



Communiqué from AHEPA CANADA President

May, 2015

Dear Brothers,

With this communiqué I am sharing with you some highlights of my activities as President of AHEPA Canada along with highlights of much of the marvellous work and achievements that Ahepans are doing across Canada and for Hellenism.

Capitol Hill Day and 41st Biennial Congressional Banquet, Washington, D.C. April 29, 2015



AHEPA brought their legislative agendas to the attention of Capitol Hill legislators and their staffs on April 29, 2015 during their annual Capitol Hill Day. The AHEPA Family's Capitol Hill Day has become an annual event since 2006. AHEPA family members representing 20 states and the District of Columbia registered for the event. It was the most diverse geographic representation to date for the Capitol Hill Day. AHEPA family members, including for the first time our Canadian Delegation discussed issues that included: U.S. - Greece relations, religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, ending the 40-year illegal division of Cyprus and safeguarding Cyprus' sovereign right to explore and exploit energy finds within its exclusive economic zone. In addition, the participants' objective was to help to grow the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues as well as other congressional caucuses of interest.



Bill Bakalis, District #23 Governor, Peter Anas, Past Canadian President (PCP), Ken Matziorinis, Canadian President of AHEPA, Jim Fabrikis, Past District #23 Governor and Jim Anas, Past Canadian President



With Supreme President of AHEPA Phillip T. Frangos and his wife Toula Frangos



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America presenting picture of the late Archbishop Iakovos with Martin Luther King at Selma Life Magazine cover page to John Lewis. Congressman Lewis was honoured with the 2015 AHEPA Pericles Award.



The Canadian Ahepans with Gus J. James, II, Past Supreme President of AHEPA and recipient of the 2015 AHEPA Lifetime Achievement Medal



With Past Supreme President John Grossomanides



Supreme President of AHEPA Frangos and Grand President of the DOP Anna Helene Grossomanides with U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus and Congressional Hellenic-Israel Alliance and U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-founder and co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus.



Hellenic Affairs Consultant Andrew Kaffes briefing members of AHEPA Family in Congress before our visits to individual offices of Senators and House Representatives on Capitol Hill Day



Canadian President Ken Matziorinis joined Pete Nassos, Governor of District #1 in visitations to Congressional Offices to learn how our US Brothers conduct their civic affairs duties



With Current and Past District #23 Governors Bill Bakalis and Jim Fabrikis admiring the paintings and art work of Constantine Broumides, the Greek-Italian painter of the U.S. Capitol



Tassos Moussas, Chapter Secretary of the Toronto Chapter, Jim Fabrikis, Bill Bakalis and Ken Matziorinis resting following the Biennial Banquet

Canadian Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic and High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus, His Excellency Robert W. Peck was honoured at the Biennial Banquet with the 2015 AHEPA Aristotle Award



Robert William Peck has been Canada's Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic and High Commissioner to the Republic of Cyprus since October, 2011. Previously he had served as Counsellor for Political Affairs in the Canadian Embassy in Athens from 1995 to 1998. In November, 1998, he was awarded the insignia of Grand Commander of the Order of the Phoenix by the President of the Hellenic Republic for excellence in the public sphere and for raising Greece's international standing.

Having completed his studies in History and Journalism at Montreal's Concordia University in 1981 he joined the Department of External Affairs and International Trade in 1982. He has enjoyed a distinguished career serving in Lagos, Berne, Athens and Ottawa. From 1993 to 1995 was press secretary and departmental spokesman for the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs. He served as director of the West and Central Africa Division, served as Ambassador to Algeria (2004-2007), as chief of protocol of Canada (2007-2010).

Ambassador Peck is an outstanding Philhellene who has a deep love and respect for Greece, has learned Greek and has immersed himself in Greek history, culture and civilization. He is married to Maria Pantazi-Peck. He has been working tirelessly to expand Greek-Canadian trade and investment and has been instrumental in attracting billions of dollars of direct investment to Greece and making Canada the leading foreign direct investor. He has been equally instrumental in expanding educational and cultural ties between the two nations. Noteworthy is the bilateral Youth Mobility Agreement (YMA) signed during the visit of Prime Minister Stephen Harper to Athens in 2011, which allows young people in both countries between the ages of 18 and 35 to broaden their professional work experience abroad.

Ambassador Peck has been the exemplary "ambassador of Hellenism" and has strengthened the strong ties between Hellas and Canada. He has made us all proud!

Commencement Ceremony at the Theological Academy of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Canada in Toronto, ON on April 26, 2015



Cyprus Consul General H.E. Constantine Christofides, Dean of the Theological Academy Fr. Ignatios Delis, Graduate Simeon Pardalis and His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios at the Metropolitan Center.



District 23 Governor Bill Bakalis, H.E. Alexandros Ioannidis, Consul General of Greece Toronto with Fr. Theologos Drakos at the Commencement Ceremony.

AHEPA Day Celebration of Montreal AHEPA Family at St-Constantine's and St-Helen's on May 3, 2015



The leaders of all four Orders of the AHEPA Family in Attendance

ON April 24th . AHEPA CANADA issued a press release calling on Turkey to Accept its Role in the Armenian Genocide and to Move Towards Truth and Reconciliation

Below is the text of the release:

MONTREAL, QUE. – On the occasion of the 100th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide AHEPA Canada calls on the Government of the Turkish Republic to recognize what the overwhelming majority of historians and academic institutions on Holocaust and Genocide Studies, including the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) agree, that the massacres and forced deportations of Armenian, Pontian and Anatolian Greeks, Assyrians, Syrians and other Christians constitutes a Genocide against these people.

AHEPA Canada also calls on the Government of the Turkish Republic to allow Turkish scholars and journalists the freedom to research and publish their findings on the historical events and engage in an open public debate free of threats and intimidation, for we believe that the Turkish people possess the maturity and desire to accept the facts, make amends and move forward toward reconciliation, friendship and cooperation.

The path towards forgiveness and reconciliation can only begin by accepting the truth and taking responsibility for our actions. This is the only way to build lasting friendships and ensure that past mistakes are not repeated in the future.

We join with the Armenian community of Canada in remembrance of those individuals that perished during the Armenian Genocide, while also remembering the slaughter of all Christian minorities during that time period, including the Pontian and Anatolian Greeks. May their memories be eternal.



DOP Chapter President Alexandra Sevapsidis, District #23 Lt-Governor Ioannis Bougas, Canadian President Ken Matziorinis, AHEPA Chapter President Jimmy Dionissopoulos and Past Canadian President Xenophon Scoufaras at the Armenian March in Montreal on May 3, 2015



Past Canadian President Frank Antoniou, Chapter President J. Dionissopoulos and PCP Xenophon Scoufaras



Laying flowers in the memory of the Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians that were slaughtered by the Turks in 1914-1922. Standing against genocide is everyone's business and today we are witnessing mass killings of innocent Christians in the Middle East and Africa.



With Sister Mary Deros, Montreal City Councillor and Vice Mayor



Maids of Athena (MOA) President Kally Kastaniotis, DOP President Alexandra Sevapsidis with Maids Angela Matziorinis and Angela Moore at the Ant-Genocide March



Anitha Ramalingam, Ioannis Bougas, Lt-Governor District #23, H.E. Ziv Kulman, Consul General of Israel and Montreal Chapter President Jimmy Dionissopoulos at the Commemoration Ceremony at Place des Arts in Montreal



The leadership of the Armenian Community and Civic Leaders outside Place des Arts. More than 10,000 people participated in the Anti-Genocide March.

87th AHEPA Family Leadership Mission to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Cyprus and Greece (May 5- May 16, 2015)



With our Ecumenical Patriarch His Holiness Bartholomew at the Fanar in Constantinople



PSP Nick Karacostas, Supreme V.P. John Galanis, Supreme President Philip Frangos and Grand President Anna Hellene Grossomanides with Cypriot President Nikos Anastasiades.



With President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos, seen on the right are PCP Tony Mavromaras and Governor of AHEPA Hellas (District 25) Giorgios Plokamakis.



With President of Hellenic Parliament Zoe Konstantopoulou



With the Prime Minister of Greece Alexis Tsipras



With the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Kotzias.

**La Troupe Folklorique Grecque Syrtaki Launching Night of Hellenic Cultural Conference
Laografia at McGill University, May 15, 2015**



The enchanting Santouri Player and Singer Areti Ketime was the star of the evening



Sister Alexandra Sevapsidis President of the DOP, Ken Matziorinis and Jimmy Dionissopoulos, seen on the right Sister Aglaia Revelakis



Montreal AHEPA Family members attended in large numbers the 98th Commemoration of the Greek Pontian Genocide at Montreal's Genocide Memorial on May 19th, 2015



Reception following a lecture on Constantinople sponsored by the McGill Hellenic Studies Chair that the Montreal AHEPA Family supports on May 13, 2015. From L-R Georgia Tridimas, Past DOP Chapter President, Ken Matziorinis, Nicholas Synnott, Senior McGill Development Officer, Sister Ria Pantazopoulos and Brother John Evdokias, Advisor Investment Committee of AFCFC.



AHEPA
FAMILY SUPREME
CONVENTION
JULY 1-5 2015 HYATT EMBARCADERO
SAN FRANCISCO

Brothers, I expect to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming Supreme Convention in San Francisco.

Book your room A.S.A.P. at the Hyatt Embarcadero Hotel to benefit from the low group rate.

Send in your Delegate Registration forms A.S.A.P. to Headquarters

Our Canadian participation at the Supreme Conventions is of outmost importance!

Hope to see you all there,

With Fraternal Regards,

Ken Matziorinis
Canadian President of AHEPA