conclude my five-year tenure as Supreme Governor of Region 4. This has been a remarkable experience for me. I've had the opportunity to work closely with the leadership of our beloved Fraternal Order and have made lasting friendships throughout the Region. I can assure you that Region 4 is in good hands with experienced District Governors and

dedicated chapter officers.

For me, this was the appropriate time to step down so I could devote more time to my other interests. I do thank Bro. Dalton Respass PSG for agreeing to take over the leadership of Region 4. He will bring his experience, and passion for AHEPA to his new role and will perform admirably. Dalton, DG Charlie Kiritsy and I traveled together for the last 5 years within District 8 visiting Chapters and attending various events. We have become "brothers" in the truest meaning of the word. In District 9, Bro's Nick Kallan PDG and DG Rich Rizza gave the district experience and stability and were trusted advisors to me. In District 7, I relied on the wisdom of PDG's John Melonopoulos, Greg Simones, Alex Boutsoulis and DG Demetrius Tasoulas. I was fortunate to have PSP John Grossomanides available for advice and mentoring. Special thanks to PDS Andy Aros for his wisdom, advice, and honesty. We've been a team since my early days in AHEPA and there aren't enough ways to thank him.

Finally, I thank my wife Karen for 5 years of rearranging family obligations, postponing vacations, and traveling with me on those long wintry trips to New Hampshire and Maine. Without her support, these past 5 years would not have happened.

My sincere thanks to all the devoted Brothers in Region Four.

Fraternally yours,  
Jack Isaac, PSG

**YANKEE DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE  
AHEPA Meeting Agenda - October 16, 2021**

**Host Chapter: Winthrop Chapter, AHEPA 250**

**Location: AHEPA Senior Housing, Building #4, 263 Roxbury Rd, Niantic, CT**

- 9:00 – 9:30 AM            REGISTRATION**  
*Registration and Continental Breakfast*
- 9:30 – 10:00 AM        JOINT SESSIONS**  
Joint AHEPA/Daughters of Penelope, (DOP),  
Session Introductions, Greetings,  
Joint AHEPA/DOP Business  
*(HHT, Scholarship, SOP/MOA, D7 Convention, YN, Fundraising, etc.)*
- 10:00 – 11:00 AM        AHEPA GENERAL BUSINESS**  
Minutes  
Hellenism  
Philanthropy  
D7 history storage, Legislation  
Supreme Convention plus Supreme/District Lodge Reports  
*Dalton Respass / Demetrius E. Tasoulas*  
Chapter Announcements/Updates – Chapter Representatives
- 11:00 – 11:50 AM        WORKSHOP #1**  
Convention Location & Details  
Membership  
AHEPA Public Relations  
Fundraising Strategies
- 11:50 AM – 1:00 PM     GROUP PHOTOS**  
*All will stay for Group Photos then break for Lunch*
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM            WORKSHOP #2**  
Review of suggested Chapter Programs  
AHEPA Centennial Fund Commitment s  
*(Greek Independence Day, AHEPA Day)*
- 2:00 PM                    CONFERENCE ENDS**
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM            PDG ADVISORY MEETING**  
Past District Governor's Advisory Council Meeting



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

District Governor - Marianne Boutsoulis

Lt. Governor - Elisa Marotta

Treasurer - Penny Pecka, PDG

Marshal - Stamo Dimitratos

District Advisor - Anna-Helene Grossomanides

District Maids of Athena Advisor - Karen Isaac

Grand Governor, Zone 1 - Gretchen Holtsinger

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### Salute to a Veteran ~ Peter E. Merisotis



Peter E. Merisotis was born in Manchester, NH on November 3, 1922. The son of immigrant parents, Ernest and Athena, Peter grew up in Derry, NH and moved to the Hartford CT. area as a young man. He worked briefly for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft before enlisting in the Air Force during World War II. He was a proud member of the 44th Bomb Squadron of the 8th Air Force stationed in England. He served aboard the B-24 Liberator "Shu Shu Baby" as the radio operator and top gunner. While performing one of their missions over Germany his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and was forced to crash land in Switzerland where Peter was taken prisoner and remained a Swiss Internee for almost a year.

After returning to Connecticut following the war, Peter worked in several jobs, including opening a luncheonette on State Street in Hartford, next to the State Theater, before finding his calling as a salesman. He spent most of his sales career selling baby photography. Peter was a born salesman and enjoyed selling up until his retirement at the age of 72. In 1955, Peter married the love of his life Artemis (Diana). They went on to have four boys, Michael, Christopher, Jamie and Emanuel.

Peter loved his church, St George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, and was a proud member of the St. George choir for over 25 years. He also served on the St. George parish council for many years holding the position of secretary. He was a lifelong member of AHEPA and served as President of the local Nathan Hale Chapter 58. He developed many friendships in the brotherhood and spoke of his involvement with AHEPA as his proudest honor.

Peter was a musician most of his life, playing the mandolin for almost 80 years. He would sing almost continuously to his children and grandchildren. Besides music, Peter's other love was gardening. He loved to spend his spare time in the garden and tending to his many fruit trees. Peter also served on the Democratic Town Committee in Manchester for years. Peter was a proud disabled veteran who in later life enjoyed reunions with his fellow Swiss Internees.

Upon retirement Peter and Diana moved to Palm Bay, Florida until the passing of Diana in 2002, when he moved to Tarpon Springs, FL. Eventually, Peter returned to his church and the community he loved in Hartford. He spent his final years enjoying his children and grandchildren until his passing on March 8th, 2015.



**A Note from the Desk of our New Supreme Governor of AHEPA, Region Four, Dalton Respass**



August 2021

Brothers and Sisters of District Seven,

It is with great pride and honor that I announce my election to the position of Supreme Governor of Region Four.

As I have been told, I have a large pair of shoes to fill and with your support I will endeavor to do my utmost to make you proud of me.

Fraternally,  
Dalton W. Respass  
Supreme Governor  
Region Four

### AHEPA mourns the passing of Past Supreme President Andrew T. Banis

Brother Banis, an AHEPA Life Member of Chapter 171, Oakland, California, passed away peacefully on July 28, 2021.

Andrew was an active member of the Order of AHEPA for sixty years and has served in all offices on the chapter and district level and given the opportunity to serve as Supreme President of Order of AHEPA 2001-2002. He has served with personal and honor to the ORDER. The Hellenic American Professional Society of California presented "The Axion Award" for Andrew's exemplary service to his learned Profession.

During his term as Supreme President (2001-02), AHEPA undertook a fundraising campaign to provide relief in the aftermath of September 11. He also ensured that AHEPA's humanitarian relief was delivered to the people of Greece following the devastating 1999

Athens earthquake. \$53,000 in Scholarships was given. September 11th Relief efforts saw \$110,000 donated to the New York State World Trade Center Relief Fund, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, and the Pentagon Memorial Relief Fund. Athens Earthquake Relief Commitment donated a minivan to transport an EMT crew to the Hellenic Red Cross, an ambulance to Evangelismos Hospital, and \$105,000 to the Municipality of Menidi to rebuild a children's daycare center that was demolished in the earthquake. Received a Greek Independence Day proclamation from Alaska. Introduced the Halki Resolution to the House of Representatives.

"We are deeply saddened by the news of Brother Banis' passing," Supreme President Kokotas said. "We are indebted greatly to his life-long, 66-years of dedicated and selfless service to the Order and the community. Brother Banis will be missed greatly and will be remembered fondly by the Brotherhood, and the entire AHEPA family, for his contributions to the community. Our deepest sympathies are with the Banis family. May his memory be eternal."



**The AHEPA Stamford Chapter 99 salutes the Yankee News editorial team for their dedication, hard work and good taste.**

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***To the outside world, we all grow old. But not to our brothers and sisters. To them we will live eternal.***

**Sperie Peter Perakos and wife Natalie (Nikki) Pappas Perakos** of Orange, CT, inseparable and united for over 60 years, died respectively on April 5th and April 24th 2021. Both passed peacefully with loved ones at their sides.



Sperie was born in New Britain, CT, son of the late Peter G. and Julia Ladany Perakos. He was a graduate of Yale University, Pierson College Class of 1938.

While later attending Harvard Law School, he was required to return to CT to assist in the family's theater business, founded by his father. Sperie enjoyed a long and successful career as President and CEO of

Connecticut Theatre Associates, owning and operating exhibition theatres throughout CT, MA and NJ. Sperie was a U.S. Army Veteran of WWII, serving as a Captain in Intelligence in the 448th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion which participated in the Normandy invasion, specifically at Utah Beach. The 448th subsequently attached to the 35th Infantry Division (part of General Patton's 3rd army). The 35th Division advanced through France with many undertakings including the Battle of the Bulge. Sperie also flew in surveillance planes to assist in mapping areas where troops would be posted. Sperie's work in intelligence involved collaboration with the French Resistance and the French Free Forces. The 35th often assisted local populations and at the end of the war was in Germany for peacekeeping. Sperie received a Bronze Star and other honors for his service in WWII. Given his service for the war effort in France, he was awarded the insignia of Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honor by the Deputy Consul General of France, Damien Laban, in October 2020.

Sperie was proud of his Alma Mater. He was a fellow of Pierson College and active with Yale University throughout his life as member of many boards. Especially worthy of note was his dedication to the Peabody Museum of Natural History; as a president, chairman and member of its Board of Associates for numerous years and as a contributor to their collections. He was also close to the Yale School of Drama often organizing initiatives and visits from leading personalities of the time such as Otto Preminger, Norman Jewison, and others. Sperie remained active as the secretary for his class of 1938.

Sperie was assisted by his wife Nikki in the production of the 1961 film "Antigone", starring Irene Papas and members of the Royal Greek Theatre. The film was acclaimed internationally. Recently, the couple chose the Film Archive of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to be the permanent home for "Antigone".

Sperie and Nikki were devout in their faith and longtime parishioners of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. Nikki was a member of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, a charitable and benevolent association active in a multitude of programs. The couple were both proud of their Greek heritage. Sperie served as a past District Governor and lifetime member of the American Hellenic Progressive Association "AHEPA", an association promoting ancient Hellenic ideals such as education and philanthropy through community service and volunteerism. He was a Mason, and member of the Hiram Masonic Lodge #1 - New Haven. The couple loved life and were inseparable. They brought much love, wisdom and joy to those their lives had touched. They will be missed greatly.

**Retired Appellate Court Judge, the Honorable Socrates H. Mihalakos**, 88, of Vero Beach, FL, formerly of Cheshire and Waterbury, CT, entered into the gates of heaven on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, in the comfort of his Florida home. He was the beloved husband of Joan (Montgomery) Mihalakos.



Socrates was born in Waterbury, CT on June 9, 1933, son of the late Harry and Kalliope (Kachulis) Mihalakos. Growing up in Waterbury, Socrates attended Waterbury public schools and was a graduate of Crosby High School class of 1951.

Afterwards, Socrates received his bachelor's degree from Brown University and went on to serve his country by joining the United States Air Force. During his military career, Socrates received the title of 1st Lieutenant (T) and after honorable discharge, served in the reserves.

Socrates then received his Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut. After practicing as a lawyer in Cheshire, Socrates was appointed a Connecticut Superior Court judge in 1985, and in 2000, while serving as Chief Administrative Judge in Danbury, Socrates was honored to be elevated to Judge of the Appellate Court where he served in Hartford until his full retirement in 2019.

A man of exceptionally strong faith, Socrates loved and served both his church in Connecticut - Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Waterbury, and St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Fort Pierce, FL.

The family of **Aspasia "Esther" Macris Mitchell**, 88, of Niantic, regrets to inform everyone their beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother has lost her life to colon cancer after a three-year battle.



Born in Hartford, to Peter George and Nicholetta Kikopoulos Macris, Aspasia was the matriarch of the Mitchell family, married to her loving husband, E. Peter "Terry" Mitchell for Niantic of sixty-one years. Aspasia was the youngest of three children. Her older brother was Father George Macris, the priest of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church from 1950 – 1956.

In the early 1970s Terry and Esther dedicated themselves to their church and community after the birth of their son. They asked of God for his well-being and pledged to do everything in their ability to help the church thrive. Esther followed her husband into many activities at St. Sophia Hellenic Orthodox Church. She was a 30 year member of St. Sophia's Enosis Philoptochos chapter where she served as an officer. Philoptochos is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. She was named Chapter Philoptochos Woman of the Year in 2004. She also served Philoptochos at the national level as a member of the Executive Board, as Executive Secretary, and as chair of many committees. For her service, she was awarded the silver cross from Archbishop Dimitrios. She also served the Boston Metropolis Philoptochos as a board member and committee chairperson.

Esther was active in many civic activities. She offered 4,000 hours of volunteer service to Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, served as President of the Women's Auxiliary, and as member of the Board of Trustees and Managers of the Lawrence and Memorial Benevolent Society. Esther served on the East Lyme Planning and Development Committee, the State of Connecticut Commission on Aging, and the Permanent Commission on Women.

Esther was active in the Greek American Community, serving as President of the Dione chapter of the Daughters of Penelope for six terms, and as District Governor. She was named Penelopean of the Year both at the chapter and district levels. She was elected to serve as the National Advisor to the Maids of Athena for two terms.

Esther enjoyed many activities with her family. Her love of cooking was shared with her daughters and friends. She loved to spend time in Vermont during the winters skiing and reading voraciously. She also sailed with her family for thirty years on their boat. She travelled widely in the United States and Europe and cherished her visits to family in Greece.

We would like to thank her doctors, Dr. Jason Haldas and Dr. Stephen Lattanzi at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital as well as her nurses Margaret and Cathy at the Smilow Cancer Center. Donations can be made to St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church Foundation Fund, Smilow Cancer Center and Lawrence + Memorial Hospital.

**George Gianakos**, 63, of Waterford, died unexpectedly July 14, 2021, in New York. He was born May 15, 1958, in New London, the son of the late Louis and Chrysula (Giannakakos) Gianakos. He attended local schools in New London and graduated from New London High School, Class of 1976, where he was a standout athlete in football and baseball. He later graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelor's degree in marketing. He was the co-owner of Mr. G's, in New London. He leaves behind many close friends and his employees whom he considered part of the family.



George was a member of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, serving on the board and a member of AHEPA 250. An avid golfer, he was a member at Shennecossett Golf Club. An enthusiastic sports fan, particularly of the Red Sox, he especially loved watching his kids on the athletic field. He was a wonderful father to Michael and Olivia. From Little League to college, whether an AAU game in New York, or a lacrosse game in Florida, he was a fixture at every sporting event for his children. He would even go to Providence, for basketball to watch Mike as a manager on the sidelines. He was the type of dad who would visit his children at school frequently to interact with their friends and meet their families. His life revolved around Michael and Olivia and their interests.

George was larger-than-life, and would immediately endear himself to anyone and everyone he talked to. Everywhere he went, he extended his network of people that could call him their friend. Wherever we went, there was no escaping people that knew him. Once at a coffee shop in San Francisco, the owner recognized him from church. Soon there was an hour into a conversation about New London, in the middle of San Francisco. He loved his dogs dearly. He quickly made friends with the family dog, Jacoby. Right away, they became best buds who would love to share a pizza together. Some of the best times came watching the Red Sox games with Jacoby on the couch hovering, knowing there'd be food to share.





## The 99th Annual AHEPA Convention in Athens, Greece by Atty. Greg Stamos

The 99th Annual AHEPA Convention was a resounding success on many levels, most certainly, the "Parea", after the Covid-Induced hiatus, but also substantively, with the full dynamism and scope of AHEPA revealed to all. Notwithstanding the Greek governmental covid-driven constant

changes to events, AHEPA executed a wonderful gathering, with exceptional attendance, energized forums and significant events. The venues for the "marquis" events were simply spectacular, and ran the gambit of the premier locales, cultural and historic, of Athens: an honoring of the Hellenic National Armed Forces at the National War Museum; a welcome to Greece's Ambassador to the United States and the Greek President; an evening under the stars at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center; a final evening under the lighted Acropolis on the rooftop terrace of the Acropolis Museum, where the Mayor of Athens, amongst others, was honored; and the seminal event, the Grand Banquet, attended by 700 guests, wherein the Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the Cypriot Prime Minister, Nicos Anastasiades, spoke glowingly about the importance of AHEPA as the voice of all Hellenes on important Hellenic and Greek-Cypriot-American geopolitical issues in the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe. The United States Ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt, a true Phil-Hellene, was also present and honored at virtually all of the events.

AHEPA leadership shone brightly: Past Supreme President and President of the Board of Trustees, Nicholas Karacostas, masterfully orchestrated the Grand Banquet; and Supreme President George Horiatis sounded the right notes at every event. In particular, Supreme President Horiatis' rousing remarks on the importance of the Greek-American relationship and our continued interest in the fate of our homeland was strongly sounded, with a resounding theme of "why are we here?", literally celebrating our annual Convention in our homeland, but also symbolically, maintaining a presence and a vested interest in the Hellenic Republic.

The growing influence of the Order of AHEPA in Europe, Greece, Cyprus and throughout Europe was noteworthy, as AHEPAN Brothers from those domains were very prominent, and constantly appreciative to AHEPA for all that it does in advancing Hellenic culture and advocating Greek and Cypriot issues. My impression is that many AHEPA Brothers in the United States fall short of realizing the esteem in which the Order of Ahepa is held in the hearts and minds of the Greek and Cypriot communities, be its' building of hospitals, supporting of various relief efforts, the continued championing of Hellenic issues and the push for resolution of Cyprus reunification. Such esteem and influence was clearly noted in the various remarks throughout the Convention by and amongst others, Prime Ministers Mitsotakis and Anastasiades.

Mid-week I was honored to be the Master of Ceremony at the Athletic Luncheon before a crowd of 400 at the Grand Bretagne Hotel. The sports dignitaries that were honored and able to attend included: Cypriot Professional Tennis Player, Marcos Baghdatis, a Wimbledon finalist during his tenure, Pangiotas Giannakis, former European basketball star on the professional and national level followed by a distinguished career as the Head of the Greek National Basketball Federation and as Coach of its Olympic Team, and Tom Mazerakis, the New Yorker who has for the last two decades managed the Greek National Hellenic Baseball Team as it

attempts to qualify for the Olympic games. A highlight of the Athletic Luncheon was the honoring of the Kyriakides Family, Stelios Kyriakides' daughter Eleni and grandchildren, Maria and George Contos, on the 75th Anniversary of the iconic victory by Kyriakides at the Boston Marathon in 1946. Kyriakides' remarkable victory at the Boston Marathon, despite being out of training and emaciated due to the trials of World War II and the post-war Greek famine, brought tremendous and desperately needed attention to the Greek plight, resulting in an exceptional outpouring of attention, money and food goods shipped to Greece to address the Greek famine. Maria Contos' beautifully illustrated children's book about her Papou's significance, not only athletically but for the impact on the Greek people, was presented to all of the Luncheon recipients as a gift by Maria. The ultimate highlight of the Luncheon, however, was the awarding to Khaliah Ali, the daughter of the late Mohammed Ali, Khaliah Ali, of the AHEPA Human Rights Award; Khaliah has followed in her father's footsteps in pursuing the advancement of human and civil rights and equality, and was eloquent in thanking the Order of AHEPA for the touching recognition of her father and herself. There were also significant forums on Greek, Cypriot and Israeli trilateral relations in the Eastern Mediterranean, on the ongoing Cyprus reunification efforts, and on Cooley's Anemia, amongst others.

Brother Jimmy Kokotas, from New York, was elected Supreme President. I expect that Jimmy will be a real asset to the brotherhood as he is a wonderfully humane Brother committed to AHEPA's missions, and a friend of Yankee District #7. The only challenge was for the Vice-Presidency, where current Supreme Counselor Lou Atsaves was elected Supreme Vice-President in a contest with Brother Lou Katsos of New York City. Both Brothers, however, conducted themselves with class and dignity and have bright futures in our Brotherhood.

Most of all, however, a sense that permeated the Convention that all had survived these difficult months of Covid; the ability to physically be with our Brothers and Sisters from throughout the country was invigorating and needed, and that this 99th Convention returning to Athens, after a hiatus of 13 years, was a reaffirmation of our Brotherhood's commitment to our ancestral home and heritage and a needed show of confidence in Greece as it navigates itself throughout these difficult economic and social times. The 99th Annual Convention also served as a wonderful springboard to our Centennial Celebration to be held next July in Orlando.

- Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas
- Supreme Vice President Lou Atsaves
- Canadian President Emmanuel Constans
- Supreme Secretary Savas Tsivikos
- Supreme Treasurer Chris Kaitson
- Supreme Counselor Demetrios Kirkiles
- Supreme Sons of Pericles Advisor Nick Kavadas
- Supreme Athletics Director Chris Atsaves
- Supreme Governor Region 1 Kostas Sofikitis
- Supreme Governor Region 2 James Gregorakis
- Supreme Governor Region 3 Vassos Chrysanthou
- Supreme Governor Region 4 Dalton Respass
- Supreme Governor Region 5 Demetrios Papadopoulos
- Supreme Governor Region 6 Sam Benjamin
- Supreme Governor Region 7 Marshall Monsell
- Supreme Governor Region 8 Alexander Mallas

- Grand President, Daughters of Penelope Kathy Bizoukas
- Supreme President, Sons of Pericles Timothy Noitsis
- Grand President, Maids of Athena Maria Ana Pantelous

## COMPLIMENTS OF



**NATHAN HALE CHAPTER NO. 58  
HARTFORD, CT**

**WE SUPPORT THE YANKEE NEWSLETTER  
IN ITS MISSION TO ENLIGHTEN  
AND INFORM  
DISTRICT 7 AHEPANS.**



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**AHEPA 250-V Apartments**  
269 Roxbury Road, Niantic, CT 06357



### New Yankee District #7 Scholarship Endowment Options

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Yankee District #7 Foundation I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients. We wish all of our scholars continued success in the upcoming academic year. These scholarships are made possible by the generous donations from individuals who support education, which is represented by the "E" in AHEPA. Throughout the years we have had a number of these individuals who have endowed scholarships. Most of our startup funds came from Mary and Angelo Pappas and Dino Macricostas, therefore numerous scholarships are awarded in their name. Over the past few years, the Peter E. Mitchell Memorial Scholarship and the Constantine Simones Memorial Scholarship were endowed by their families. This year two new scholarships were endowed, the Emanuel Cosmas Family Scholarship and the Dr. John and Anna-Helene Grossomanides Scholarship. We thank them for their generosity and commitment to providing funds for the Foundation to continue to award financial assistance to our eligible students.

Endowed scholarships can be in the name of a loved one who has passed away, someone you might wish to honor, in your family name, etc. Once a scholarship is fully endowed it is awarded in perpetuity. We would like to remind everyone that there are now 4 options for endowing YD7 Foundation scholarships. They are as follows:

1. Fund with \$10,000. The first endowed scholarship would be given at the scholarship awards immediately following payment of the \$10,000.
2. Fund with \$5,000 payable up-front with an additional \$5,000 payable over a 5-year period. The first endowed scholarship would be given at the scholarship awards immediately following the initial up-front payment of \$5,000.
3. Fund with \$7,000 payable over a 3-year period. The first endowed scholarship would be given at the scholarship awards immediately following full payment of the \$7,000.
4. Fund with \$5,000 payable over a period of up to 10 years. The first endowed scholarship would be given at the scholarship awards immediately following full payment of the \$5,000.

Also, congratulations to the new Foundation's Board of Directors. They are as follows: Brother John Grossomanides, PhD, PSP as president; Brother Evangelos Hadjimichael, PhD as vice-president; Brother Alex Boutsioulis, PDG as treasurer; Sister Penny Pecka, PDG as secretary, Sister Anna-Helene Grossomanides, PGP as a board member, and Sister Elise Marotta as a board member.

Please call me or any of the Foundation's Board of Directors if you have any questions and to discuss the process of endowing a scholarship.

Penny Pecka, PDG, YD#7 Foundation Secretary  
Cell - 203-217-2213, Email - ppecka@newhaven.edu

### Yankee District #7 AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope 2021 Scholarship Dinner by Gregory Simones



On Sunday, June 13, twenty-two (22) college students received \$22,000 in scholarships at a dinner hosted by the Waterbury Chapters of the Daughters of Penelope and the AHEPA. Education co-chairs, Manny Cosmas and Sofia Ricciardi-Swaby, oversaw the scholarship selection process and scholarships were presented to eighteen (18) of the students present at the event.

Governor Marianne Boutsioulis (DOP) and Lt. Governor Demetrius Tasoulas (AHEPA) addressed the gathering. SG Jack Isaac spoke as the featured speaker. The program was chaired and emceed by Manny Cosmas, AHEPA District Education Chairman. The blessing was given by PDG Greg Simones. The Yankee District #7 Foundation manages the investments that generate the money for these scholarships. The officers of the Foundation are Dr. John Grossomanides, PSP, President; Evangelos Hadjimichael, Vice President; Penny Pecka, PDG, Secretary; and Alex Boutsioulis, PDG, Treasurer.

Thanks for all who donate their time to make this a yearly reality and for overcoming the additional hurdles 2021 still presented us. Congratulations to the latest group of scholars for their many accomplishments. We wish you success!

Students were awarded the following named scholarships:

**Mary & Angelo Pappas:** Julia Albin, Waterbury #48; Eirene Athanasoulis, Danbury #90; Nikos Bouzakis, Waterbury #48; Claudia DeMatteis, Waterbury DOP #199; Gabriella Gagas, Waterbury #48; George Kotsaftis, Waterbury #48; Alexander Koutsoukos, Stamford #99; Nicholas Lambros, Providence #106; Elias Manos, New Britain #117; Colette Polezonis, New Britain #117; Irene Soteriou, New Britain DOP #138.

**Dino Macricostas:** Sofia Manos, New Britain #117; Patricia Maragos, Bridgeport DOP #41; Stella Patrick, New Haven #98; Peter Rickenbach, Waterbury #48; Katerina Spanolios, New Haven #98; Kristina Tougas, Hartford DOP #198;

**Peter E. Mitchell Memorial:** Stacey Tasoulas, New London #250;

**Constantine Simones Memorial:** Noah Violette, Norwich #110;

**Daughters of Penelope District Lodge #7:** Ephemina Nicolakis, New Haven #98;

**Yankee District 7 Foundation:** Demetrios Petrou, Providence #106;

**Emanuel Cosmas Family:** David Patrick, New Haven #98.



~\*~

**With Compliments of**  
**Jack Isaac**  
**Past Supreme Governor,**  
**Region 4**  
**&**  
**Karen Isaac**  
**Daughters of Penelope**  
**Past Governor, District 7**

~\*~

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**District 7 Convention  
Hilton Mystic, Mystic, CT, May 22, 2021**

by Demetrius Tasoulas, D7 Governor  
Eighteen (18) AHEPANs and fourteen (14) Daughters attended the Convention. In attendance was our honored guest, AHEPA Region 4 Supreme Governor Jack Isaac. Supreme President George Horiates was not able to attend, but addressed the brothers via Zoom.

AHEPA elections resulted in the following slate of officers for 2021-2022: AHEPA District 7 Governor Demetrius Tasoulas, Lt. Gov. Evangelos Hadjimichael, Secretary John Fakis, and Treasurer Alex Boutsoulis, PDG.



Major issues passed were: a revised per capita billing structure to better fund all initiatives and projects without tacking on supplemental fees to the chapters.

Awards were presented for:

- Ahepan of the Year: Emanuel "Manny" Cosmas;
- Chapter of the Year: New Haven, CT No. 98;
- Hellene of the Year: Thomas J. Walsh, MD, PhD.

A recognition certificate was presented to outgoing Supreme Governor Region 4 Jack Isaac for five years of outstanding service and dedication.

**The Invasion and Occupation of Cyprus, July 1974**

by Yiannis Apostolakis, D7 Hellenic Affairs Chairman



This year's July marks over 47 years anniversary 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. Even worse, these days Turkey is establishing naval and drone bases in Cyprus so that it controls the Eastern Mediterranean presenting a real threat to all peaceful Mediterranean nations who respect democracy, religious freedom, and independence. Recently Turkey's genocide of the Armenian people was recognized in the USA. Recently the USA added Turkey in the list of nations recruiting underage young people to be sent as mercenaries in the middle east and Africa. Turkey is taking down everything of Greek origin in the northern occupied Cyprus while the West is watching in confusion as to what to do with a so called "ally" in NATO which has turned into a fanatic Islamic militant regime.



To this day ...

- No great nation of this world has decisively denounced the Turkish invasion in Cyprus
- Many unanswered questions still remain about the Greek Cypriots 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 brave Greek and Cypriots defenders who made the ultimate sacrifice against all odds ....
- The families, who were brutally murdered by the 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 ....

Let us make them know that we have not forgotten them and let us make the people around us, including politicians, to know that we cannot tolerate this kind of crimes against humanity, faith, democracy, human rights, and our western values.



**AHEPA Service Dog for Warrior Training Program Resumes**

SP George G. Horiates is proud to announce that the AHEPA Service Dog For Warriors Program has resumed after a sixteen month hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Service Dog "Loucas," generously donated by AHEPA Socrates Award Honoree Michael and Robin Psaros honor of PSP George Loucas is starting training this week. Once Loucas completes his intense training, he will be paired with a veteran to assist them in their path to recovery and management of their disabilities; and to provide the veteran with companionship and therapy. Once Loucas is matched with his veteran, PSP George Loucas and Mr. & Mrs. Psaros will be invited to witness his graduation from training, and to meet the veteran and see firsthand the impact of this incredibly beneficial program.

The last two dogs that graduated before the pandemic were Thomas, sponsored by DOP Nike Chapter #230 (NJ) and Hoosier, sponsored by the District 12 AHEPA. These are only two of the 44 dogs the AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors Program is responsible for placing, and now that training has resumed, it is our hope that those numbers grow.



**Brothers and Sisters of AHEPA District 7, can we afford not to make a stand for such great matters as this one? Can we afford not to tell the Cyprus Invasion story to everyone we know? Can we afford not to educate our youth about what happened and what is happening in Cyprus?**



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**AHEPA 121,  
Pawtucket News**

by Yiannis Apostolakis

Back in 2015, we were visited in our parish by our Brothers of District 7 Lodge, who were exploring possibilities to have the 121, Pawtucket Chapter, re-activated after many years of inactivity. My father's voice came to my thoughts, and I volunteered to lead the effort.



Our 121 Pawtucket Chapter was re-instated in 2015 and since then we have answered the call of AHEPA.



Packaging clothing for homeless shelters

We have been re-instated in our community for 6 years in a row!



Polo Family Afternoon in Newport



Celebrating AHEPA day & fundraising for Greek School. Ouzeri at the Greek Festival

Our community has enabled us to engage with National AHEPA efforts, local community efforts, education, philanthropy, Hellenic Affairs and much more.



25<sup>th</sup> of March & 200 Years of Greek Independence

We have made an impact to our community and have worked hard to promote the ideals of AHEPA and to Defend Hellenism.

**Thank you AHEPA!**

As we will soon be heading into the New Year, 2022 let us take a bit of time to reflect upon all the things our Pawtucket 121 Chapter, here at Pawtucket, has accomplished with our community's help!

- We sponsored the St Nicolas rebuild effort at ground zero in New York!
- We donated to the service dogs for veterans National AHEPA effort!
- We donated to the Greek wildfires support fund!
- We offered Greek classes for adults!
- We donated a multimedia system to our Greek School to make learning Greek fun!
- We sponsored a team for the Hellenic History Tournament almost every year!
- We have been active in our communications, bringing to our community information and news regarding matters that concern all of us like Hagia Sophia, Eastern Mediterranean, Greek border attack, Aegean Sea tensions, AHEPA National News, AHEPA actions to Defend Hellenism!
- We contributed to our parish newsletter giving parishioners important AHEPA updates!
- We contributed to the AHEPA District 7 award winning publication, Yankee News, for a variety of crucial topics and areas!
- We supported our AHEPA D7 Scholarship fund and activities!
- We participated in the Hellenic Affairs Committee of the D7 AHEPA Lodge!
- We recognize our community's High School graduates!
- We completed our AHEPA Cares drive to support COVID research (our own Brother Dr Walsh's work) and we have supported our neighbors (Pawtucket soup kitchen)
- We sponsored CASA clothing and supply drive for people in need!
- We started online meetings to keep our Chapter active amid a pandemic!
- We participated in the organization of the 25th of March celebrations representing AHEPA!
- We participated in almost all of D7 conventions and conferences!
- Above all, we made the name of AHEPA a presence in our community both for those who had forgotten it as well as those who never new about AHEPA!

As we reflect on our renewed story and our Pawtucket Brothers who helped us grow, we are getting ready to continue our effort towards the growth of our Chapter as well as of AHEPA District 7. Looking at our Chapter photos we collect our memories, and we renew our Brotherhood bonds so that we can move even with greater dedication to fulfill our AHEPA mission!



**AHEPA 245, Newport News** by A. Stefanopoulos

The brothers of the Maud Howe Elliott Chapter 245, Newport, RI, hosted a dinner meeting at the Wyndham resort in March 2021 where a good time was had by the twenty plus brothers in attendance in a socially distant environment. The chapter previously hosted another such successful event in October 2020 to continue to bring the chapter together during the pandemic.

The chapter awarded the AHEPA Medal for Scholastic Excellence to seven graduating high school seniors from the Newport community in June 2021 and congratulates to all the seniors and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

A committee of brothers had been working during the pandemic on the renovation of the AHEPA club room at the AHEPA Apartments in Newport, RI. The construction phase was completed in early 2021 and over the Spring and Summer of the committee has completed the furnishing and decoration phases. During this time the committee took the opportunity to sort through all the 90 plus years of archives of the chapter and now all AHEPA items have been archived appropriately with some prominent items displayed in our renovated club room. Thank you to all the committee members for their hard work in helping move the chapter forward during the pandemic.

The chapter is planning on starting their 93rd year with a long-awaited Wine and Cheese tasting in the renovated club room this Fall.

A photo taken in Washington, D.C. in 1930 with the President of the United States and AHEPA members (one of which is a chapter 245 member) has been found in the archives and professionally restored and framed and is now hanging in the renovated Newport AHEPA Club room.



**Chapter 110, Norwich News**

The AHEPA Rose of New England, Chapter #110 in Norwich, CT, working in conjunction with Health Care Centers of CT, would like to report that it recently sponsored a successful first dose COVID-19 vaccination clinic at our AHEPA #110 Senior Housing site on Saturday, March 20, 2021. Sixty-five people came to the clinic to be vaccinated that day. A second dose follow-up clinic was also successful and took place on Saturday, April 17, 2021. Sixty people came to receive their second dose of the vaccine at that second clinic. Chapter #110 is happy to be of service to our community and to help those who may need assistance during the pandemic.

A check for \$750, a donation for the AHEPA National Fund, was presented to the Supreme President. Money was raised by the Norwich Chapter at a cash raffle.



Dr. John Grossomanides PSP, SP George Horiates and George Grossomanides, Chapter President



**AHEPA DISTRICT SEVEN LODGE**

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

- Demetrius E. Tasoulas – Governor
- Evangelos Hadjimichael – Lt. Governor
- John Fakis – Secretary
- Alex Boutsoulis, PDG – Treasurer
- Jack Isaac – Marshall, PSG, R4
- Andrew Aros – Warden
- John Melonopoulos, PDG – Advisor
- Greg Stamos, PSC – Athletic Co-Advisor
- Alex Boutsoulis, PDG – Athletic Co-Advisor
- Emanuel Cosmas – Education Chair
- Region 4 Supreme Governor - Dalton Respass



**Chapter 58,  
Hartford News**

Chapter 58 had its first live meeting after the pandemic on May 18, 2021 at Elaine's Restaurant in Wethersfield, CT.



*Niko Yanouzas, Kevin Ward, Mike Bonatsakis, Paul Vardoulakis, Demetri Perdakis, George Bouzakis, & DG Demetrius Tasoulas at Elaine's Restaurant*



At our Chapter meeting, held on June 15, 2021 at AHEPA Housing in Wethersfield, we initiated Dr. James Rouman (left) and he was given his AHEPA pin by District Governor Demetrius Tasoulas. Newly elected officers being sworn in by DG

Tasoulas are Mike Bonatsakis (Pres), Mike Bonatsakis (VP), Paul Vardoulakis (Treas), John Melonopoulos, PDG (Sec), George Bouzakis (Board of Governors).



Chapter 58 helped Larry Papanic celebrate his 90th birthday (left) by presenting him a colorized US 2-dollar bill commemorating the Battle of Iwo Jima and WWII.

**2021 AHEPA Chapter 58 Scholarship Winners**

On Sunday, June 13, 2021, Nathan Hale

Chapter 58 presented its annual scholarships to the following gifted students.

Gus Christy Memorial:

Julia Walsh - Colby College, Maine

Alex Kournaris Memorial:

Zachary Falvey -University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Finance.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Theodore Karabetos - James Madison University, VA  
Annie Klementon - UCONN, Counseling; Educational and Psychology.  
Emma Klementon - UCONN, Nutritional Sciences.

UNDERGRADUATES

Niko Bouzakis - Plymouth State University, NH, Business Administration.  
Claudia Dijimarescu - UCONN, Economics.  
Maria Menoutis - UCONN, Biomedical Engineering.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Effie Makris UCONN School of Nursing master's program, preparing to be an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

A thank you goes to our committee: Andrew Walsh, Chairman, members Ted Augustinos, George Karageorge and Geoff Perry.

**Ta Nea:** Baby girl Jordan Yiuning Smith was born on February 2, 2021. "Yiuning" means "quiet wisdom" in Cantonese. The proud parents are Peter Smith and Mandy Leung of Farmington, CT. Jordan joins her sister, Sophia Yuechi Smith. ("Yeuchi" means "precious and well-mannered" in Cantonese). Paternal grandparents are Jordan and Christina Smith of Glastonbury, CT. Yiayia Christina is treasurer of DOP Thoas #198 of Hartford and Papou Jordan Smith is a member and former president and secretary for several years of the Order of AHEPA Nathan Hale Chapter 58 of Hartford. Maternal grandparents are Kin Man Leung and Shui Chun Yuen of Farmington, CT. Baby girl Jordan is named after her Papou Jordan.



**Commanding Officer – CT State Police Recognized** by Andy Aros



*Emmanuil Stergakis, George G. Horiates, Col. Stavros Mellekas, Jack Isaac, & Demetrius Tasoulas*

Supreme President George Horiates, Supreme Governor Region # 4 Jack Isaac, District Governor Demetrius Tasoulas, and Chapter President Emmanuil Stergakis, presented Connecticut State Police Col. Stavros Mellekas the Hero's

Medal of AHEPA at the May 2021 New Britain Chapter dinner meeting. The Hero's Medal of AHEPA is awarded to Emergency Medical Technicians, Doctors and Nurses, Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers and other First Responders for outstanding service to their community.

Supreme President Horiates, with the support of the Supreme Lodge, conceived the idea of the Hero's Medal of AHEPA as a response to the avalanche of negativity heaped upon many professionals whose task it is to support the average citizen when we are in need. Upon pinning the medal on Col. Mellekas, our Supreme President realized the officer did not have an AHEPA pin, he immediately removed the pin from his own lapel, and pinned it on Col. Mellekas.



*Photo credit: GA Rados*

AHEPAN Stavros Mellekas is the highest ranking officer of the Connecticut State Police. Professional Football historians might recall the name Mellekas. His father John, played professional football for the Chicago Bears, 49er's and Eagles from 1956 to 1963.

After graduating from St. Anselm College in 1990, Brother Mellekas served as a member of the U.S. Capitol Police in Washington D.C. assigned to the Senate and Dignitary Protection until 1993. The next year he married his wife Kim, moved to Bristol, Ct. and became a Connecticut State Trooper. They have three children, the youngest of which has just entered college.

Upon becoming a state trooper, Mellekas spent the next five years assigned to four different barracks. In 1999 he was promoted to detective on the Central District Major Crime Squad, where he served for nine years and in 2008 he was promoted to State Police Sergeant. He continued climbing through the ranks to Lieutenant in 2011 and Captain in 2016. Serving three tours in the Internal Affairs Unit. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel of Field Operations in March 2018. The following year he was promoted to Colonel, becoming the Commanding Officer of the Connecticut State Police.

A valued AHEPA mentor once told me, "You get out of AHEPA what you put into it".

I believe you get more. Get active in your chapters today!

Gregory C. Simones, PDG



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**AHEPA 250,  
Winthrop News**

By John Fakis

The chapter met, in person, for the first time since COVID on May 17th with approximately 15 brothers in attendance.



It was great being together again. The June 21st meeting involved elections, officer installation, and initiating one new member.

Among the 18 brothers present were guest SG Jack Isaac and chapter members DG Demetrius Tasoulas and John Fakis, DS. The same slate of officers as last year were elected: Adam Rand, President; Rick Semon, VP, Ted James, Treasurer, John Fakis, Rec. Secretary, Joe Josephides, Corr. Secretary.



Armand "Ace" Mazulli and a very proud Terry Mitchell



New brother Armand "Ace" Mazulli was presented his AHEPA pin by PSS Terry Mitchell (his grandfather). The July 19th gathering was a cookout social with family members. There were around 35 people in total on a beautiful day.

These social summer events have been extremely popular and we highly recommend that other chapters follow Winthrop's lead.

**PDGAC Update**

by Greg Simones, Chairman

The PDGAC (**Past District Governor Advisory Council**) is a collective of past district leaders has been using their experience to assist the district lodge in tackling some of the larger and more difficult tasks and projects. The PDGAC started working in November 2020 and continues to meet monthly via online meeting.

So far, the PDGAC has successfully researched, proposed, and implemented a significant update to our district website, [www.ahepad7.org](http://www.ahepad7.org), with a professional management company under the direction of brothers Alex Boutsoulis and Greg Simones. Now, the PDGAC has taken on researching ideas and planning for effective, large-scale fundraising for the various charitable outreach projects of the Yankee District including a possible PDG district scholarship.

If you have questions about the PDGAC, feel free to contact me by email at [pdgahepad7@gmail.com](mailto:pdgahepad7@gmail.com).

**AHEPA 98, New Haven News**

by George Scarveles

New Haven Chapter 98 has supplied the Harkness House Veterans Home with personal items and cleaning supplies continuously for the past four years. This valuable long-term commitment to our vets is headed up by Brothers George Scarveles, Chris Hagimichael & Manny Cosmas.



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~

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The next Yankee News deadline for submissions: November 8, 2021 to: [YankeeD7News@AOL.com](mailto:YankeeD7News@AOL.com)

Compliments of  
**Waterbury Chapter #48**  
**District Mother Lodge**  
 Waterbury, CT

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**Dr. John Grossomanides**  
 Past Supreme President  
 AHEPA  
 &  
**Anna-Helene Grossomanides**  
 Past Grand President  
 Daughters of Penelope

**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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**Athletic Advisors Alex Boutsoulis, PDG and Greg Stamos, PSC**  
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**Education Chairman Emanuel Cosmas**  
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**Supreme Governor, Region 4 Dalton Respass**

**AHEPA District 7 Officers**



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**CHAPTER NO. 80**  
 AHEPA  
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 Celebrating 90 Years!  
 Proud of our members' immigrant roots;  
 Proud to have celebrated our 95th Anniversary in March 2021;  
 Proud chapter of AHEPA District 7.



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**Upcoming Events: Yankee District 7 2021**

- 10/16/2021: District 7 AHEPA Family Conference, Niantic
- 10/28/2021: OXI Day
- 11/08/2021: December Yankee News Deadline for Submissions  
*Don't forget to send your chapter events to promote them here, and don't forget to send us articles & pictures of them afterwards!*
- 11/20/2021: The 12th D7 Hellenic History Tournament, Orange
- 11/25/2021: Happy Thanksgiving
- 12/11/2021: Chapter 117 Annual Christmas Party, New Britain
- 12/31/2021: All Chapter Dues should be in!  
*For details on events, check out the calendar at [AHEPA7.org](http://AHEPA7.org)*

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