

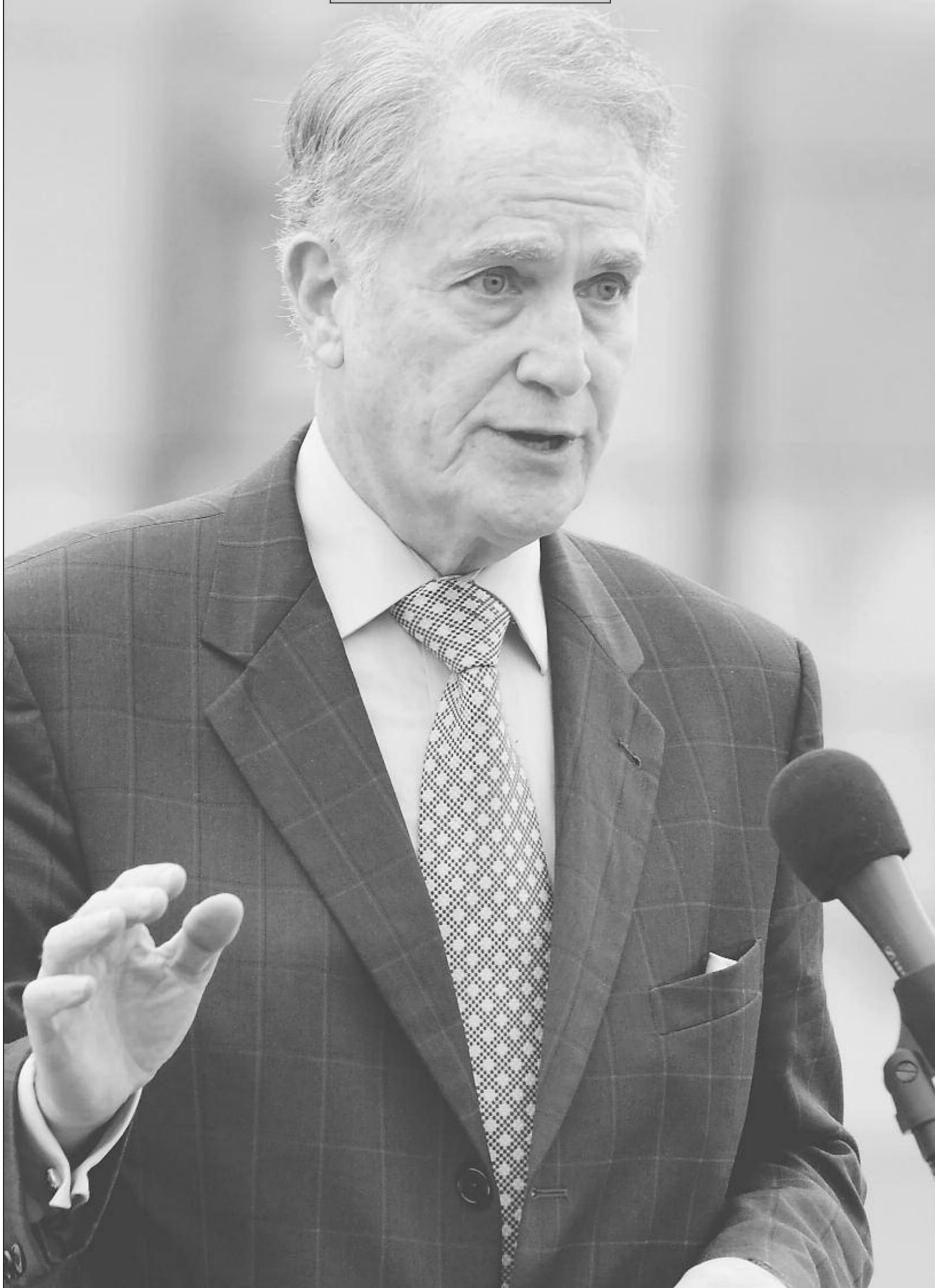
Hellenic Leaders

Series

The National Herald

ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ

October 2012 • Issue 3



Andrew Manatos – Determined Strategist

President of Washington, D.C. lobbying firm Manatos & Manatos

A Strong Voice In Washington On Greek-American Interests For More Than 40 Years

Tenacious Campaigner for Justice in Cyprus, Greece, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Son of the First Greek-American Adviser in the White House

Andrew Manatos: Determined Strategist for the Greek-American Public Voice

By **Sophia Stratakis Huling**
TNH Staff Writer

When it comes to Greek-American politics, names like Michael Dukakis, Paul Sarbanes, and Philip Christopher readily come to mind. You might even consider them “household names” because of a run for President, a long-time tenure as a United States senator, or managing organizations that campaign prominently to solve the Cyprus problem, respectively.

But there is one man who they all listen to; a man who for the last 40 years has done more to influence the Greek-American political landscape than nearly anyone, but whom the average Greek-American who knows little about Washington, D.C. may have never heard of: Andrew E. Manatos. *Regardie's Magazine* called him “One of the 100 most influential people in private

Washington.”

“I think Andy in particular, more than the rest of us, has had a lot to do with making the Greek community a very significant political force in this country, which was not the case several years ago,” Dukakis, now a professor of political science at Northeastern University in Boston and visiting professor at the UCLA School of Public Affairs, told TNH. “And I think Andy’s played an enormously important role in doing that.”

Along with his father, the late Mike N. Manatos, and his son, also named Mike (after his grandfather), Manatos, 68, is part of “one of Washington’s most prominent lobbying families,” wrote U.S. News & World Report. The three generations have quietly and tirelessly persevered to increase the profile of Greek-Americans, and

the Greek Orthodox Church at the highest levels of the United States government for more than 75 years.

Manatos’ public policy and lobbying firm Manatos & Manatos, which he opened with his father in 1983, and now runs with his son, is only the latest chapter in the three generations of the Manatos family’s political dynasty. The firm offers its clients – including major corporations, universities, advocacy groups, not-for-profit organizations like the U.S. Olympic Committee, and foreign governments – the expertise to help them manage their public policy and governmental affairs. Last January the *Washington Post* called Manatos & Manatos “One of Washington’s most powerful lobbying firms.” The key is that Manatos has developed rock-solid credibility with member of Congress, and other government officials over the decades. But because those people come and go in Washington, it is a constant, huge effort to keep rebuilding it.

“It’s hard, it takes years and years, it takes decades with some people, but it also adds up,” said Manatos. “People you may not even know well listen to you a little more closely because their friend listens to you very closely.”

The Manatos name has built a tremendous reputation among members of Congress, senators, and executive branch officials, he said, because he chooses the causes he will lobby very carefully. Along with his father and his son, they have spent many years building trust with policymakers, but he says the issue he presents is always more important than maintaining a particular relationship with a public official.

“There are some people in Washington who do this for a living, and they may be representing Marlboro cigarettes. Well, for them, the issues are meaningless; there, it’s a business,” Manatos said. “We only accept clients that we really be-



Mike N. Manatos, far right, the first Greek-American to serve in the White House, with President John F. Kennedy and other presidential staff members.

lieve in,” and he explained why: when he approaches a senator or a member of Congress with an issue, they trust that not only will Manatos tell them the truth about it, “but we’re going to give them a good issue that any newspaper writer in their state, if they try to criticize it, it’s go-

ing to be an issue on the side of the angels.”

THE FIRST OF THREE GENERATIONS

Before all that, however, there was a now-forgotten senator during the 1930s from Wyoming, where the elder Man-

atos was born and raised of immigrant parents. This senator saw the value in maintaining a good relationship with his Greek constituents and offered a young man a chance that would change the course of three generations.

“The senator went to a group of older Greek men in this little town in Wyoming and said, ‘You know, you people have been really good, and I’ve decided I’d like to hire a Greek to work for me. Do you have any ideas?’” and they recommended Manatos’ father, he said. “The senator didn’t know Dad from Adam, but the local Greeks recommended him.”

It almost didn’t happen, however; when the senator approached Mike with the Washington job offer, he didn’t exactly jump at the chance at leaving Wyoming. He was on a basketball team that had a good chance to win a championship that year, and the 19-year-old didn’t want to miss out on that.

“Dad actually got out here not because of his burning ambition, but because of the burning ambition of his typical Greek mother,” Manatos said with a chuckle. “Dad said he went home for Thanksgiving and he happened to mention it at the dinner table, and then he said, ‘The next thing I knew I was on



Mike N. Manatos introduces his son Andy to President Johnson. Andy’s wife, Tina, can be seen behind the president.



A generation later, Andy, President Jimmy Carter’s assistant Commerce Secretary, introduces his son Mike to the president.

CONGRATULATIONS
ANDY
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR LONGTIME
COMMITMENT
FOR GREECE AND CYPRUS

JAMES AND WANDA
TED AND LEA
PEDAS
AND FAMILIES

a train going to Washington.”
 Mike N. Manatos worked for a succession of Wyoming senators, rising through the ranks to administrative assistant (a position now called chief of staff), and eventually was elected president of the administrative assistants of the Senate. Along the way, he met two senators from other states: John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. And Kennedy knew a good thing when he saw it. After his election to the Presidency, he asked Mike to join his administration as his Senate liaison, and Mike N. Manatos became the first Greek-American to work in the White House.

When Johnson took over after the Kennedy assassination, he asked Mike to stay on as well. He soon gained a reputation for having a unique ability to move legislation through the Senate. Among his historic legislative successes were the Voting Rights and Civil Rights Acts.

“Dad was held in very high regard in Washington,” Manatos said. “He was really very well-thought of, a very good person, and had terrific relationships with senators and members. There are still senators who will mention Dad to me when I see them.”

He remembers his late father’s former bosses with fondness. “I had a chance to meet President Johnson. He was a very powerful and persuasive person. He and my father were able to do things like enact the Civil Rights legislation when everyone said it was too early and would never pass. I had lunch with his daughter Lynda the other day and we were discussing what an unusual person he was. I also met Kennedy when Dad worked for him at the White House. He was amazingly charming and able to relate well with a 17-year-old.”

EARLY CAREER

Born and raised in the nation’s capital, Manatos knew the political world well from his father, but it was far from a foregone conclusion that he would follow in his footsteps. After receiving his undergraduate degree from American University, he completed two masters programs there in political theory and journalism while working as an “advance man” for Johnson: helping plan the details of the president’s public appearances.

“I didn’t plan to get into the political world, but I guess I en-



Mike N. Manatos, Senate Liaison to President Lyndon Johnson, confers with the President.

joyed so doing this advance work for Johnson when I was 19 years old; it was all so heady and thrilling, that I got hooked and then I wanted to get involved in politics and the political world,” he said. “It’s a lot of fun, you can imagine, being young and meeting all these older people and organizing all that activity.”

He later worked for Sen. Gale McGee (D-Wyoming), and for Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-Missouri), who, with Manatos’ help, strongly supported Greek

and Cypriot causes following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in July 1974.

CYPRUS

After the invasion, Manatos remembered, the Greek-American community displayed extraordinary energy, something that was essential to bringing about the 1975 arms embargo against Turkey.

“The number one element behind our legislation on Capitol Hill was that in 1974, Greek-Americans came alive, out in the

states and the districts,” he said. “Our people went wild. With our Washington instigation and direction, our people lobbied the Cyprus issue constantly.”

Congress voted to place an arms embargo on Turkey in 1975, which President Gerald Ford vetoed. Then Congressman Paul Sarbanes and John Brademas in House, and Manatos, working for Senator Eagleton in the Senate led the effort to persuade Congress to overturn the veto. But all the work to overturn the veto was far



Then-Undersecretary of State and former U.S. Ambassador to Greece Nicholas Burns (left), Andy Manatos and Philip Christopher (head of the International Coordinating Committee “Justice for Cyprus”) at the State Department during the 2008 annual Cyprus and Hellenic Leadership Conference.

from the end of the matter. Congress was asked to vote on overturning the embargo 12 more times – and they upheld it each time.

“It was the first and only time in modern history that the Congress has overruled the Executive Branch on a foreign policy issue,” said Manatos. “There were 12 different votes. We won some of those votes by one vote.”

When Jimmy Carter was elected president in 1976, he chose Manatos for his Assistant Secretary of Commerce. From that position, Manatos continued to lobby Congress in support of Cyprus. Eventually, Turkey convinced Carter that they would withdraw from Cyprus if he would just give them a “face-saving mechanism”

Carter. But the Greek-American community fought back, and in 1980 managed to persuade Congress to vote for the 7:10 ratio; for every \$10 in American military aid given to Turkey, Greece would receive \$7.

“For years the Congress was giving Turkey \$1 billion a year,” Manatos said, “and Turkey was taking some of that equipment and deploying it on their coastline facing Greece. And we said to the Department of Defense and the White House, ‘You’re kidding yourselves. You’re giving these people these things for NATO defense, and they’re deploying it against Greece.’ So for many years the 7:10 ratio was our battle on Capitol Hill, and the administration, of course, opposed that; they wanted to give Turkey the aid; they said



Andy Manatos at the 2007 Cyprus and Hellenic Leadership Conference in Washington, when then-presidential candidate Barack Obama (seated) was invited to speak.

– lifting the arms embargo. Carter met with his staff and proposed granting the Turkish proposal. At that point, Manatos offered to resign from Carter’s administration.

“I spent my life putting that into place; I’d think it was a big mistake to take it off, and I’d have to resign,” he said.

Carter rejected Manatos’ resignation and excused him from any involvement with the arms deal. The embargo was lifted. Turkey did not keep its word to

Greece didn’t need it. But we beat them year after year after year on that issue on the hill.” The 7:10 arrangement lasted until 1997.

“In our business, like in any transaction, the only way the transaction is going to occur is if it is mutually beneficial,” Manatos said, recalling his father’s advice. “So, if I want a senator to introduce an amendment for something, he’s got to perceive

Continued on page 4

Congratulations to

Andy Manatos

(“Dad” / “Papou”)

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do every day to preserve, promote and enhance Orthodoxy, Hellenism and our country.

Your passion and sacrifice for your family, faith and heritage is unmatched.

With great love, respect and admiration,

Tina Manatos

Mike, Laura, Sienna, Andrea, and Lucas Manatos

Nick, Despina, Andy, and Katherine Manatos

Tom, Dana, and Andrew Manatos

George Manatos



On Ellis Island celebrating the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Manatos family in the United States (July 2010).

A. Manatos: Determined Strategist for the Greek-American Public Voice

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he's doing me that favor, but it's also got to somehow benefit him. And that's the hard part, is to find ways that these issues can also benefit him."

More recently, his efforts for Cyprus have included working with President Bill Clinton and his then-Assistant Secretary of State Dick Holbrooke to change the positions of France and Germany so that Cyprus could accede to the European Union, something that was finalized in 2004. From a historical perspective and affecting the largest numbers of people, he considers it among his greatest achievements thus far.

"Prior to Cyprus' accession, everybody on Cyprus assumed that the Turks would take the rest of the island when they got an opportunity, and they're just biding their time until something would happen, and they would use it as an excuse to take the rest of the island," Manatos said. And we convinced Holbrooke and Clinton that if Cyprus became part of the EU, that would eliminate that possibility."

Philip Christopher, head of the International Coordinating Council, Justice for Cyprus, PSEKA, saluted Manatos' commitment to the cause of justice for Cyprus and the concerns of the Greek-American community.

"Although we do pay for their work, I can honestly tell you that the amount of money they receive does not even cover 50 percent of the amount of hours that they put in on behalf of Cyprus and the Greek causes," Christopher told TNH. "I am very proud to have been committed with him. I know his whole history. He has been involved in the cause of Cyprus from the beginning."

In fact, a measure of that commitment is illustrated by the fact that Manatos & Manatos' does about \$500,000 of free work each year in an effort to further Orthodox and Hellenic issues in Washington.

ARCHDIOCESE REACHES OUT

Rev. Alexander Karloutsos, who works at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese as the spiritual adviser to the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, told TNH he reached out to Manatos in



Vice President Joe Biden talks with Andy and Mike Manatos at the 2012 Greek Independence Day Celebration at the White House.



Manatos receives a blessing from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople (Istanbul)

1980, after Carter lost the presidential election to Ronald Reagan, to help restructure the Archdiocese's representation in Washington.

"We needed somebody who understood Capitol Hill and had good relations with the White House, so I reached out to Andy on behalf of Archbishop Iakovos, and that's how we be-

gan a relationship that Andy has had with the Archdiocese since 1981," Rev. Karloutsos said. "His role was indispensable, because he did it in a very quiet way, he was very effective in what we asked him to do, he also maintained the leadership of the church profile appropriately, he would involve the Archbishop's office when necessary, the Arch-



Manatos with George H.W. Bush during his administration, 1989-1993

diocese when necessary; but he would handle things quite appropriately."

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE

One of the first things Manatos and Rev. Karloutsos worked on together was to establish the annual Greek Independence Day celebration at the White House. Manatos took months to draft and introduce the proposal to Congress, to convince them to recognize it and to pass the resolution. Then, it was on to the Oval Office. Rev. Karloutsos added that Tom Korologos, another Greek-American lobbyist and a Republican, brought the proposal to President Reagan.

"It looks easy," said Manatos about policymaking for an issue like this one, "but in fact there are probably - I would like to picture it as about 15 different gauges, and each one has been set at a number of 1 to 10, and

you've got to set all 15 at exactly the right number; if one of those numbers is off, the whole thing doesn't work."

And the meeting is not at all a sure thing every year, he said; each year it requires another effort to get the White House to again recognize and invite the community; and particularly more so if there is a new president. The only other ethnic group that meets with the U.S. president every year is the Irish-American community.

"It's something that we find to be well worth all of that effort we do every year for this reason: before we did this, it was very difficult to even get an assistant secretary to meet with the Archbishop. Even a deputy assistant secretary; it's very hard to get to meet these people. However, think about it: a new president comes in, he just takes office in January, now it's March, it's only been two months. Everybody in

the world: every prime minister, every American interest is trying to meet with this person. He meets with very few people. When he meets with the Greek-American community, all of the cabinet members see that, and all of the assistant secretaries see that, and all the senators and members see that. And they say, 'Wow, these guys must really be important if the President took the time to meet with them.'"

Dukakis emphasized that he and Manatos have worked together to give Greek-Americans a voice in the American public policy arena for many years.

"Essentially what you're trying to do is build, develop an effort in which Greek Americans are actively involved, making contact with their elected officials, especially folks of whatever administration is in office, and members of Congress, obviously Greek-Americans in Congress, but not exclusively," Dukakis noted. "And that work which all of us have participated in, has been going on now for several years, and I think it's had a real impact. But Andy has been at the heart of all of this. He's the guy that keeps us informed, makes sure we know what's going on, calls on us when he needs us; you've got to have somebody like Andy who essentially quarterbacks this effort."

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In the 1990s, Manatos began concentrated efforts to support the Ecumenical Patriarchate in present-day Istanbul, Turkey. The first sitting U.S. President to visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate was Bill Clinton in 1999 - something that shocked Turkey, Manatos noted, and "it said a lot to them about the American priority."

In 1990, during the George H.W. Bush administration, then-Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios became the first Ecumenical Patriarch to visit the United States, and he was welcomed in a record-setting manner.

Manatos said Speaker of the House Tom Foley enabled the Capitol rotunda to be used to commemorate the visit -- only the second time in history that it was used for a living person.

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The ORDER of AHEPA
salutes
member **Andy Manatos**
for his years of service
to Greek American Community

*Best wishes
for Andy Manatos
and the Manatos family
to continue the fight
for justice
for Cyprus and Hellenism.*

Axios!

Tassos Zambas & Family

*Congratulations
to our friend,
Andrew Manatos.
His work and dedication
on issues important
to all Greek Americans
is an inspiration to all of us.*

*Basil & Evey Simon
(Detroit, Michigan)*



ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΑΠΟΔΗΜΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΥ (ΣΑΕ)
WORLD COUNCIL OF HELLENES ABROAD (S.A.E.)

Γραφείο Συντονιστή Περιφέρειας Η.Π.Α.
Coordinator's Office / U.S.A. Region



Ted Spyropoulos

offers

HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDY MANATOS

*for his and his family's tireless efforts and the tremendous success
they have achieved in the U.S.A.
on behalf of Hellas and Cyprus for 75 years.
His father, Mike A. Manatos broke ground in the 1930s,
Andy took up the work in the 1970s,
and Andy's son Mike now continues the family's legacy.*

KAI EIS ANΩTEPA!

With deep respect and gratitude,

*Ted Spyropoulos,
U.S.A. Regional Coordinator
World Council of Hellenes Abroad*

Light at the End of Greece's Difficult Tunnel

By Andy Manatos and Andy Athens

It may be difficult to see now, but there is light, bright light, at the end of the obstacle-filled economic tunnel through which Greece is now passing. In fact the light at the end of this tunnel is significantly brighter than at its entrance. How can this be?

The answer has two parts. The first part of the answer involves the fact that Greek people prosper in economies that are based on the merit of the individual or company – economies like those in America and Australia. For example, a Pew Foundation study found that in America, (an economy three times larger than China's) Greek Orthodox citizens have higher income and education levels than all other religions, except for members of the Jewish faith.

But, one might ask, is Greece still the wellspring of such successful people or did America and Australia train Hellenes to perform so well? Relatively recent Greek immigrants to America and Australia outperform second and third generation Hellenes, proving that Greece is still the wellspring such performance.

In Greece, historical developments caused the economic system to become less based on merit and to become filled with a range of corruptions, thereby limiting the areas in which Greeks can flourish and lead the world. The fact that the Greek people could achieve a good standard of living amid decades of such corruptions is, in itself, a testament to their extraordinary abilities. As well, Greece's ability to have already reduced by 40% its deficit compared to last year is another indication of an ability

to accomplish difficult things. The elimination of corruptions in the Greek economy will unleash the country and its people.

There is no doubt in our

involvement in the Greek market by successful businesses owned by Hellenes outside of Greece. And, once they show that foreign companies can prosper in the

“...there is bright light at the end of the tunnel involves decades of pent-up demand for involvement in the Greek market by successful businesses owned by Hellenes outside of Greece...”

minds that Greece will soon be one of the world leaders in some technologies and other fields. Look what happened to the Jewish people, who are much like us Greeks. As Israel's economy has stabilized in recent decades, Israeli technologies have moved to the cutting edge.

The second part of the reason that there is bright light at the end of the tunnel involves decades of pent-up demand for

Greek economy others will follow.

One of many examples of the pent-up demand for access to the Greek market is the Ameresco Company, owned by George Sakellaris. It is the number one American company for improving energy efficiency and reducing the carbon dioxide footprint of major facilities, including the US Capitol building. Its work costs these facilities effectively nothing.

The amount of savings in fuel expenditures generated by the improvements Ameresco puts into place within a facility are so great that they cover the cost of the newly installed energy efficient equipment in addition to providing continued savings in fuel expenditure for the facility owner. Applied to Greece, this system could create many future-looking Greek jobs paid for, neither by Greek citizens nor the government, but by euros diverted from the pockets of Middle Eastern oil producers.

Prime Minister George Papandreou is tapping this pent-up demand for access to the Greek market by successful Hellenes in the three meetings he held with them in recent months. We have seen this demand over the decades as we arranged for various Greek Ministers to get together with America's top Greek-American businesspeople. Their reaction is similar to the Diasporas of Ireland and Israel that played a significant role during

those countries' times of trouble.

One might ask if these companies want so badly to go to Greece what's stopping them. The answer is that these business leaders have seen virtually everyone lose money who tried to take their business to Greece. The various corruptions in Greece's economic and bureaucratic system, that they didn't see in other foreign markets where they were successful, stopped them. However, if current reforms are fully implemented and Greece becomes a meritocracy, you will see hundreds of top-notch businesspeople, Hellenes and non-Hellenes, investing in Greece.

If the corruptions disappear, so will Greece's brain drain. Hellenism's best and brightest will stay in Greece, and many who left will return like a moth to a flame, bringing with them high paying jobs and cutting-edge new Greek companies.

Since the “Golden Age,” Greeks linked merit, reward and excellence. With merit of performance in mind, Greeks were the first to create organized athletic competition. Additionally, the Greeks were the first to have merit and democracy choose their leaders rather than brute intimidation or inheritance. Alexander the Great expressed Greece's merit-based criterion when he bequeathed his kingdom “to the strongest.”

Converting Greece to a more merit based economy isn't easy. But Greeks have never shied away from difficult necessities. Mirroring the typical Greek reaction, author Nikos Kazantzakis said, “Though my teeth clattered with fear, I bound my forehead tightly with a red handkerchief to hide the blood, and I returned to the assault.” Whether fighting the Axis forces in WWII, preparing for the 2004 world-leading Olympic Games or struggling through today's IMF/EU imposed economic transformation, Greeks somehow meet Kazantzakis' challenge to “reach what you cannot.”

Andy Manatos – former US Assistant Secretary of Commerce, President of Manatos & Manatos, and President of the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH)

Andy Athens — former US steel industry leader, first and longest-serving President of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad and Chairman of CEH.

(This piece originally ran in Greece's daily newspaper Kathimerini on Saturday, August 28, 2010)

Celebrating 100 Years in America

In 2010, the Manatos family traveled to Ellis Island in New York City to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of their ancestor, Andrew Manatos' paternal grandfather, Nicholas Manatakis, from Hania, Crete.

“At that time the railroad met them at the ship, put them in railway cars and promised them more money than they'd ever heard of,” Manatos said.

“He was hired to lay railway tracks across the state of Nebraska. A lot of Greeks did that at the time. Eventually, the railroad jobs all dried up for some reason and about the same time they discovered coal in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah, so he went to Wyoming to work the coal mines.”

Manatakis preferred to labor in the darkness and danger of a mine rather than continue in the pool hall business, out of religious devotion.

“He was a tremendous man, a wonderful person,” Manatos said of his grandfather. “At one point he owned a pool hall there, and it was doing very



Andy Manatos and his family celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the arrival in the U.S. of Andy's grandfather, Nicholas Manatakis, almost to the day: July, 2010. From left: Son #4 George, Son #2 Nick and his wife Despina with their children Andy and Katherine, Tina and Andy Manatos, Son #1 Mike and his wife Laura with their children Sienna, Andrea and Lucas, and son #3 Tom and his wife Dana (pregnant with their son Andrew).

well, but he was a religious man, and he didn't feel that was a good life to live, so believe it or not he went into the coal mines.”

It was a hard and often tragic life; two of Manatos' grandparents lost brothers in coal mine collapses. “He would see the sun

on weekends,” Manatos added.

“He would go into the mine before it was light; he would come out of the mine after it

was dark. And the mines were only like four feet high down there, and he was like six feet tall.”

Congratulations Andy!

*Thank you for your effective leadership
on behalf of the Diaspora.
Your numerous victories
are hard-earned and many times
go unrecognized outside of Washington
but you have raised the consciousness
of Greek and Cypriot issues
to the United States government
more than any other individual.*

We are all very grateful.

Leon and Robyn Andris

**Don't miss
our special issue
next week
celebrating our
15th anniversary!**

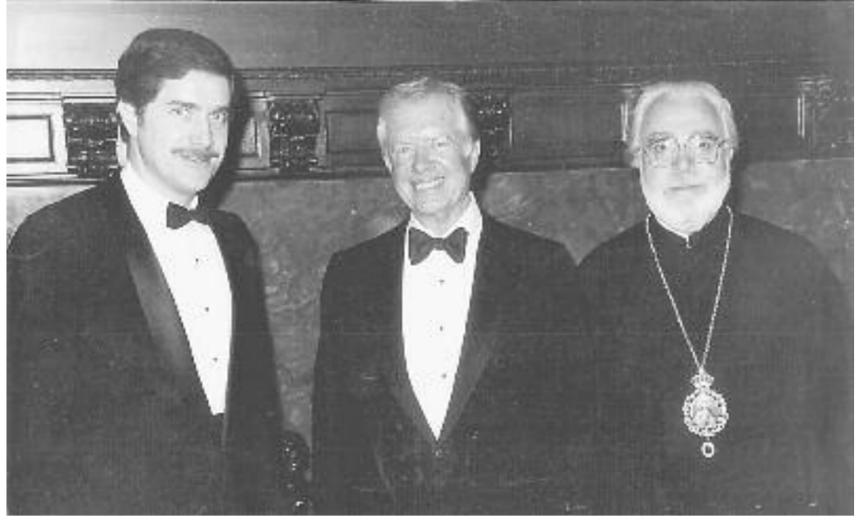
**Look back
at the major events
that have shaped
our community
since October 1997,
plus a look
at Greek-America:
then and now!**

15

The National Herald
The Link to Hellenism in Changing Times



Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios is welcomed to Washington in a ceremony held in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. From left: Speaker of the House Tom Foley; the Archbishop of North and South America, Iakovos; Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios; the Ecumenical Patriarch-to-be Bartholomew; Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell; Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole and Andy Manatos.



His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos meets with President Jimmy Carter and his assistant Commerce Secretary Andy Manatos



Tina and Andy Manatos with Archbishop Demetrios, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patrarch Bartholomew (center) and a Roman Catholic Cardinal at the Vatican for an audience with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, June 27-28, 2008



Three generations of Manatoses receive the Archon title: top, Mike N. Manatos; bottom left, Andrew E. Manatos; bottom right, Emanuel "Mike" A. Manatos



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Andy Manatos escort Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, center, to a press conference where the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes presented her with an award in May 2009.

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President Reagan's second inauguration, in 1985, was held there because bitterly cold weather prevented holding it on the Capitol steps, as is customary. Otherwise, the rotunda is only used for presidents or very significant people to lie in state. "We were very proud of that

also," said Manatos. "It's another indication of just how effective our community can be." In addition, in 1997, Manatos secured the Congressional Gold Medal for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, something which he said had more cosponsors in the House than any other bill on record at that time. "That helped raise the profile

of the Ecumenical Patriarch, so therefore when you talk about the Ecumenical Patriarch, it was not a foreign entity, it was actually an honored entity by the United States government itself," said Rev. Karloutsos. All three Manatoses, Mike the elder, Andy, and Mike the younger, have been granted the title of Archon by the Ecumeni-

cal Patriarch. An Archon is someone honored by the Ecumenical Patriarch for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known, distinguished, and respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community. Under the leadership of Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis since 1998,

the organization's highest priority is achieving religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarch. Under the leadership of Limberakis, Manatos coordinated a campaign to get all 100 Senators to sign a letter to the President alerting him to the crisis and urging him to change the United States' policy toward

Turkey (see letters on page 8). **LOBBYING FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM** Getting the attention of members of Congress is a herculean task, Manatos said: the average member of the House of Representatives receives **Continued on page 9**



*Andy,
Thank you
for being a great role model.*

Αξιός!

Maria Allwin

U.S. Senators Write to President Obama

November 21, 2011

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The religious freedom of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual head of the world's second largest Christian Church, Orthodox Christianity, is a very high priority for us. You will recall that in 2006, you and an overwhelming majority of your Senate colleagues signed a letter to President George W. Bush expressing concern about this matter.

We believe that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's religious freedom is important for many reasons including the fact that:

- He is the spiritual leader of millions of American citizens and over 300 million communicants worldwide;
- His nearly 2,000-year-old Sacred See is the location where the early Christian Church developed and where, among other things, the Nicene Creed was written;
- He is one of the world's preeminent leaders for peace and the environment, and was awarded our nation's Gold Medal by the U.S. Congress, and was recognized by the United Nations, Time Magazine and many others;
- He is the 269th direct successor of the Apostle Andrew, the brother of

Saint Peter; and

• His religious freedom rights are an important gauge of progress made on the greatest challenge facing America and the world – achieving mutual understanding and tolerance among the major faiths.

As you know, Turkey has made some relative progress on this issue in recent months. The government has, in some quarters, lessened its objection to anyone referring to His All-Holiness as “Ecumenical,” although the government of Turkey still refuses to do so officially. It also has improved some aspects of Patriarchal succession. In addition, it adhered to the judgment ordering the return of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's orphanage made by the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, of which Turkey is the current Chairman.

However, much more needs to be done. Turkey must be encouraged to understand the inappropriateness of successive Prime Ministers forcefully involving themselves in the Christian Orthodox Church's selection of succeeding Ecumenical Patriarchs. Turkey must also return to the Ecumenical Patriarchate the remaining 95% of its confiscated property and allow the reopening of its only seminary, Halki Theological School, which has been forcibly and unjustly closed for 40 years.

The restoration of such religious

freedom and human rights for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will accrue to the benefit of people of all faiths, to America's vital interests and to the best interests of Turkey as well.

Sincerely,
Signed by 90 United States Senators

Senators Signing Letter to President Obama Regarding Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

1. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) - circulator
2. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) – circulator
3. John Kerry (D-MA) – Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
4. Richard Lugar (R-IN) – Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
5. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) – Chair, Senate Europe Subcommittee
6. John Barrasso (R-WY) – Ranking Member, Senate European Affairs Subcommittee
7. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)
8. Daniel Akaka (D-HI)
9. Max Baucus (D-MT)
10. Mark Begich (D-AK)
11. Michael Bennett (D-CO)
12. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)
13. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
14. Roy Blunt (R-MO)
15. John Boozman (R-AR)
16. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
17. Scott Brown (R-MA)
18. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
19. Richard Burr (R-NC)
20. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
21. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)
22. Thomas Carper (D-DE)
23. Robert Casey (D-PA)
24. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
25. Dan Coats (R-IN)
26. Tom Coburn (R-OK)
27. Thad Cochran (R-MS)
28. Susan Collins (R-ME)
29. Chris Coons (D-DE)
30. John Cornyn (R-TX)
31. Mike Crapo (R-ID)
32. Jim DeMint (R-SC)
33. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
34. Michael Enzi (R-WY)
35. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
36. Al Franken (D-MN)
37. Kirstin Gillibrand (D-NY)
38. Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC)
39. Charles Grassley (R-IA)
40. Kay Hagan (D-NC)
41. Tom Harkin (D-IA)
42. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
43. Dean Heller (R-NV)
44. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)
45. James Inhofe (R-OK)
46. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
47. Johnny Isakson (R-GA)
48. Mike Johanns (R-NE)
49. Ron Johnson (R-WI)
50. Tim Johnson (D-SD)
51. Mark Kirk (R-IL)
52. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
53. Herb Kohl (D-WI)

54. Jon Kyl (R-AZ)
55. Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
56. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
57. Mike Lee (R-UT)
58. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
59. Carl Levin (D-MI)
60. Joe Lieberman (D-CT)
61. Joe Manchin (D-WV)
62. John McCain (R-AZ)
63. Claire McCaskill (D-MO)
64. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
65. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
66. Jerry Moran (R-KS)
67. Patty Murray (D-WA)
68. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
69. Bill Nelson (D-FL)
70. Ben Nelson (D-NE)
71. Rob Portman (R-OH)
72. Mark Pryor (D-AR)
73. Jack Reed (D-RI)
74. Jim Risch (R-ID)
75. Pat Roberts (R-KS)
76. John Rockefeller (D-WV)
77. Marco Rubio (R-FL)
78. Charles Schumer (D-NY)
79. Jeff Sessions (R-AL)
80. Richard Shelby (R-AL)
81. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
82. Jon Tester (D-MT)
83. John Thune (R-SD)
84. Pat Toomey (R-PA)
85. Mark Udall (D-CO)
86. David Vitter (R-LA)
87. Mark Warner (D-VA)
88. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
89. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
90. Ron Wyden (D-OR)

Religious Freedom Initiative

Archons Urge Senators and House Members to Sign Letter to President to Save Ecumenical Patriarchate

Last November, the Order of St. Andrew/Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate completed a campaign to get a maximum number of Senators and members of the House of Representatives to sign a letter to the President. Drafted by Andrew Manatos, the letter is alerting him to the religious freedom abuses facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate in present-day Istanbul, Turkey. 90 out of 100 senators signed their letter, and 291 out of 435 House members signed another letter. They were delivered to President Barack Obama in November 2011.

The campaign was launched in spring 2006 with the blessings and participation of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. Archons from coast to coast set out to secure the signatures of all 100 United States senators on a letter to the President. That first letter was delivered to President George W. Bush with 75 senators' signatures. Manatos wrote two more letters later, which are published here.

A public policy and lobbying expert and an Archon, Manatos also coordinated the campaign. The historically massive effort involved more than 5,000 written communications and thousands more phone calls and e-mails, and was designed to make the President, all senators, members of the House, and all Orthodox church communities across the country aware of the seriousness of the threat to the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Archon spiritual adviser Rev. Alexander Karloutsos emphasized the massive team effort that brought about the success of the campaign.

“Andy's worked with the parishes throughout the United States, been coordinating many activities on behalf of the Archdiocese,” said Rev. Karloutsos, “And so it was many clergymen, it was the Archons in their respective districts and states – specifically because it was senators, it was of course their states, and it was the Metropolitans who worked under the direction of the Archbishop, so it was a real total effort.”

Rev. Karloutsos emphasized the collective nature of the effort by recognizing the work of Linda Tavlarios, the wife of General Maritime CEO John Tavlarios, who was not even of the Orthodox faith.

“She got Senator John McCain to sign,” said Karloutsos. “And she's not even of Greek Orthodox faith, but she's an extraordinary woman who became committed to this issue of religious freedom.”

U.S. House of Representatives Members Write to President Obama

November 28, 2011

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request that you urge the Turkish government to ensure the fundamental religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which, as you know, is the center of faith for over 300 million Orthodox Christian believers around the world. This is a high priority for us, and your efforts to help with this important matter are greatly appreciated.

You have indicated support in the past for the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In 2006 you joined 74 of your Senate colleagues in signing a letter to President George W. Bush expressing concern over the Turkish government's policies toward the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We also note that you met with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Istanbul, Turkey in April 2009, and welcomed him at the White House in October 2009, hearing first-hand from him how the Turkish government's restrictive policies inhibit the basic functions of, and even threaten the continued existence of, the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the 269th direct successor of the Apostle Andrew, the brother of Saint Peter, and is one of the world's preeminent leaders for peace and the environment. In fact, in October 1997 the Ecumenical Patriarch was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. In 2009 Time Magazine listed His All-Holiness as eleventh among the world's 100 most influential people. Standing at the center of the world's second largest Christian Church, Orthodox Christianity, he is in turn the spiritual leader of millions of American citizens among his worldwide communicants. His freedom to practice his religion and lead his church without Turkish government interference are important gauges for assessing progress toward one of the greatest challenges facing America and the world – achieving understanding and tolerance among the major faiths. Therefore, it is of particular concern when a religious leader who has devoted his life to promoting religious tolerance must endure restrictions on his own religious liberty and that of his Church.

In recent months, Turkey has begun to implement some small but welcome steps toward granting religious freedom to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. For example, the Turkish government has now seemingly lessened its objection to others referring to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as “Ecumenical.” In addition, the Turkish government has somewhat eased its requirements for citizenship naturalization of Orthodox senior clerics, the group from which Ecumenical Patriarchs are chosen. That is a positive development for the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, because the Turkish citizenship requirements potentially put in jeopardy the very existence of this nearly 2,000 year-old spiritual center begun by the Apostle Andrew. It is also good that Turkey complied with the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights and returned to the Ecumenical Patriarchate its orphanage on the Princes' Islands.

However, Turkey must do more. Turkey must be encouraged to cease its interference in the process of selecting Ecumenical Patriarchs and to drop the requirement that the Patriarch be a Turkish citizen. Turkey must also reopen the Halki Theological School, shuttered for the past 40 years, to allow the Church to train future generations of Orthodox clerics. Indeed, the Turkish government should return the 95% of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's property that has been confiscated. Finally, it is imperative that the Turkish government grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate the legal status that would allow it to own property, employ church officials, and manage church finances.

The full restoration of basic religious freedoms and human rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will benefit all

Orthodox Christians and inspire oppressed religious minorities worldwide. By promoting tolerance, peace, and stability in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean regions, it would also serve the national interests of the United States as well as those of Turkey. We look forward to hearing your views on this matter.

Sincerely,
Signed by 291 Members of Congress (list attached)

Members Signing Letter to President Obama Regarding Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

1. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) – Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee / circulator
2. Howard Berman (D-CA) – Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee / circulator
3. Dan Burton (R-IN) – Chair, Europe Subcommittee
4. Gregory Meeks (D-NY) – Ranking Member, Europe Subcommittee
5. Gary Ackerman (D-NY)
6. Sandy Adams (R-FL)
7. Todd Akin (R-MO)
8. Rodney Alexander (R-LA)
9. Jason Altmire (D-PA)
10. Justin Amash (R-MI)
11. Rob Andrews (D-NJ)
12. Steve Austria (R-OH)
13. Joe Baca (D-CA)
14. Michele Bachmann (R-MN)
15. Spencer Bachus (R-AL)
16. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
17. Lou Barletta (R-PA)
18. John Barrow (D-GA)
19. Karen Bass (D-CA)
20. Xavier Becerra (D-CA)
21. Shelley Berkley (D-NV)
22. Judy Biggert (R-IL)
23. Brian Bilbray (R-CA)
24. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)
25. Tim Bishop (D-NY)
26. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
27. Jo Bonner (R-AL)
28. Kevin Brady (R-TX)
29. Robert Brady (D-PA)
30. Bruce Braley (D-IA)
31. Mo Brooks (R-AL)
32. Vern Buchanan (R-FL)
33. Ann Marie Buerkle (R-NY)
34. Ken Calvert (R-CA)
35. Dave Camp (R-MI)
36. Eric Cantor (R-VA)
37. Lois Capps (D-CA)
38. Michael Capuano (D-MA)
39. Dennis Cardoza (D-CA)
40. Russ Carnahan (D-MO)
41. John Carney (D-DE)
42. John Carter (R-TX)
43. Kathy Castor (D-FL)
44. Steve Chabot (R-OH)
45. Ben Chandler (D-KY)
46. Judy Chu (D-CA)
47. David Cicilline (D-RI)
48. Hansen Clarke (D-MI)
49. Wm. Lacy Clay (D-MO)
50. James Clyburn (D-SC)
51. Howard Coble (R-NC)
52. Mike Coffman (R-CO)
53. Steve Cohen (D-TN)
54. Mike Conaway (R-TX)
55. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)
56. John Conyers (D-MI)
57. Jim Cooper (D-TN)
58. Jim Costa (D-CA)
59. Jerry Costello (D-IL)
60. Joe Courtney (D-CT)
61. Rick Crawford (R-AR)
62. Chip Cravaack (R-MN)
63. Mark Critz (D-PA)
64. Joseph Crowley (D-NY)
65. Elijah Cummings (D-MD)
66. Danny K. Davis (D-IL)
67. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)
68. Dianna DeGette (D-CO)
69. Scott DeJarlais (R-TN)
70. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
71. Jeff Denham (R-CA)
72. Charles Dent (R-PA)
73. Ted Deutch (D-FL)
74. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
75. Norm Dicks (D-WA)
76. John Dingell (D-MI)
77. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
78. Robert Dold (R-IL)
79. Joe Donnelly (D-IN)
80. David Dreier (R-CA)
81. Jeff Duncan (R-SC)
82. John Duncan, Jr. (R-TN)
83. Keith Ellison (D-MN)
84. Renee Ellmers (R-NC)
85. Eliot Engel (D-NY)
86. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
87. Eni Faleomavaega (D-AS)
88. Sam Farr (D-CA)
89. Chakka Fattah (D-PA)
90. Bob Filner (D-CA)
91. Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
92. Jeff Flake (R-AZ)
93. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)
94. Bill Flores (R-TX)
95. Randy Forbes (R-VA)
96. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)
97. Barney Frank (D-MA)
98. Trent Franks (R-AZ)
99. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)
100. Elton Gallegly (R-CA)
101. Cory Gardner (R-CO)
102. Scott Garrett (R-NJ)
103. Bob Gibbs (R-OH)
104. Louie Gohmert (R-TX)
105. Charles Gonzalez (D-TX)
106. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)
107. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)
108. Trey Gowdy (R-SC)
109. Gene Green (D-TX)
110. Tim Griffin (R-AR)
111. Morgan Griffith (R-VA)
112. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
113. Michael Grimm (R-NY)
114. Luis Guterrez (D-IL)
115. Andy Harris (R-MD)
116. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)
117. Doc Hastings (R-WA)
118. Nan Hayworth (R-NY)
119. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)
120. Walt Hergert (R-CA)
121. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA)
122. Brian Higgins (D-NY)
123. Jim Himes (D-CT)
124. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)
125. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
126. Tim Holden (D-PA)
127. Rush Holt (D-NJ)
128. Michael Honda (D-CA)
129. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
130. Tim Huelskamp (R-KS)
131. Bill Huizenga (R-MI)
132. Randy Hultgren (R-IL)
133. Robert Hurt (R-VA)
134. Steve Israel (D-NY)
135. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL)
136. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
137. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS)
138. Bill Johnson (R-OH)
139. Hank Johnson (D-GA)
140. Walter Jones (R-NC)
141. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
142. William Keating (D-MA)
143. Mike Kelly (R-PA)
144. Dale Kildee (D-MI)
145. Peter King (R-NY)
146. Steve King (R-IA)
147. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH)
148. Ra I Labrador (R-ID)
149. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)
150. Leonard Lance (R-NJ)
151. James Lankford (R-OK)
152. Jim Langevin (D-RI)
153. John Larsen (D-CT)
154. Rick Larsen (D-WA)
155. Tom Latham (R-IA)
156. Steven LaTourette (R-OH)
157. Robert Latta (R-OH)
158. Barbara Lee (D-CA)
159. Sander Levin (D-MI)
160. Jerry Lewis (R-CA)
161. John Lewis (D-GA)
162. Daniel Lipinski (D-IL)
163. Frank Lobiondo (R-NJ)
164. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
165. Nita Lowey (D-NY)
166. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)
167. Dan Lungren (R-CA)
168. Stephen Lynch (D-MA)
169. Connie Mack (R-FL)
170. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)
171. Donald Manzullo (R-IL)
172. Tom Marino (R-PA)
173. Edward Markey (D-MA)
174. Jim Matheson (D-UT)
175. Doris Matsui (D-CA)
176. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)
177. Michael T. McCaul (R-TX)
178. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
179. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI)
180. Jim McDermott (D-WA)
181. Jim McGovern (D-MA)
182. Patrick McHenry (R-NC)
183. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)
184. David McKinley (R-WV)
185. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA)
186. Jerry McNerney (D-CA)

187. Pat Meehan (R-PA)
188. Mike Michaud (D-ME)
189. Brad Miller (D-NC)
190. Candice Miller (R-MI)
191. Gary Miller (R-CA)
192. George Miller (D-CA)
193. Jeff Miller (R-FL)
194. Mick Mulvaney (R-SC)
195. Chris Murphy (D-CT)
196. Tim Murphy (R-PA)
197. Sue Myrick (R-NC)
198. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
199. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
200. Richard Neal (D-MA)
201. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX)
202. Rich Nugent (R-FL)
203. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
204. John Olver (D-MA)
205. Bill Owens (D-NY)
206. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
207. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)
208. Ed Pastor (D-AZ)
209. Donald Payne (D-NJ)
210. Mike Pence (R-IN)
211. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)
212. Gary Peters (D-MI)
213. Collin Peterson (D-MN)
214. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)
215. Joseph Pitts (R-PA)
216. Todd Platts (R-PA)
217. Ted Poe (R-TX)
218. Bill Posey (R-FL)
219. Jared Polis (D-CO)
220. Mike Pompeo (R-KS)
221. David Price (D-NC)
222. Nick Rahall (D-WV)
223. Charles Rangel (D-NY)
224. David Reichert (R-WA)
225. Jim Renacci (R-OH)
226. Laura Richardson (D-CA)
227. Scott Rigell (R-VA)
228. David Rivera (R-FL)
229. David Roe (R-TN)
230. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA)
231. Peter Roskam (R-IL)
232. Dennis Ross (R-FL)
233. Mike Ross (D-AR)
234. Steve Rothman (D-NJ)
235. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
236. Ed Royce (R-CA)
237. Bobby Rush (D-IL)
238. Paul Ryan (R-WI)
239. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)
240. Tim Ryan (D-OH)
241. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)
242. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
243. John Sarbanes (D-MD)
244. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
245. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
246. Jean Schmidt (R-OH)
247. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA)
248. Bobby Scott (D-VA)
249. Tim Scott (R-SC)
250. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI)
251. Terri Sewell (D-AL)
252. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
253. Aaron Shook (R-IL)
254. Heath Shuler (D-NC)
255. Albio Sires (D-CA)
256. Louise Slaughter (D-NY)
257. Adam Smith (D-WA)
258. Chris Smith (R-NJ)
259. Lamar Smith (R-TX)
260. Steve Southerland (R-FL)
261. Jackie Speier (D-CA)
262. Pete Stark (D-CA)
263. John Sullivan (R-OK)
264. Betty Sutton (D-OH)
265. Lee Terry (R-NE)
266. Mike Thompson (D-CA)
267. John Tierney (D-MA)
268. Scott Tipton (R-CO)
269. Paul Tonko (D-NY)
270. Edolphus Towns (D-NY)
271. Niki Tsongas (D-MA)
272. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
273. Peter Visclosky (D-IN)
274. Tim Walberg (R-MI)
275. Tim Walz (D-MN)
276. Debbie Wasserman Shultz (D-FL)
277. Melvin Watt (D-NC)
278. Henry Waxman (D-CA)
279. Peter Welch (D-VT)
280. Allen West (R-FL)
281. Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA)
282. Frederica Wilson (D-FL)
283. Joe Wilson (R-SC)
284. Robert Wittman (R-VA)
285. Frank Wolf (R-VA)
286. Steve Womack (R-AK)
287. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)
288. John Yarmouth (D-KY)
289. Kevin Yoder (R-KS)
290. C.W. Bill Young (R-FL)
291. Don Young (R-AK)

A. Manatos: Determined Strategist for the Greek-American Public Voice

Continued from page 7

5,000 pieces of written communication (letters, faxes, and emails) per week, and the average Senator receives 25,000.

"First, you've got to first get some constituent interest; we've got to activate our Greek-Americans to communicate to that senator or member, and then we've got to take that communication and make sure it gets to the eyes of that senator, that it doesn't get lost with all of the other paper coming in, we've got to come forth with all the data to back it up, and show him why it makes sense, and why he's got to do it, and then we've got to put the pressure on him, to help him understand that there may even be a down side to this if he doesn't do it. And it's one at a time, and we just went through getting 90 senators and 291 Members of the House to sign a letter for the Ecumenical Patriarch this year."

Manatos said to get this many signatures, it takes roughly two to three months for the preparatory work; the implementation phase, which involves working with the national grass-roots network and pressing each office for their signature, takes roughly another six to nine months to complete.

THE POWER OF THE GREEK COOKIE

"There was one senator who absolutely refused to sign it," Manatos remembered. He said this senator had a chief of staff, a Turkish-American, who likely was a friend of his, and convinced him not to do it.

"I happened to be with the senator at a fundraiser, talking to him about his Greeks in his state," Manatos said. "He said, 'Oh, yeah, as a matter of fact when I was a Cub Scout, Mrs. So-and-so was our Cub Scout leader.' And I said, 'My God, that's my mother's first cousin.' And he said, 'There was another Greek lady who used to give me these Greek cookies.' And he went on for five minutes about those cookies."

Manatos tried to get some of the senator's Greek-American constituents and political contributors to urge him of the importance of putting his name to the letter, but to no avail. He then found his second cousin and drafted a letter from him to the senator saying, "Dear senator, do you remember when we were in Cub Scouts together and my mother was the Cub Scout leader and Mrs. So-and-so would always bring us those great cookies?" he said. "It would have thrilled her to death if you would sign this letter about religious freedom for our spiritual leader."

"And he signed the letter," said Manatos. "It just shows you the extent you've got to go to for just one. Now you multiply that times 90 in the Senate and 291 in the House, and it's a hell of a task."

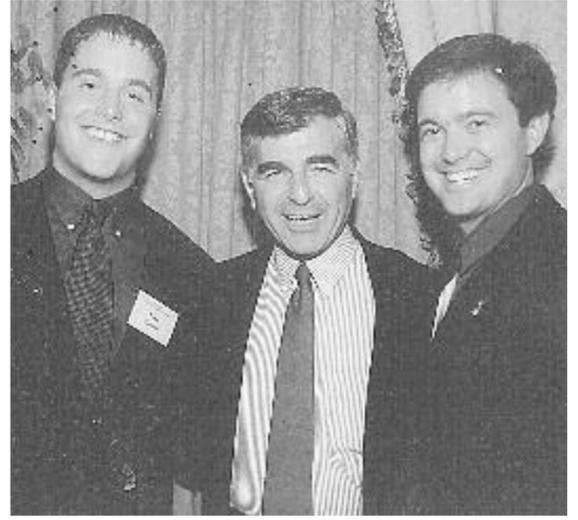
But all that work did reap rewards in turning the United States policy, Manatos said. Immediately after those major efforts were launched, President George W. Bush began to appreciate who the Ecumenical Patriarch is and why he requires religious freedom. In the presidential discussions with the Greek-American community and with Turkish leaders, it became apparent. Turkish officials began to hear about the importance of the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarch routinely.

Discussion with Turkish officials turned up the pressure on Turkey to give the Ecumenical Patriarch religious freedom. Perhaps the policy of the Turkish government that was most threatening to the longevity of the nearly 2,000-year-old Ecumenical Patriarchate in that See was that they require every Patriarch to be a Turkish citizen, yet refuse to allow any viable candidates from outside Turkey to become naturalized citizens. The Orthodox population in Turkey is almost entirely elderly, so a successor to the current Patriarch is unlikely to come from among the current citizens. In light of these long-standing policies, it was enormously encouraging that within the last year and a half, Turkey has granted Turkish citizenship to many of the Greek Orthodox metropolitans around the world, so succession can continue. However, Turkey still has a long way to go on this subject, Manatos noted.

Manatos delivered more good news: over 1,000 properties the Turkish government had confiscated from the Ecumenical Patriarch without compensation are actually being returned to various Greek Orthodox foundations. Among these properties is the magnificent orphanage on the Princes' Islands. The prohibition on the use of the title "Ecumenical" with the Patriarch has been eased somewhat. During a May 2010 visit to Athens, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip



Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA), Ranking Member of the Committee, confer with Andy Manatos.



Former presidential candidate Michael Dukakis with Mike (left) and Tom Manatos



President Bill Clinton (left), his childhood friend David Leopoulos (center) with his wife Linda, and Andy Manatos at their June 2011 annual fundraising dinner for the THEA Foundation in Arkansas, founded in memory of Leopoulos' daughter Thea. Clinton and Manatos are founding board members.



President George W. and Laura Bush with Andy and Mike Manatos in the White House

Erdogan, who would never utter the word "Ecumenical," responded to a question about it by saying, "Does it bother me, the title 'Ecumenical Patriarch'? Of course not. It didn't bother my predecessors, my forefathers, why would it annoy me?"

Manatos considers this work for religious freedom for Orthodoxy as one of the most important accomplishments of his life.

"I consider the changes that have occurred in the religious freedom of our Ecumenical Patriarchate, to be as important (as anything I have done in my career)," he said.

When asked what he considers the most valuable lesson he has learned in 40 years on Capitol Hill, Manatos has little hesitation.

"The amazing value of the principles of Hellenism," he said. "Utilizing these principles among the greatest people in the greatest country in the history of the world, we Hellenes are unsurpassed. So I've become more convinced than ever that helping to preserve these principles that we in Hellenism have somehow gathered together is of tremendous value, not only to Greek-Americans, but to all human beings. I mean Hellenism and Orthodoxy, because I do sincerely believe that there's strong evidence that Orthodoxy is also a major factor in this. I was in a taxicab, and the cab driver was an Ethiopian, and I said to him, 'Did you know that you can go to Greece, take the poorest Greek, give him a shave, buy him a suit, take him to a White House reception and he will not embarrass you? That somehow, we have a certain class, a certain sophistication, a certain savvy, a certain understanding - I've never understood it. But you know what, I've met hundreds of Ethiopians, and I get the same impression! Why do you think that is?' He said, 'I'll tell you why it is. It's because of Orthodoxy. The principles of Orthodoxy that we inculcate cause us to conduct ourselves in this way with our fellow man and with our lives.' And I think he's right. I think that's a major element."

LEGACY

Manatos and his wife, Tina, have four sons: Emanuel "Mike," Nicholas, Anastasios "Tom," and George, six grandchildren, and one more on the way.

The elder Mike Manatos died in 1983, said Manatos, at only 68 years old and only six months after opening Manatos & Manatos with his son. He never would have dreamed that four of his grandsons would graduate from Princeton and Cornell.

"He would have loved the idea that his namesake, Mike, has been working here and doing all these great things, and that Tom was working for (former) Speaker of the House

Nancy Pelosi, and that his other grandchildren have done so well," said Manatos. "The only thing that I wish Dad were around for was to let him know how highly people still regarded him. I think he had a sense of

it, but for decades after he's been gone, people are still talking about him. He'd be proud of that, I think."

For all the years of working together, Manatos said the most valuable lesson he learned from

his father was "you're only as good as your word." Lying or exaggerating the truth, he said, would never come to anything.

"There may be other settings where you can get away with that and be successful, but in

the Washington world, you've just really got to be on the up-and-up, and I would think that that's the thing more than anything that Dad taught me, is that it's a matter of integrity," he said.



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*The Cyprus Federation of America,
its officers and members,
offer*

their heartfelt congratulations

to Andy Manatos

for his dedication

to the sacred cause of Cyprus

and his commitment to the Community.

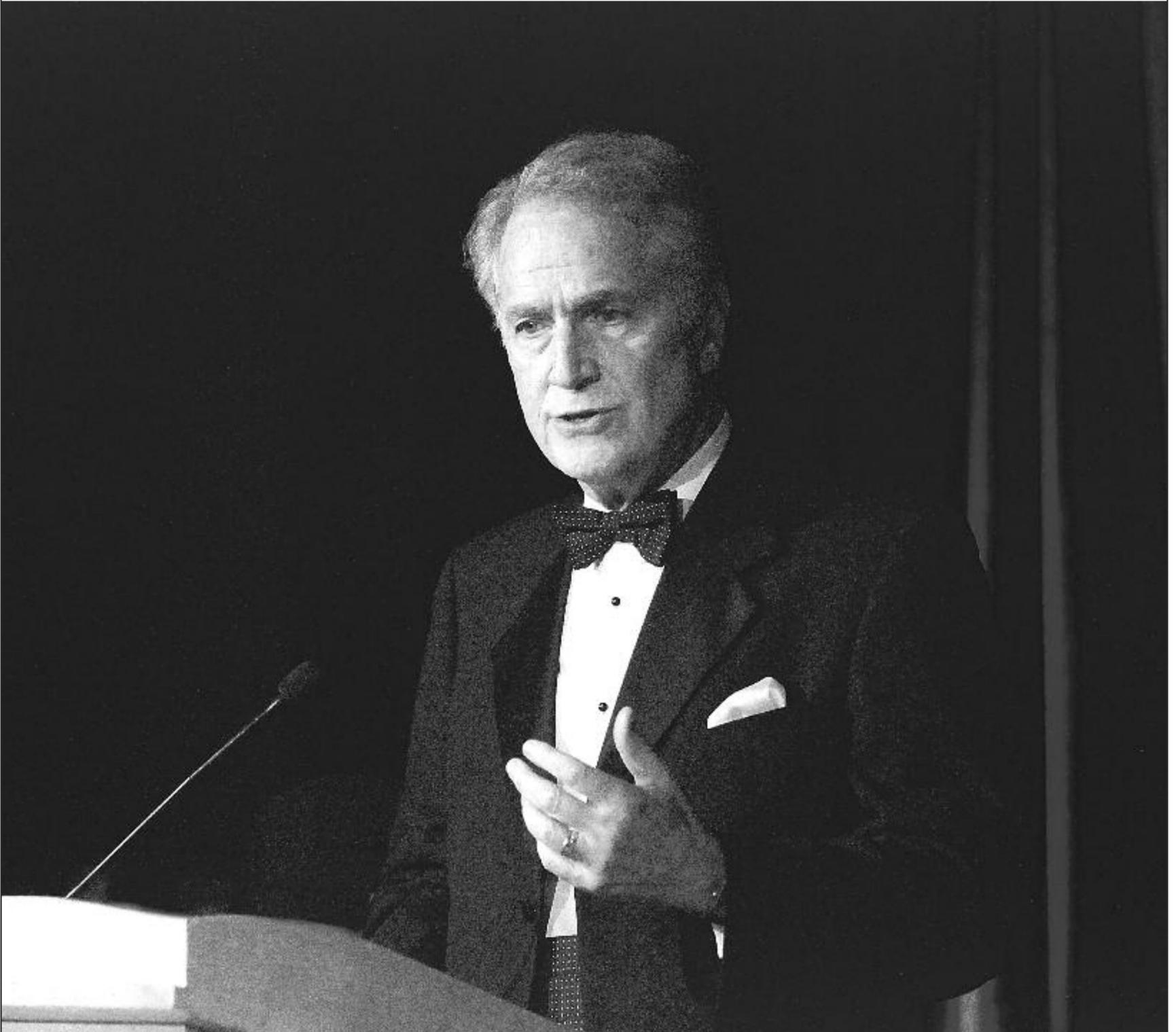
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CONGRATULATIONS ANDY!

*We are all very grateful
for your effective leadership
on behalf of the Diaspora.*

*Your extraordinary
record of accomplishments
has made us very proud.*

*Wishing you
health and continued success always.*