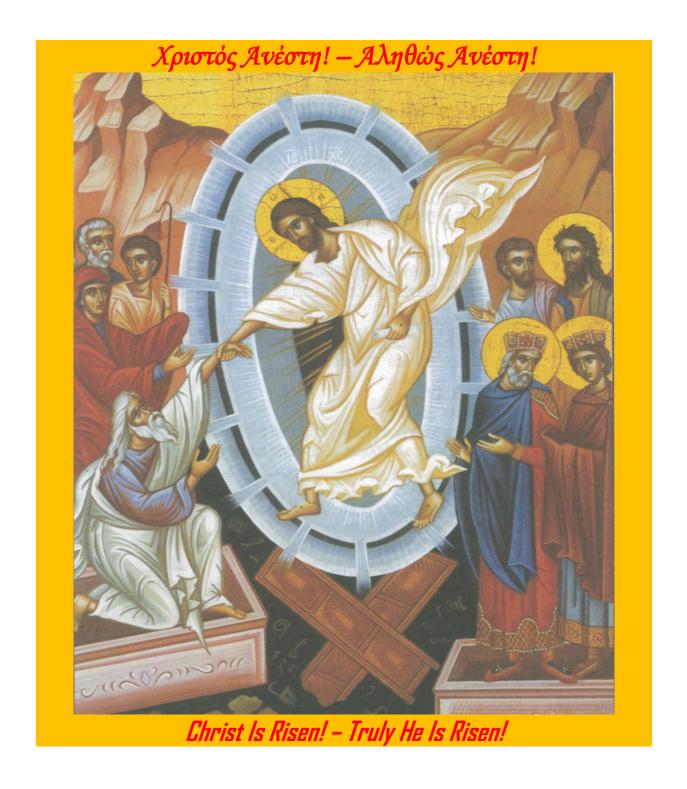


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Daughters of Evrytania

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Sympatriotes and Families,

The season has arrived that our people back in Agrafa always "ask for forgiveness, in order to forgive back". I would like to start this upcoming Easter season with that saying to everyone who is a member. I also wish you all a great Pasha holiday with all of yours. I understand that at times we are very busy with all the preparations and we lose track of our Orthodox compass.

I sincerely ask for your forgiveness and hope that I did not wrong anyone or any group in the last 4 years. If you feel that I did, I respectfully and humbly ask for your forgiveness and ask that you all think of those of us who are less fortunate. I also ask that we think of those who are on beds of pain or those in mourning and reach out to them with a kind hug, deed or words.

Our 2015 Convention is being held in Myrtle Beach, please make sure to NOT miss it. Elections will be held for all offices, so get geared up. Let's fill the leadership with young adults. I hope to see you all there. Until then, God be with us!

John G. Peslis

Save the Date...

The VELOUCHI'S

4<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees Meeting
for the fiscal year 2014-2015
will take place on Sunday, April
19, 2015 at the
Association's Headquarters

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Velouchi Board of Trustees Meeting Was Very Productive

The Velouchi Board of Trustees met for their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly meeting of the 2014-2015 fiscal year on Sunday, February 22, 2015 in Charlotte, NC. Attendance was very good. Main topics on the agenda were the report of the Organizing Committee of the 2015 Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC the weekend of June 26-28, 2015 and the financial support to families in need in Evrytania.

## Snapshots from the 3<sup>rd</sup> BOT meeting in Charlotte





## **MHNYMA** ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΥ

Αγαπητοί συμπατριώτες και οικογένειες,

Αυτή την εποχή, Αγραφιώτες συνηθίζουν να λένε «Σχώρα με, να σε σχωρέσω». Θέλω να αρχίσω το μήνυμά μου με αυτές τις λέξεις μιάς και πλησιάζει το Πάσχα. Καταλαβαίνω απόλυτα ότι από τον ρυθμό της ζωής μας μερικές φορές μπερδεύουμε την ιδανική κατεύθυνση της Ορθοδόξου πυξίδας μας.

Ζητώ την συγχώρεσή σας ειλικρινά εάν στα τελευταία 4 χρόνια έγω στεναγωρέσει κανένα μέλος ή ομάδα μελών. Εάν θεωρείτε ότι είμαι καταδικαστέος, σας ζητώ άφεσιν με όλη την απόλυτη ταπεινωσύνη και ζητώ να φανείτε γενναιόδωροι και να συγχωρήσετε. Επίσης, υπενθυμίζω να μην ξεχάσουμε εκείνους που είναι λιγότερο επιτυχημένοι στη ζωή, ως επίσης κι εκείνους που βρίσκονται σε κρεβάτια του πόνου κι εκείνους που πενθούν.

Η Γενική μας Συνέλευση του 2015 θα γίνει στην πόλη Μύρτλ Μπίτς της Ν. Καρολίνας, εκεί που ευελπιστώ να σας δω όλους. Βάλτε το στο πρόγραμμά σας και μην ξεχάσετε ότι φέτος έχουμε εκλογές για όλες τις θέσεις. Ας βρούμε νεαρά παιδιά να τους δώσουμε τα ηνία της Ενώσεως, ήρθε ο καιρός.

> Καλή αντάμωση εκεί λοιπόν! Ο Θεός πάντα μαζί μας.

Ιωάννης Γ. Πεσλής 57000 0000 0000 Ro

#### ТАХІ МЕ ЕДРА АӨННА

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#### ==ΘΥΓΑΤΕΡΕΣ ΕΥΡΥΤΑΝΙΑΣ==

## **President's Message**



Dear Fellow Evrytanians:

As I look all around me, I see the beginning of Spring, a time of rebirth and renewal. As we also progress through the Lenten season we have been preparing ourselves for our spiritual journey to Easter and the Resurrection of Christ. Sometimes Springtime is synonymous with Easter. I hope all of us can experience the warmth and beauty of Easter and share in the joy that it brings!

I hope everyone is looking forward to our Annual Convention as it is fast approaching. We will return to Myrtle Beach this year. The dates are June 26-28, 2015. The Daughters will hold their General Assembly on Saturday morning as usual. Your Board is looking at options for lunch that may be off-site and possibly include an activity so stay tuned. There is an event planned for Sunday night so plan to stay through Sunday. We will be holding our annual raffle with cash prizes once again. Thank you for making it a success year after year!

Please remember that in order to be in good standing and be eligible to vote at our annual General Assembly your dues must be received at the national Charlotte office by May 30, 2015, whether you send them direct or your chapter sends the dues in for you. This is the cut-off date so we can prepare a proper financial statement and propose a budget for the next year.

Change can often be a good thing. This past June at our General

Assembly we voted on proposed changes to our by-laws. It has been quite some time since we have looked at the bylaws or updated/amended any bylaws. Over time it has become apparent that we may need to evolve in the manner in which we operate as an organization in order to be more efficient. For these reasons your Board looked at the bylaws and found some areas that needed a "facelift" so to speak to make them a more accurate reflection of how we need to more efficiently run the organization. The proposed changes have been sent to Mr. Bobby Ziogas, the Velouchi's legal counsel, for review. He will review the proposed changes to be sure they are within the guidelines of the Velouchi's Constitution. Hopefully he will approve the changes. If they are approved then the changes will once again be presented to the membership at least 30 days before the June meeting as per our Constitution. A majority vote of those members in good standing in attendance at the annual General Assembly will be necessary to pass the amendments. We will need the cooperation of all chapter presidents to get the proposed revisions out to members in good standing. Unfortunately we may not have a complete list of all members in good standing because that list has not been sent to the national headquarters in Charlotte.



Snopshot from the Daughters of Evrytania 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting in Charlotte on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015

If we had everyone's email address we could send the document out electronically and save on postage and printing. All chapter presidents will be sent copies of the constitution and proposed revisions and asked to get a copy to all their members. If chapter presidents can send the names and addresses or email addresses by April 30, 2015 to the national office in Charlotte, then the national office can send the information out. But otherwise we will depend on the chapter Presidents to give the information to their members. Please let us all come together to get this important task completed. If you are a direct member and want to contact our national office or are part of a chapter and want to do so, please contact us so we can get the information to you. Our membership chair is Olga Kleto and you can contact her at <a href="mailto:okleto@gmail.com">okleto@gmail.com</a> alternatively you can contact me at <a href="mailto:dream:dr

As I reflect on my past four years as President, I have to smile and say that it has been a great experience. What began as an extension of the desire to better understand and promote a part of my Greek heritage has become a most enjoyable job. I certainly can better appreciate the philanthropy and good will of our organization. I want to thank all the Board members that have served with me over this time. They have made my job very easy and made me look good! However without their help and support along with yours we would not have been able to accomplish all our goals. To all of you I say THANK YOU for making the time fly and embracing me with your love and support! It has been an honor to be your President. Zeto Ellas!

Kalo Pascha! Happy Springtime! Happy Easter!

Mary Ann Contogiannis, M.D.

#### ===NEWS FROM CHAPTERS===

# CHAPTER #1 "Panagia Prousiotissa" FLORENCE, NC



It is with pride and pleasure that we, in a summary form, report the February 16, 2015 "Morning News" of Florence, SC article featuring the contributions, achievements and recognitions of our past president, Andrew G. Kampiziones.



"We have found hospitality, kindness and acceptance in America," Kampiziones said. "We have been given the opportunity to give back to the community, to be contributing factors to the quality of life in the community. That is what America is all about."

He has served on the Florence Museum Board, the McLeod Regional Medical Center Foundation Board and the Florence Heritage Foundation Board. He was a charter member of the Committee for Housing for the Mentally III and was chairman of the Historical Commission and the Florence Symphony Board, though that is far from all that he has done.

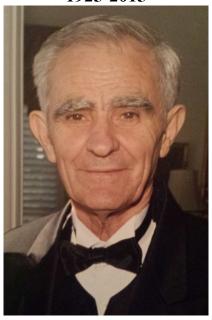
His willingness to serve has not gone unnoticed, as he has received numerous awards over the years for his service and his work teaching others about his heritage.

In 1988, Kampiziones was the recipient of the Order of the Palmetto from the state of South Carolina and the Jack Baker

Award from the arts community in Florence. He returned to New York in 2002, when he received the

Ellis Island Medal of Honor for humanitarian preservation of diverse ethnic heritage. His service in the Greek Army is commemorated on a plaque on the Wall of Honor at the Florence Veterans Park. Kampiziones said that even though he is an American now, he is proud of his heritage and helped start both the Greek Festival in Florence and International Day at FMU (now Arts International) in which different cultures are represented through food, presentations and costumes.

### ==Obituary== Βασίλειος Δουλαβέρης 1925-2015



On behalf of Vasilios' 3 children: Steven Doulaveris, Kiki Soletic and Mary Metaxas

Vasilios Doulaveris was our father, our hero and our mentor. He was born in Evrytania, Greece in the year 1925. In the year 1949, the year our parents married, Greece was a war torn country. It was battered and barren, and offered a bleak future for a young family.

And so, in the year 1956, our father gathered his family and traveled to a new frontier, the United States of America, the land of opportunity:

Like a pioneer, our father had no family to receive him, to offer a safety net if he fell, to reassure him in times of doubt.

Like a pioneer, our father did not speak the language or understand the customs.

Like a pioneer, it was our father's faith in God that sustained him through countless hardships that he encountered on his journey.

With faith as his compass, our father found the courage to achieve his dream, and, in the process became an American hero.

Our father lived life according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church, imparting Christian values to his children through his example:

From our father, we learned the meaning of unconditional love.

From our father, we learned the importance of gratitude.

From our father, we learned the value of hard work.

From our father, we learned about the power of humility, compassion and philanthropy.

The Lord has called the patriarch of our Doulaveris family home. Our father leaves behind our loving mother, Katherine, his devoted wife of 66 years; we 3 children; Steven and his wife Helen, Kiki and her husband Ray, Mary and her husband Bill; 8 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Our father loved his Savior and he loved his family with all of his heart and all of his soul and all of his might. Our fathers legacy is great and his accomplishments many. For this we owe our father a debt of gratitude. He will always be remembered for the sweetness of his smile, and we will miss him dearly. Rest in peace, dear father. We love you.

Eternal be thy memory.

Οι φωτογραφίες είναι ευγενική προσφορά του κ. Γιώργου Τάσιου



**GEFIRA MANOLI** 



KASTRO TSOUKA

#### ===NEA AПО TA TMHMATA===

#### CHAPTER #3 «Ο Πλάτανος» WINSTON-SALEM, NC

==Της Αλεξάνδρας Σκυλοδήμου==

#### **\*ΓΕΝΗΣΗ**\*

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Να σας ζήσει!

#### **\***ΒΑΠΤΙΣΕΙΣ**\***

Στις 23 Νοεμβρίου 2014 τελέσθηκε η βάπτιση του γιου του Γιάννη και Βιργινίας Καζάκου. Ανάδοχοι παρέστησαν ο Θεόδωρος & Μαρία Καζάκου, οι οποίοι χάρισαν στο νεοφώτιστο το όνομα Ανδρέας.

Στις 11 Ιανουαρίου 2015 τελέστηκε η βάπτιση του γιού του Θεοδώρου και Ευφροσύνης Καζάκου. Ανάδοχοι παρέστησαν ο Χρήστος & Ναταλία Σπινόσα, οι οποίοι χάρισαν στο νεοφώτιστο το όνομα Ιωάννης.

Να σας ζήσουν τα νεοφώτιστα!

#### **\*ΣΥΛΛΥΠΗΤΗΡΙΑ\***

Εκφράζουμε τα θερμά μας συλλυπητήρια:

Στην πρεσβυτέρα Μαρίκα Καναβού και Φωτεινή Μπομποτσάρη καθώς και στις οικογένειές τους για τον θάνατο της αδερφής τους στην Ελλάδα.

Στην Πινελιά & Γιάννη Μπαλατσιά, Κώστα & Λίτσα Τσατσαρώνη και στις οικογένειές τους για τον θάνατο της μητέρας τους Μαρίας Τσατσαρώνη.

Ο Κύριος να αναπαύσει τις ψυχές τους και παρηγορήσει τις οικογένειές τους.



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#### ===NEWS FROM CHAPTERS ===

# CHAPTER #3 «Ο Πλάτανος» WINSTON-SALEM, NC

#### **\***An unforgettable Cruise \*



"This is a group picture (except for two couples) of Charlotteans, who are, with a just few exceptions Evrytanians, who cruised together back in January, traveling to five islands in the Central Caribbean Sea. We had a wonderful time, and hope next year, even more of us will get together. Everyone's invited. Next year's cruise starts Feb. 1, 2016. The cruise lasts 11 days, and anyone interested can call Laura Nixon."

# CHARLOTTE CHAPTER #4 DAUGHTERS OF EVRYTANIA

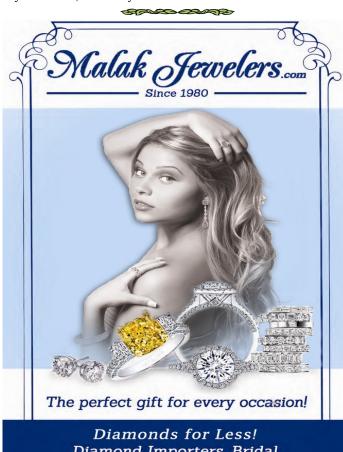
---CHARLOTTE---



On March 16 the Daughters of Evrytania Charlotte Chapter once more held the much anticipated Mother/Daughter covered dish and Bingo night. And again we had a family represented by four generations present beginning with great grandmother Eleni Tsiabassis, grandmother Voula Pappas, mother Maria Pappas and granddaughter Evi Pappas. The Velouchi meeting room was filled to capacity and even though

we had entered the Lenten season, there were delicious dishes for all to share.

We highly recommend this fun activity to all chapters for members to gather and relax and have fun. A short meeting was held, led by Chapter president Loula Kastriches, who encouraged ladies to make plans to attend the 71st Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC. See you all then!



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#### ==NEA АПО ТА ТМНМАТА===

# CHAPTER #4 «Ο Έλατος» CHARLOTTE, NC

==Της κ. Ιωάννας Κατεργάρη==

\*Κοπή Βασιλόπιτας και Τιμητικές Αναγνωρίσεις\*



Κοσμοσυρροή μελών και φίλων στο κόψιμο της βασιλόπιτας που πραγματοποίησε το Τμήμα μας στο Πάρκο Έλατος στις 22 Ιανουαρίου 2015.

Αμέσως Θεία μετά τη Λειτουργία στο εκκλησάκι «Παναγία Προυσιώτισσα», όλος κόσμος παρακάθησε σε γεύμα που ήταν και πάλι προσφορά της αγαπητής μας οικογένειας Κώστα και Σίντυ Χολέβα. Χίλια ευχαριστώ! Τη θαυμάσια αυτή εκδήλωση τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους και τα καταξιωμένα μέλη μας Γεώργιος και Ελένη Νταή.



Αμέσως μετά την κοπή της βασιλόπιτας, ο πρόεδρος του Τμήματός μας, κ. Τομ Νίξον, απένειμε, εκ μέρους του Δ.Σ., και ως ελάχιστο δείγμα αναγώρισης, τιμητικές πλακέτες στην κ. Μαρία Πιστιόλη



"in appreciation of her volunteer tireless efforts, outstanding fundraising services for the Iconography of our Chapel "Panagia Prousiotissa", as well as her tremendous gifts of love and dedication towards the fulfillment of the mission of our historic Velouchi Charlotte Chapter" καθώς και στον πρόεδρο του τοπικού

καθώς και στον πρόεδρο του τοπικού Ιδρύματος της ΑΧΕΠΑ, κ. Λούη Πολίτη



"In appreciation of the AHEPA Marathon Foundation's outstanding financial donation to our Panagia Prousiotissa Building Fund and continuous support towards the fulfillment of our Chapter mission".







#### ==NEA AΠΟ TA TMHMATA===

#### CHAPTER #4 «Ο Έλατος»

#### Μνημόσυνα και Τιμητική Αναγνώριση

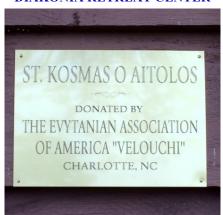
Στις 21 Μαρτίου 2015 το Τμήμα μας τέλεσε, όπως κάθε χρόνο, το ετήσιο μνημόσυνο για όλους εκείνους που έφυγαν από τη ζωή και στη μνήμη τους έγιναν δωρεές (memorials) στο εκκλησάκι μας «Παναγία Προυσιώτισσα». Επίσης, την ίδια μέρα τελέσθηκε και ετήσιο μνημόσυνο για τη μητέρα των Σερ. Χουσιάδα και Βούλας Β. Μαντή (Ιωάννας Χουσιάδα), οι οποίοι πρόσφεραν σε όλους το θαυμάσιο γεύμα.

Κατά τη διάρκεια της εκδήλωσης το Τμήμα ετίμησε τον κ. Γεώργιο Τζιώρο,



"In appreciation of his invaluable volunteer services as well as his tremendous offering of labor, love and dedication towards the fulfillment of the mission of the Velouchi Chapter #4 and its Chapel Panagia Prousiotissa.

# VELOUCHI'S DONATION TO THE METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA "DIAKONIA RETREAT CENTER"



The above plaque is placed at the center of the grounds, outside the chapel "St. Kosmas o Aitolos" located at the Diakonia Retreat Center of Metropolis of Atlanta in recognition of the Velouchi's \$100,000 donation.

#### ==Obituaries==

# **Θεοδοσία Α. Ζιωζιού** 1931-2014



Η Θεοδοσία Ζιωζιού γεννήθηκε στο Καρπενήσι στις 10 Οκτωβρίου το 1931. Γονείς της ήταν ο Παναγιώτης Τσιαμτσιούρης και η Ευφροσύνη Τσιαμτσιούρη το γένος Τριανταφύλλου. Η Θεοδοσία ήταν παιδί πολύτεκνης οικογένειας με άλλα οκτώ αδέλφια.

Κύρια ασχολία της οικογένειας και της ίδιας ήταν η γεωργία και η κτηνοτροφία. Το 1958 παντρεύτηκε τον Ανδρέα Διον. Ζιωζιό από το Καρπενήσι, παιδί φτωχό και βιοπαλαιστή της εποχής. Μαζί απόκτησαν δυο γιούς, τον Διονύση και τον Παναγιώτη.

Μαζί με τα παιδιά της, φρόντιζε με την ίδια αγάπη τα πεθερικά της, τη θεία της και τον υπερήλικα πατέρα της. Το 1966 μεταναστεύει στην Αμερική με την οικογένειά της για αναζήτηση καλύτερης ζωής και βασιζόμενη σε φρούδες υποσχέσεις!

Επαναπατρίστηκε στα δύο χρόνια. Με το σύζυγό της άνοιξαν το δικό τους μαγαζί, την πρώτη Πιτσαρία στο Καρπενήσι το 1978.

Το μεγάλο της αγκάθι στην καρδιά της ήταν η μετανάστευση ξανά του γιού της στην Αμερική. Από τους γιούς της που πάντρεψε είδε και χάρηκε εφτά εγγόνια και ένα δισέγγονο. Ταξίδεψε αρκετές φορές στην Αμερική να χαρεί τα παιδιά της εκεί που τόσο στερήθηκε στην Ελλάδα. Απρόσμενα και πολύ νωρίς έχασε τον σύζυγό της και δεν κατάφερε ποτέ να ξεπεράσει το σοκ.

Όλοι που την γνώρισαν μιλάνε για την καλοσύνη της, την ευγένειά της, την φιλοξενία της, την νοικοκυροσύνη της και την αστείρευτη διάθεσή της να εξυπηρετεί και να φροντίζει ανθρώπους συγγενείς και φίλους. Έφυγε για πάντα ήρεμη στον ύπνο της, στο κρεβάτι του σπιτιού της στις 27 Οκτωβρίου 2014 για να ανταμώσει τον αγαπημένο της

Ανδρέα, ξαφνικά, όπως η ίδια παρακαλούσε και ευχόταν.

Η κληρονομιά που άφησε ήταν ένα Όνομα μεγάλο, μια μεγάλη για τον τόπο ιστορία. Δυο παιδιά και δυο νύφες που έκαναν υπέροχες και αξιοπρεπέστατες οικογένειες και την ευχή της στα παιδιά της, στα εγγόνια και στο δισέγγονο.

Δεν άφησε υποχρεώσεις, κι εμείς όλοι οι κληρονόμοι έχουμε μία υποχρέωση απέναντι της. Να τιμήσουμε το όνομά της και την μνήμη της!

Καλό Παράδεισο Μάνα! Αιωνία σου η μνήμη Μάνα! Τα παιδιά σου

Διονύσης & Παναγιώτης, Εφη & Λίτσα. Τα εγγόνια σου Ανδρέας, Γιώργος, Πάνος, Μιχάλης, Ανδρέας, Θεοδόσης, Χρήστος και το δισέγγονο Διονυσάκης.

#### Konstantinos Zaharopoulos 1949-2015



Konstantinos Zaharopoulos, age 65, of Charlotte, died peacefully in hospice care on January 23, 2015. He was born on July 10, 1949 in Athens, Greece. He was a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather. He spent his career as a managing partner of the Captain's Cap restaurant in Belmont. He loved spending his free time with his family and especially his grandchildren whom he adored.

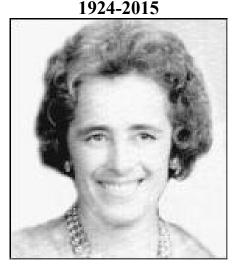
Mr. Zaharopoulos is survived by his beloved wife, Toula; his two sons, George Zaharopoulos, wife Fay, and John Zaharopoulos; and his four precious grandchildren, Jenny, Konstantinos, Alexander, and Zoey; as well as many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express our eternal gratitude to our relatives and friends who supported us throughout his illness.

#### ===NEA АПО ТА ТМНМАТА===

#### CHAPTER #4 «Ο Έλατος»

## ==Obituaries== Fotini K. Katsanos



Fotini K. Katsanos, 90, of Charlotte, passed peacefully at home surrounded by the family she loved on Sunday, February 8, 2015.

She was born on November 30, 1924 in Agia Vlaherna, Greece to the late Vasilios and Fotini Katsanos. She was preceded in death by her step-mother, Fotini Groumbas Katsanos, her beloved husband, Spiros and her sister, Vasiliki Doulaveris.

She was a devout Christian and a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Fotini emigrated from Greece with her children to join her husband in Charlotte in 1959. She worked with her husband in the restaurant business for many years. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her family was the focus of her life. She had a passion for cooking and gardening. Each year, she dedicated her spare time to growing vegetables in her garden. It brought her great joy to be able to share her vegetables with her friends and family. Fotini is survived by her daughter, Maria Goumas and husband, Gus; son, George S. Katsanos and wife, Melody; daughter, Bessie Margonis and husband, George. Her surviving grandchildren, Frances Simopoulos and husband, Peter; Tina Christenbury and husband, Mitch; Jonathan Mills; Spero Katsanos and wife, Suzanne; Stefan Katsanos and wife, Candace; Renee Elefandis and husband, Pete and Dean Margonis; and greatgrandchildren, Sotiri and Connie Simopoulos, Maria and Alexis Christenbury and Ioannis Elefandis were all blessed to have a loving yiayia and enjoyed many happy memories with her. She is also survived by her brothers and sister: Panagiotis Katsanos and his late wife, Athanasia, Christodoulos Katsanos and wife. Penelope. Maria Politis and husband. Nick, Demetrios Katsanos and wife, Ekaterini, Gus Kanos and wife, Chrisoula and George Katsanos and wife, Christina and many nieces, nephews and godchildren.

#### Nikolaos Groumbas 1940-2015



Mr. Groumbas, 74, of Charlotte, NC, passed away Tuesday, the 10th of March 2015, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born the 6th of December 1940 in Episkopi, Naousis, Greece, one of four brothers to the late Ioannis Groumbas and Triantafilia Zarras Groumbas. Nikolaos served in the Greek Army and worked as an agent with Asteras Insurance/realty company in Greece before he and his wife, Despoina, came to the United States in 1985.

He and his wife owned and operated Tanners Snack Bar on North Tryon St. for 25 years. He was an avid soccer fan and always cheered for his favorite team Panathenaikos in Greece and was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The funeral service will be held 11:00 AM, Thursday, the 12th of March 2015, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with the Reverend Father Michael Varvarelis officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery. Nikolaos is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years, Despoina Groumbas; two daughters, Helen Groumbas and husband, Aris Mamalis of Thessaloniki, Greece and Maria Hadley and husband, Robert Hadley of Charlotte, NC; four grandchildren: Despoina and Georgia of Greece and Nikolaos and Elisavet of Charlotte, NC: two brothers: Angelo Groumbas of Greece and Apostolos Groumbas of Germany. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a brother, Constantine Groumbas of Greece.

#### Sofia Liras Politis 1940-2015



Sofia Liras Politis, 75, died suddenly on March 26, 2015, at her home. She was the beloved daughter of the late Andreas Liras and Alexandria Tasios Liras. Sofia worked in several of her family restaurants in the Charlotte area. She was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral since 1960.

Sofia was actively involved in her church and with the annual Greek "Yiasou" Festival. She was a member of Evrytanian Association. Sofia is survived by her husband of 56 years Angelo Politis, her son Andy Politis and his wife Gwen Politis, her two granddaughters Sophia and Eva Politis. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her beloved son Louie A. Politis, her sister Maria Liras Hondros and her brother Jimmy Liras.

Above all Sofia will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt.

May her memory be eternal



#### **===NEA AΠΟ ΤΑ ΤΜΗΜΑΤΑ===**

#### **CHAPTER #6**

«Athanasios Karpenisiotis» ASHEVILLE, NC

---By Gus J. Dermas---

#### ⊕ **OANATOI** ⊕

#### Χρήστος Παναγιωτόπουλος 1924-2014



Στις 21 Οκτωβρίου 2014 και σε ηλικία 90 ετών έφυγε για πάντα από τη ζωή ο αγαπημένος Χρήστος Παναγιωτόπουλος. Ο αείμνηστος καταγόταν από την Καταβόθρα Ευρυτανίας και ήταν γιος του Βασιλείου και Παναγιώτας Παναγιωτοπούλου. Προηγήθη εις θάνατον από τους αδελφούς του Γιάννη και Γεώργιο.

Ο Χρήστος μετανάστευσε στην Αμερική το 1951 και έμεινε στη Νέα Υόρκη για 5 χρόνια. Στην συνέχεια εγκαταστάθηκε στο Άσβιλ της Β. Καρολίνας όπου και ασχολήθηκε, καθ 'ολη τη διάρκεια της ζωής του, με τη διοίκηση πολλών εστιατορίων. Διετέλεσε μέλος του Τμήματός μας «Το Βελούχι» και με ευχαρίστηση και χιούμορ, συμμετείχε σε κάθε κοινοτική και άλλη συλλογική φιλανθρωπική προσπάθεια. Παντρεύτηκε την αγαπημένη του σύζυγο Μαρία, το γένος Μήτσιου, από το Κερασοχώρι Ευρυτανίας με την οποία απέκτησε ένα γιο και μια κόρη.

Το Τμήμα μας εκφράζει θερμά συλλυπητήρια στη σύζυγό του Μαρία, στο γιο του Βασίλη και τη σύζυγό του Κάθυ, στην κόρη του Παναγιώτα και το σύζυγό της Κων/νο Παπαναστασίου καθώς και στα τέσσερα εγγόνια του Χρήστο, Μαρία, Δημήτριο και Αλέξια.

Στις 21 Δεκεμβρίου 2014 απεβίωσε σε ηλικία 60 ετών ο Παναγιώτης (Pete) Τάσιος, ένα καλός άνθρωπος και για πολλά χρόνια μέλος του Τμήματός μας. Ο Παναγιώτης μετανάστευσε από τη Σελλά Ευρυτανίας στην Αμερική με την οικογένειά του σε ηλικία 13 ετών. Όταν τελείωσε το Γυμνάσιο ακολούθησε το επάγγελμα του

πατέρα του Νικολάου στις επιχειρήσεις εστιατορίων.

#### Παναγιώτης Τάσιος 1954-2014



Ο Παναγιώτης ήταν πάντα πρόθυμος και καλόκαρδος να συνδράμει σε κάθε κονωνική προσπάθεια του Τμήματός μας και της τοπικής μας κοινότητας.

Στη σύζυγό του Γκέιλ, στους γιους του, Νίκο και Χρήστο, στον πατέρα του Νικόλαο και στα αδέλφια του Κώστα, Θανάση και Δημήτρη καθώς και εγκόνια του, το Τμήμα μας εκφράζει θερμότατα συλλυπητήρια.

Ας είναι ελαφρύ το χώμα που τους σκεπάζει και αιωνία η μνήμη τους.

# CHAPTER #8 "Megdova" ROANOKE, VA

#### Poulos, James Paul 1921-2015



James Paul Poulos, 94, of Roanoke, was received by the Lord Wednesday evening,

February 18, 2015. Waiting to receive him are his wife, Helen; son, Paul; and daughter, Rita. Surviving are his son, Deno; daughter-in-law, Tina; grandchildren, Tom, Maria, Demetri; greatgrandchildren, Caitland, Foti, and Christopher; and an extended family of nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

"Jimmy" came to America from Klapsi, Evrytania (Greece) at the age of 16. His hard work and his love for God, family, and country left a legacy that his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren can continue. Jimmy's love for God was evident as he helped to build his place of worship, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. He always reached out to bless others, especially children and orphans. Jimmy's love for family was seen by simply observing him: a moral and humble man who always believed in the love of God, his fellow man, and hard work. Jimmy proved his love for his country by fighting on the front lines in North Africa during World War II.

He founded Charcoal Steakhouse, and went on to "supervise" at D.J.'s Brasserie Restaurant.

Jimmy was a long time member of the Evrytanian Association and will also be missed by his many friends in Roanoke's Megdova Chapter #8"

He was a dad, uncle, and grandfather who will forever be missed in the hearts of his family.

# CHAPTER #9 "Kefalovriso" GREENVILLE, SC

#### $\oplus$ **OANATO** $\Sigma$ $\oplus$

We extend our sympathy to the family of George Giannopoulos from Greenville, SC for the recent death of his brother, Yianni Giannopoulos, of Esohoria, Greece.

May his memory be eternal.



# Dispelling a Myth

We would like to take this opportunity to dispel the misconception that senior citizens are exempt from paying their annual dues to the Association and their local chapter.

After researching, we found no past decisions or by-laws stating senior citizens are exempt from paying Association dues. Therefore, anyone wishing to be in good standing may pay their annual Evrytanian Association dues regardless of age.

> Bobby Tsiabassis Velouchi National Secretary

#### **===NEA AΠΟ ΤΑ ΤΜΗΜΑΤΑ===**

# CHAPTER #15 "To Psilo Nero" SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

#### ==Obituary==

George Elias Velaoras 1948–2014



Nestled in the Pindus Mts. Of Greece in the village of Agia Triada, George Elias Velaoras was born on April 21, 1948. He was the 5<sup>th</sup> of 7 children born to Elias and Ioanna Velaoras. After serving in the Greek Army, George was summering in Karpenisi where he met and married his wife, Renoula. Newly married they moved to Athens and awaited the arrival of their first born, a baby girl. With family in the States, he decided to move to Seattle Washington for a better life. Soon after arriving, he worked at Western Steel along with other Greek immigrants. With a new life and new job, he was again blessed with another child, a baby boy. George and his brother -in law Christopher, decided to open a restaurant on Pike St. in downtown Seattle, the Astoria Café. It wasn't long after, that George was needed full time at the restaurant and he left the foundry. Opportunity for them arose to acquire their second restaurant which they named, Grecian Corner also located downtown. Ouzo, Metaxa and Retsina flowed as Bouzoukia played for many to come and enjoy. George always treated customers like family, he shared in their pain and joy. In 1993, the Grecian Corner was renamed 1st Hill Bar and Grill.

In 2005, he and his family expanded and opened yet another restaurant resurrecting the name Grecian Corner, again in the central business district of Seattle.. During this time, George experienced the best joy of his life and became a Pappou to two beautiful girls, Rena and Georgia.

He is survived in life by his wife, Renoula, children Ioanna Velaoras, Loui and Constantina Velaoras, granddaughters Rena and his namesake Georgia, along with several nieces and nephews, Seattle.

# CHAPTER #17 "Ο Αετός" ATLANTA, GA By Mrs. Golfo Vastakis

Our chapter held its Vasilopita celebration on January 25. After our meeting we enjoyed a pot luck dinner followed by the cutting of the Vasilopita.



Several of our members prepared baked goods for their annual Pascha bake sale held on March 22. Our chapter will also be involved with hosting a Protomayia Lunch & Celebration at the Annunciation Cathedral on May 3, after Liturgy.

### CHAPTER #18 "Ο Άγιος Ταξιάρχης" CAMP HILL, PA



President Tom Paparoidamis is seated with his wife Fotini, George and Leah Lois (owner's of Gilligan's) and Gus and Tina Giannaris.

On Sunday, January 4, 2015, the chapter held its annual Vasilopita dinner at Gilligan's restaurant in Harrisburg, PA. The dinner provided an opportunity for member fellowship and obviously a great meal. Vasilopita coins were found by George Fotiou and Tom Paparoidamis.

During the meeting the following officers were elected for 2015-2016. Tom Paparoidamis was elected president, Kosta Pappas was elected vice president, Maria Peslis was elected secretary and Gus Kokos was elected treasurer. Also, Angeliki Lloyd was elected as the chapter's board representative.



The chapter's younger members enjoying fellowship

#### **MEMBERS AT LARGE**



<u>ANGELO KANTLIS</u> <u>DEC. 23, 1950 – FEB. 12, 2015</u> WILL LIVE FOREVER

Angelo Kantlis was and will always be the loving husband to Georgia Kantlis. Loving father to: George Kantlis, Kostas Kantlis, John Kantlis, & Maria Tsiakas. Loving Father in Law to: Georgette Kantlis, Maria Kantlis & Michelle Kantlis & Kostas Loving Grandfather to Grandchildren: Evangelos & Georgianna Kantlis Olga, George & Eleni Tsiakas Evangelos, Christina, Christos, Georgia & Panagiotis Kantlis, Valentina Kantlis & her baby sister on the way. Loving brother to Alexandra Pistioli, John Kantlis & Miranda Pexa. Loving Uncle to all of his Nephews & Nieces both here and in Greece, Amazing friend & Neighbor. Amazing Boss to thousands who worked for him throughout the years. Amazing person to all who knew him or met him. An example to all of us.

HUSBAND-FATHER-GRAND FATHER-BROTHER-UNCLE-BOSS-KOUMBARO-NEIGHBOR-FRIEND-HUNTING BUDDY-HONEST-RELIABLE & LOVING.

Ευχόμαστε ο Πανάγαθος Θεός που κατευθύνει τα Θεία και τα Ανθρώπινα, να κατατάζει την ενάρετη ψυχή του εν χώμα ζώντων και δικαίων.

#### ==NEA AIIO THN EYPYTANIA===



7 Φεβρουίου 2015

# Μαθήματα ανθρωπιάς: Καθαρίστρια ιδιωτικού συνεργείου καθαριότητας του Νοσοκομείου Καρπενησίου βρήκε 720 ευρώ και τα παρέδωσε

Ένα ακόμα περιστατικό που δείχνει ότι ακόμα και στις δύσκολες (από όλες τις απόψεις) εποχές που διάγουμε, η ανθρωπιά, το φιλότιμο και η αξιοπρέπεια δεν έχουν ακόμα χαθεί, σημειώθηκε σήμερα (Τετάρτη 4/2) στο Νοσοκομείο Καρπενησίου.



Στην αναφορά που απέστειλε ο διοικητής του Νοσοκομείου κ. Δημήτρης Καρατσίκης, αναφέρονται τα εξής: «Σήμερα 04/02/2015 βρέθηκε σακουλάκι ραμμένο σε φούστα ασθενούς που περιείχε χρήματα, στο χώρο των πλυντηρίων του Νοσοκομείου μας από την υπάλληλο του Ιδιωτικού Συνεργείου Καθαριότητας Αγραφιώτη Ιωάννα και παρεδόθη στο γραφείο επιστασίας στον υπάλληλο κ. Κοζώρη Χρήστο. Στη συνεχεία παρουσία του Δ/ντη Ιατρικής Υπηρεσία που σήμερα εκτελεί χρέη Διοικητή κ. Καρατσίκη Δημήτριο, της Δ/ντριας της Νοσηλευτικής Υπηρεσίας κ. Ζαγκότση Μάρθας, της Προϊσταμένης Προσωπικού κ. Καρκάνη Δήμητρας και του υπαλλήλου κ. Κοζώρη Χρήστο έγινε η καταμέτρηση και βρέθηκε γενικό σύνολο χρημάτων 720 ευρώ.

Το παραπάνω ποσό μαζί με τον ρουχισμό ανήκε στην κ. Κουτέρη Λουκία νοσηλευόμενη την Παθολογική κλινική, κατόπιν αναγνώρισης και βεβαίωσης από τον υιό της ασθενούς κ. Κουτέρη Δημήτριο, στον οποίο και παρεδόθησαν".

Ο ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΗΣ  $\alpha/\alpha$ Ο ΔΙΕΥΘΎΝΤΗΣ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗΣ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑΣ Δρ. ΚΑΡΑΤΣΙΚΗΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ



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#### Δειδάγματα ανθρωπιάς

Στις 4/12/2014 βρέθηκαν δυο πορτοφόλια σε μαζιλαροθήκη στο χώρο των πλυντηρίων του Νοσοκομείου Καρπενησίου από την υπάλληλο Διαμαντή Παναγιώτα παρουσία της συναδέλφου της Παπασπύρου Αγγελικής, η οποία ενημέρωσε την Δ/ντρια Νοσηλευτικής Υπηρεσίας Ζαγκότση Μάρθα και στη συνέχεια παραδόθηκαν για καταμέτρηση στον Δ/ντή Ιατρικής Υπηρεσία που εκτελεί χρέη Διοικητή κ. Καρατσίκη Δημήτριο.

Η καταμέτρηση έγινε από τον κ. Καρατσίκη παρουσία του Διοικητικού Διευθυντή κ. Κουτσούμπα Αλέξανδρου, της Δ/ντριας της Νοσηλευτικής Υπηρεσίας κ. Ζαγκότση Μάρθας, της Προϊσταμένης Προσωπικού κ. Καρκάνη Δήμητρας και της υπαλλήλου κ. Διαμαντή Παναγιώτας και βρέθηκε στο ένα πορτοφόλι γενικό σύνολο χρημάτων 2450,50 ευρώ και στο δεύτερο πορτοφόλι κέρματα που ανέρχονται στο πόσο των 10,50 ευρώ. Βρέθηκαν επίσης και πρόχειρα χαρτιά με τα στοιχεία του κατόχου, ο οποίος νοσηλεύεται στην Παθολογική κλινική του Νοσοκομείου μας και ονομάζεται Κολλημένος Γεώργιος.

Σε μια εποχή ιδιαίτερα δύσκολη, από πολλές πλευρές, υπάρχουν ακόμη σπουδαίοι άνθρωποι που αποδεικνύουν στην πράξη, ότι το μεγαλύτερο αγαθό στην ζωή μας, συνεχίζει να είναι η ανθρωπιά. Μπράβο στην κ. Παναγιώτα που με την πράξη της αυτή, έστειλε ένα μεγάλο μύνημα με πολλούς αποδέκτες...

# Συγκλονισμένη και η μικρή κοινωνία στο Μικρό Χωριό Ευρυτανίας για τον χαμό του 22χρονου



Συγκλονισμένη και η μικρή κοινωνία στο Μικρό Χωριό Ευρυτανίας για τον χαμό του 22χρονου dj Αποστόλη Τσαούση που βρήκε τραγικό θάνατο στη λεωφόρο Κηφισίας τα ξημερώματα της Κυριακής.

Η μητέρα του άτυχου νεαρού κατάγεται από το Μικρό Χωριό και δυστυχώς η μοίρα τη χτύπησε δεύτερη φορά. Ο σύζυγός της και πατέρας του αδικοχαμένου νεαρού είχε χάσει και αυτός τη ζωή του σε τροχαίο και μεγάλωσε μόνη της τον Αποστόλη και τον αδερφό του.

Η κηδεία του 22χρονου έγινε την Τετάρτη, 10/12/14, στην εκκλησία του Μικρού Χωριού Ευρυτανίας.

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- Advancing improvement in education
- Empowering the Association's Scholarships
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Greece In America NEWSLETTER March 2015

# **Remembering March 25, 1821**Greek Independence Day



As we celebrate Greece's Independence Day, we are also reminded of the thousands of American Philhellenes who supported Greece's struggle, inspired not only by a just cause but also by the magnitude of Greece's history and its impact on modern society. Today Greek-American relations are stronger than ever and both our countries and nations share the same values and vision for a safe and prosperous world.

Ambassador Christos Panagopoulos

# The American People's Support to the Greek War of Independence 1821

As Greeks struggled for their freedom, they looked for support in other countries, especially in Europe. Indeed Europeans played a crucial role in the positive outcome of the Greek Revolution. What is perhaps less known is the contribution of the American people in the Greek War of Independence. Greeks looked across the Atlantic for assistance from an idealistic rising power, the United States of America. The distance between the two countries was enormous but the success of the American Revolution 40 years before was still fresh in Greek memories. At first the U.S. government was cautious. Nevertheless, moral support for the Greek struggle came from the President himself.

In December of 1822, President Monroe made the following declaration concerning Greece's noble struggle:

The mention of Greece fills the mind with the most exalted sentiments, and arouses in our bosoms the best feelings of which our nature is susceptible. Superior skill and refinement in the arts, heroic gallantry in action, disinterested patriotism, enthusiastic zeal and devotion in favor of public liberty, are associated with our recollection of ancient Greece. That such a country should have been overwhelmed, and so long hidden, as it were, from the world, under a gloomy

despotism, has been a cause of unceasing and deep regret to generous minds of ages past. It was natural, therefore, that the reappearance of these people in their original character, contending in favor of their liberties, should produce the great excitement and sympathy in their favor, which have been signally displayed throughout the United States. A strong hope is entertained that these people will recover their independence, and resume their equal station among the nations of the earth.

From the moment the first news of the Greek revolution appeared in the American press – in the *Daily National Intelligence* (Washington, D.C.) on May 18, 1821 – American public opinion was decidedly on the side of the fighting Greeks. After that, many other references appeared in the press, also outside of the American capital, in other large cities such as Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Pittsburgh, and elsewhere.

However, the publication that played the key role in informing and shaping American public opinion was the *North American Review*. Between 1820-1824 its publisher was Edward Everett, one of the most devout Philhellenes. Everett was responsible for the publication of the appeal of Messenian Senate and for the memorable letter Adamantios Corais addressed to him from Paris in October 1823.



The Greek cause was also supported by state legislative bodies:

Resolutions passed by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina

"In the senate, 19<sup>th</sup> December 1823

Resolved, That the state of South Carolina regards with deep interest the noble and patriotic struggle of the modern GREEKS to rescue from the foot of the infidel and barbarian the hallowed land of Leonidas and Socrates, and would hail, with pleasure, the recognition, by the American Government, of the Independence of Greece.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to our Senators and Representatives at Washington.

Ordered, That the resolutions be sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

By order of the Senate

WM. D. Martin, C.S."

The Greek cause was introduced for debate for the first time in the U.S. Congress thanks to the Philhellene Congressman from Massachusetts, Daniel Webster. Making that speech in the historical Capitol building, the seat of the US Congress, built in ancient Greek Ionian architecture, Webster opened his speech

"This magnificent edifice, these columns with their stately proportions, this fine architecture by which we are surrounded, what are these but so many witnesses of what Greece once was and what she was taught us to

be? Yet Sir, I have not introduced the resolution, now on your table, with any view towards repaying aught of the debt which we, in common with the civilized world, owe to that land of science, freedom, arts and arms. It is a debt that never can be paid. Whatever may be our feelings of gratitude for these gifts we are constrained to act with a view alone to the present state of the world and of our relations to it. What I propose and what I shall say has reference to modern, not to ancient Greece—to be living not to the dead..."

The debates in Congress did not yield a favorable conclusion for the Greek cause, except for good wishes and expressions of support from all quarters of Congress. Significant assistance did reach Greece, however. Americans from all walks of life were able to mobilize support outside the political process. Supplies of all kinds including food, clothing, and cash were collected and sent. Many of these donations were raised from charities and dances organized by the philhellenic committees in large cities such as Washington, DC, New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. There was analogous activity in smaller cities, such as Wilmington, (Delaware), Bristol (Rhode Island), Hartford (Connecticut), Springfield (Massachusetts) and many others. A great wind of hope blowing on the other side of the Atlantic gave encouragement to the conviction of the revolutionaries, as well as to those who were rushing to their side from every corner of the earth.

The first American to establish himself as a volunteer in revolutionary Greece was George Jarvis, who landed with the British Philhellene George Abney Hastings at the port of Hydra on April 3, 1822. Two years later, Jonathan P. Miller arrived as the official envoy of the Philhellenic Committee of Boston and head of philanthropic assistance. That same year, in December 1824, sailor John M. Allen arrived. He was followed in 1825 by Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, sent by the Boston Committee as a doctor and relief worker. In June 1825 another solider arrived, former army officer William Townshend Washington, a distant cousin of George Washington.

The following month saw the arrival of Estwick Evans, a lawyer and politician from New Hampshire. During the brief period between March and October 1827, when British Lord Cochrane arrived to lead the Greek fleet, three more American fighters arrived, Dr. John J. Getty, gunner George Wilson, and Afro-American sailor James Williams. It is not known exactly when sailor Alexander Ross arrived. He is first attested in 1828.



The above are extracts from the book "The American People's Support to the Greek War of Independence 1821," published by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Service of Diplomatic and Historical Archives, in 2010.

Photos from top to bottom: "Greece Expressing Gratitude," 1858, Theodoros Vryzakis, Unknown, "The Death of Marco Botsaris," mid-19th century, "Samuel Gridley Howe," 1821-1840, John Elliot.

# GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 2015 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

March 24, 2015

Since the dawn of our Nation, the United States and Greece have shared a bond forged through common struggle and deeply rooted in mutual beliefs. Greek principles guided our Founders as they declared America's independence, and nearly half a century later, as Greek revolutionaries fought to throw off the yoke of an empire, they renewed the creed that unites free people everywhere: ordinary citizens can govern themselves. Today, we celebrate the Hellenic spirit that has inspired our two great nations — separated by an ocean but linked by a shared destiny written not for us, but by us.

It was the democratic example of ancient Greece from which the founding generation of Americans drew strength. In our Nation's earliest days, we sought wisdom from Greek history and philosophy, and we found hope within the pages of timeless Greek texts. Mindful of the lessons of the Hellenic story, courageous patriots undertook a bold experiment, securing the blessings of liberty and laying the foundation for more than two centuries of progress.

But even in the cradle of democracy, the promise of freedom was not preordained. More than 2,000 years after the values of self-determination first found expression in a small group of Hellenic city-states, the Greek people stood up against tyranny and sacrificed to restore democracy to its birthplace. They met brutal hardship with unbreakable character, drew inspiration from America's revolution, and never lost faith in the ideals Greece has always represented.

As Americans and Greeks, we are heirs to a long legacy of hard-won freedom and justice — values which we must not only preserve, but renew and refresh in our own time. Generations of Greek Americans have enriched the United States and strengthened our communities. Their heritage and vibrant culture are reflected in our story of achievement and constant striving; their voices are among the chorus of citizens who have driven this country inexorably forward. Today, as Greece works to lay a foundation for long-term prosperity, our Nation continues to support our friend and NATO ally and to help the Greek people reach for the future so many have sought — one where all women and men are free to pursue their dreams, realize their potential, and secure a brighter tomorrow for their children.

Together, we continue the righteous task of perfecting our two nations. On the 194th anniversary of Greek independence, let us celebrate the enduring ties between our peoples and stand with those around the world who long for liberty and the chance to join in the noble work of building a democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2015, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BARACK OBAMA

### Remembering March 25, 1821 - Greek Independence Day

# Με λαμπρότητα γιόρτασαν τα σχολεία της Σαρλοτ την 25 Μαρτίου 1821

Σβήνοντας ένα κομμάτι από το παρελθόν είναι σαν να σβήνεις αντίστοιχα ένα κομμάτι από το μέλλον

(Γ.Σεφέρης)

Με λαμπρό τρόπο και ιδιαίτερη υπερηφάνεια γιόρτασαν την 25<sup>η</sup> Μαρτίου 1821 το Ελληνικό Σχολείο Αγίας Τριάδος και το ελληνικών συμφερόντων σχολείο τσάρτερ "Ακαδημία Σωκράτη" στην πόλη Σάρλοτ της Β. Καρολίνας.

Ελληνικό Σχολείο Αγίας Τριάδας



κατάμεστη Στην αίθουσα πολλαπλών εκδηλώσεων του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος, οι περίπου 100 μαθητές γιόρτασαν με λαμπρότητα τη διπλή τρανή ελληνοχριστιανική γιορτή του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου και της εθνικής μας παλλιγγενεσίας. Οι μαθητές παρήλασαν με υπερηφάνεια και με την προϊσταμένου του ευλογία Καθεδρικού Ναού Μιγαήλ πρωτ. Βαρβαρέλη έψαλαν τον ακάθιστο ύμνο «Τη Υπερμάχω Στρατηγώ», τους εθνικούς Αμερικής, ύμνους Ελλάδας και τραγούδησαν παραδοσιακά τραγούδια και χόρεψαν πατριωτικούς χορούς.

Αμέσως μετά τη γλαφυρότατη και λίαν περιγραφική πανηγυρική ομιλία του π. Μιχαήλ, οι μαθητές όλων των τάξεων είχαν την ευκαιρία να κάνουν μια ιστορική αναδρομή στα ηρωικά γεγονότα του Έπους του '21 με απαγγελίες ποιημάτων και παρουσίαση πατριωτικών σκετς. Κι αυτό γιατί «ό,τι δε γιορτάζεται ξεχνιέται, φθείρεται στο πέρασμα του χρόνου και πεθαίνει».

Κατά τη διάρκεια της εκδήλωσης έγινε και η απονομή των βραβείων και των εκ 50 δολαρίων 6 δωροεπιταγών του ζεύγους Αθανασίου και Ελευθερίας Νικοπούλου και μιας του

ζεύγους Λυκούργου και Μαρίας Μηνακάκη στους 7 μαθητές και μαθήτριες που πρώτευσαν στο διαγωνισμό ζωγραφικής «25" ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ – Πριν και Μετά», τον οποίον οργάνωσαν, όπως κάνουν κάθε χρόνο, με εξαιρετική επιτυχία και καθολική συμμετοχή των μαθητών, η διεύθυνση και οι εκπαιδευτικοί του σχολείου δυο εβδομάδες νωρίτερα. Στο διαγωνισμό ζητήθηκε από τους μαθητές να απεικονίσουν σε χαρτί, με δημιουργική φαντασία και ζωγραφική επιδεξιότητα, τα ανάμεικτα συναισθήματά τους για τα 400 χρόνια σκλαβιάς και φυλακής καθώς και για τα αγαθά της ελευθερίας που χάρισε στους Έλληνες προγόνους τους η ηρωική επανάσταση του 1821.



Αξίζουν θερμότατα συγχαρητήρια στους πρωτεύσαντες Αλεζάνδρα Δεμέστιχα (ΝΗΠΙΑΓΩΓΕΙΟ), Δανιήλ Φιόρε (ΠΡΩΤΗ ΤΑΞΗ), Ανδρέα Καρύγιαννη (ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ ΤΑΞΗ), Μαρία Σμπούκη (ΤΡΙΤΗ ΤΑΞΗ), Κυριάκο Ευριπίδη (ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ ΤΑΞΗ), Γαβριέλλα Μελετίου (ΠΕΜΠΤΗ ΤΑΞΗ) και Παναγιώτα Μηνακάκη (ΕΚΤΗ ΤΑΞΗ) αλλά και σε όλους τους μαθητές που πήραν μέρος στο διαγωνισμό και είχαν την ευκαιρία να ευαισθητοποιηθούν και να μάθουν περισσότερα για το ηρωικό έπος του '21 και να αναπτύζουν μεταζύ τους την ευγενή άμιλλα προς διάκριση.

Ο διευθυντής του σχολείου, Ελευθ. Περούλας, είπε μετά την θαυμάσια αυτή εκδήλωση: «Η εκδήλωση αυτή θα μείνει χαραγμένη στις καρδιές των παιδιών και τις δικές μας. Τέτοιες εκδηλώσεις μας δυναμώνουν και μας θεριεύουν την πίστη μας προς τα ελληνοχριστιανικά μας ιδεώδη, μας ενισχύουν την ελληνική μας συνείδηση και μας εμψυχώνουν στο θεάρεστο αγώνα μας για ελευθερία, δημοκρατία και ειρήνη.

Οι γονείς, παππούδες, γιαγιάδες και φίλοι δεν χόρταιναν να καμαρώνουν τα βλαστάρια τους, τους αυριανούς ηγέτες της ελληνικής κοινότητας Αγίας Τριάδος. Ιδιαίτερα συγχαρητήρια αξίζουν στους μαθητές, τους εκπαιδευτικούς, τους γονείς και τις άοκνες κυρίες του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Διδασκάλων και στον πανταχού παρόντα σεβαστό μας π. Μιχαήλ. Και του χρόνου!

#### Ακαδημία Σωκράτη

Στο κατάμεστο γυμναστήριο του ημερήσιου δημόσιου σχολείου τσάρτερ «Ακαδημία Σωκράτη», οι μαθητές της  $6^{\eta\varsigma}$  και  $7^{\eta\varsigma}$  τάξης παρουσίασαν, με ένα εντυπωσιακό, συγκινητικό και πανηγυρικό τρόπο, στους 660 μαθητές του σχολείου, στους 85 εκπαιδευτικούς και σε περιορισμένο αριθμό, λόγω χωριτικότητας, προσκεκλημένων γονέων την Ελληνική Επανάσταση.



Παρουσία του προέδρου της Ακαδημίας Ελευθερίου Περούλα, της διευθύντριας Κρίστεν Πριγκάνς, η οποία εκφώνησε και τον πανηγυρικό της ημέρας, διευθύντριας του ελληνικού προγράμματος σπουδών, Αθανασίας Σμιθ και των 15 Ελλήνων εκπαιδευτικών, του λοιπού προσωπικού και άλλων φορέων, οι μαθητές του σχολείου έδειξαν το πάθος και την αγάπη τους για την Ελλάδα και πραγματικά εάν δεν ήξερε κάποιος ότι η γιορτή αυτή είναι στην Αμερική θα πίστευε ότι βλέπει μια γιορτή ενός αμιγούς ελληνικού σχολείου.



Θερμά συγχαρητήρια αξίζουν σε όλους τους εκπαιδευτικούς του σχολείου και ιδιαίτερα στους Έλληνες εκπαιδευτικούς που ανέλαβαν την ευθύνη παρουσίασης οργάνωσης και της θαυμάσιας αυτής γιορτής Μαρία Κοτρώτσιου, Σοφία Σχινά, Ράνια Τσοπάνα και Θεανώ Φασουλή καθώς και στον Παντελή Ψώρα που επιμελήθηκε των φωτογραφιών, του βίντεο της εκδήλωσης και μέρος του παρόντος άρθρου.

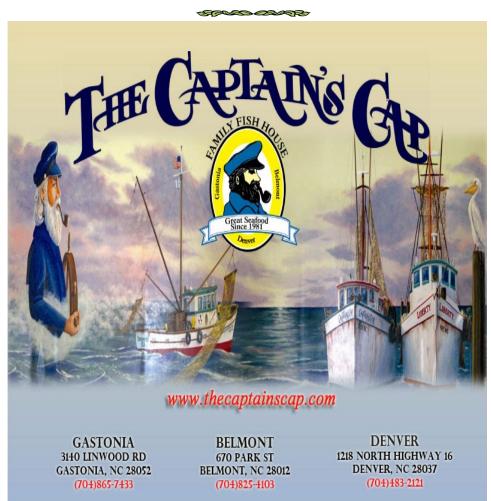
Η προσφορά του σχολείου στον Ελληνισμό δεν είναι μόνο η γνώση της ελληνικής γλώσσας και των μαθηματικών που διδάσκονται, αλλά η δημιουργία Φιλλελήνων που εκτιμούν, αγαπούν και σέβονται την Ελλάδα και την προσφορά της σε όλο τον κόσμο. «Πάντα περνάς από

τη φωτιά για να φτάσεις στη λάμψη», ήχησε κατά τη διάρκεια της γιορτής που συγκίνησε και χειροκροτήθηκε έντονα από όλους τους παρευρισκόμενους. «Η μεγαλοσύνη των λαών δε μετριέται με το στρέμμα. Με της καρδιάς το πύρωμα μετριέται και το αίμα» - Κ.Παλαμάς.

Με ποιήματα, δραματοποιήσεις και ελληνικούς παραδοσιακούς χορούς τα παιδιά του σχολείου συγκλόνισαν με το πάθος τους και την έκδηλη αγάπη τους για την Ελλάδα. Τη χώρα των θεών και των ημίθεων που στάθηκε υπερήφανη και γενναία, απροσκύνητη, απτόητη και ακλόνητη διεκδικώντας την ελευθερία και στηριζόμενη αποκλειστικά στις δικές της δυνάμεις. Μια ελευθερία που πριν έρθει φαινότανε τόσο πλατιά και για μιά ειρήνη που ακόμα γι αυτήν αγωνιζόμαστε.

Ο διευθύντρια του σχολείου, Αθανασία Σμιθ, μας είπε μετά την θαυμάσια αυτή εκδήλωση: "Συνεχίζω να θαυμάζω πόσο ενθουσίαζει τους μαθητές η μάθηση με επίκεντρο τη γλώσσα, την κουλτούρα και την ιστορία της Ελλάδας. Μαθαίνουν και εκτιμούν πόσο όλα αυτά επηρεάζουν την καθημερινή τους ζωή στην Αμερική.

Η Ακαδημία Σωκράτη ιδρύθηκε το 2005 με 67 μαθητές, νηπιαγωγείο και πρώτη τάξη, και σήμερα είναι ένα από τα κορυφαία δημόσια σχολεία της Β. Καρολίνας με 660 μαθητές, από το νηπιαγωγείο έως και την ογδόη τάξη, και με 500 περίπου μαθητές στη λίστα αναμονής. Όραμα των ιδρυτών και του προέδρου της Ακαδημίας είναι να εξελιχθεί πολύ σύντομα το σχολείο σε ένα πλήρες σχολείο πρωτοβάθμιας και δευτεροβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης υψηλότατων εκπαιδευτικών προδιαγραφών.



#### ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ

13 MAPTIOY 2015

# Αδελφοί στον κοινό αγώνα: Σέλμα 50 χρόνια αργότερα

#### Του Κωνσταντίνου Σκάρου

ΣΕΛΜΑ. ΑΛΑΜΓΙΑΜΑ. Οι πρόεδροι Μπους και Ομπάμα και ο σύζυγοί των, ο βουλευτής John Lewis και πολλοί συνάδελφοι του νομοθέτες και διάφοροι κληρικοί συμπεριλαμβανομένου και του Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής Δημητρίου, μετέβησαν στη Σέλμα, την πόλη της Αλαμπάμα, για να γιορτάσουν την 50ή επέτεις των τραγικών γεγονότων της «Ματωμένης Κυριακής». Αυτή π πόλη έγινε πιο πολύ γνωστή από τις πορείες του 1965, οι οποίες αποτέλεσαν τις καθοριστικές στιγμές για τα αμερικανικά κοινωνικά δικαιώματα.

Οι πορείες της Σέλμα ήταν τα καθοριστικά σημεία για όλουs τους Αμερικανούς. Σίγουρα για τα εκατομμύρια των Αφροαμερικανών και άλλων έγχρωμων ανθρώπων στους οποίους απαγορευόταν το δικαίωμα του ψηφίζειν λόγω των δρακόντειων μέτρων, των απειλών και επιθέσεων οι οποίες μερικές φορές ήταν θανατηφόρεs. Αλλά επίσηs για τους λευκούς Αμερικανούς οι οποίοι αισθάνονταν όλο και περισσότερο ένα αυξανόμενο αίσθημα περηφάνιας να ζουν σ' ένα έθνος όπου η βάση της Διακήρυξης της Ανεξάρτησίας τους είχε αποκτήσει πραγματικά τόσο νόπμα όχι μόνο στα λόγια και πως λίγοι από αυτούς αναγνώριζαν πως η πλειοψηφία των Αμερικανών συμπολιτών τους δεν ήταν ανώτεροι ή κατώτεροι λόγω του χρώματος του δέρμα-

Επίσης, το 1965 ευεργετήθηκε και η Ελληνοαμερικανική Κοινότητα, τα μέλη της οποίας ήταν και αυτά καταπεσμένα επί πολλές δεκαετίες στο Νότιο μέρος των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών, πράγμα το οποίο προκάλεσε τη δημιουργία της ΑΗΕΡΑ το 1922. Το πρόσωπο της Ελληνοαμερικανικής Κοινότητας το 1965 και για πολλές δεκαετίες που ακολούθησαν ήταν ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιάκωβος.



ΑΓΑΕΙΟ «ΕΚ»
Η ιστορική φωτογραφία τον Μάρτιο του 1965 η οποία εικονίζει τον αείμνηστο Αρχ/πο Βορείου και Νοτίου Αμερικής Ιάκωβο στο πλευρό του Μάρτιν Λούθερ Κινκ.



ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ/ΔΗΜΗΤΡΗ Σ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ Στιγμιότυπο από τον πρόσφατο εναγκαλισμό του Αρχ/που Δημητρίου με τον Πρόεδρο Μπαράκ Ομπάμα.

#### **AHEPA'S SYMPOLIC GESTURE**

In a significantly SYMPOLIC gesture, a high-level delegation of the Order of AHEPA participated in the recent celebrations in Alabama of the 50th anniversary of the Selma marches, which were such important events in the fight for civil rights. In fact, AHEPA was the only organization of our community that participated.

Of course, Archbishop Demetrios was there as well, to mark the presence there 50 years ago of his predecessor, the late Archbishop Iakovos, who lent his personal energy, humanity, and courage, as well as the prestige of the office, to the civil rights movement by marching alongside Martin Luther King.

It is worth noting that Demetrios was honored by the commemoration's organizers and attendees as an acknowledgement of Iakovos' contribution.

However, AHEPA's presence speaks to another dimension, the circumstances of its original founding. AHEPA was established in the summer of 1922 in Atlanta, in a place and a time of indescribable discrimination against Greeks. That was not in the South exclusively, but there it was worst of all.

Greek immigrants were not only treated as second-class citizens, but were considered undesirables in public places and businesses. They also faced violence. A handful of Greeks founded AHEPA for self-protection. Accordingly, AHEPA's participation in the Selma commemoration honors its founders and members, as well as African-American human rights leaders.

The presence of its leadership and staff there was a message of continuity with its founders, a tribute to social justice, and an expression of solidarity with all those, past and present, who fight against prejudice.

# **VELOUCHI 70<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION \* Gatlinburg, TN \* June 20-22, 2014** *Minutes of the General Assembly*

- 1. Verification of Quorum. No Quorum.
- Prayer by Fr. Anthony Stratis and moment of silence for Velouchi's deceased members.
- **3. Welcome:** Dr. Kotsianas welcomes all to 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Evrytanian Convention in Gatlinburg, TN and recap of upcoming events. Nick Travelis & Night in Athens trio.
- Greetings and Opening of the General Assembly business by the Association's President, Mr. John G. Peslis.
- 5. Elections
  - a) Parliamentarian Dr. Jim Kotsianas & Mr. George Retsios
  - b) Chair Mrs. Laura Nixon
  - c) Co-Chair: Mr. John G. Peslis
  - d) Secretary: Ms. Sophia Kazakos
- Recognition of invited guests. No invited guests to meeting.
- 7. Approval of minutes. Correction of minutes.
  - a) Correction of minutes: Mr. Vasili Steele from Ch. 8 Roanoke. There was a basketball tournament at the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Roanoke. Four teams participated in competition. Teams from New York (eventual champions) and teams from Roanoke took part. Tournament was on Saturday and Sunday. Many thanks to all who put this tournament together, including Chris and Irene Karageorge, Bobby Ziogas, and Dr. Olympia Dallas.
  - b) Corrections on misspellings of names in 2013 minutes.
- Reading of correspondence & greetings, Secretary Mr. Bobby Tsiabassis.
  - a) Mr. George Armagos asks that his letter be sent to the prime minister of Greece. Asking for help for the old folks' home (gerokomio). Included letter and documents asking for autonomy for the old folks' home. (Adressed again during quorum).
  - b) Mr. Pandelis Vlahos wishes us the best of success in the general assembly.
  - c) Mr. Dimitrios Danas wishes us best of luck in assembly and sends \$1,000 to cover raffle tickets for the scholarship.

## 9. President Report - President Mr. John G. Peslis brings attention to apathy.

- a) Dr. Kotsianas mentions the generational gap and the benefit of hiring Sr. executives.
- b) Mr. Vastakis Chapters have more responsibility to bring the youth in, more so than the National Comittee. (chapter 17).
- c) Mr. Gus Barlas connect with young adults personally. Perhaps send letters to our own young adults and young families.
- d) Mr. James Caras. Blue Ribbon Committee. What is the progress and can we get back on that track again?
- e) Father Stratis It's important to have good information. Reach out to youth in the organization one by one. Must ask them what they want. Incorporate them and make them a part of it. Especially to children. Focus on the children and the parents will come.

#### Financial Report for the year 6/1/13-5/31/14 from Treasurer Mr. James Kastriches.

- a) Income for whole year 423, 387.59
- b) Total income & balance 491, 387.59
- c) Total Expenses \$411, 086.04
- d) Correction to Page #2 Building. Item 11. Audio Visual Installation paid in full. Mr. Peslis moves to strike the words down payment from item 11. Approved.

#### 11. Auditing Committee Report, Mr. Tommy Pappas

- a) Mr. Tom Nixon reads letter from Auditing Committee. On June 12, 2014, representatives from the Auditing Committee met. No error was found and books and records are in proper order.
- 12. Approval of the proposed budget for the year 6/1/14-5/31/15a) No quorum. Moved to the second portion of meetings.
- 13. Evrytanian Foundation Report, Mr. Nick Apostolopoulos.
  - a) Mr. Apostolopoulos asks for questions. Mrs. Laura Nixon reads Foundation Annual Report to get parties up to date.

- b) Questions regarding the fact that we spent over 80% of increase this year. Mr. Apostolopoulos states that because we did not spend that money last year, we were able to use it this year.
- c) Mr. Apostolopoulos clarifies that the committee does not make these decisions on its own but repots to the decisions of the Foundation Board.
- d) Mr. Larry Peroulas asks for a clarification that the most recent minutes give the most accurate description of the Board of Trustees and not the Annual Report Provided by the Foundation Board.
- i. There are discrepancies in the list of the Board of Trustees.
- ii. Mr. Gus Barlas points to the fact that the Election years' criteria have changed, affecting some re-election, new election confusion.
- iii. Mr. Peroulas Mr. Chris Karageorge has resigned, Mr. George Retsios took over that spot.

#### 14. Correspondence Continued:

- a) Mr. Bobby Tsiabassis explains the letter regarding the Old Folks Home (gerokomio). Old Folks Home was moved to another small city (Domokos). Then there was a PSI that many organizations lost money on the initial funds they had. It is said that the Gerokomio lost 4.5 million euros. Now, whatever income the Gerokomio has goes to D0mokos and they dispense it. They are asking with assistance that the Old Folks Home become autonomous.
- b) Correction on report by Mr. John Peslis. The money that was taken out of the Gerokomio funds and was put into the general funds, was done legally based on the re-alignment of the new government. This is based on a report, not a personal observation. It was pointed out that we could have been more proactive in making sure the money we sent was directed properly.

#### Quorum established

#### PART B

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Scholarhips in Greece. No Report.
- b. Scholarship in U.S.A.
  - i. 18 applications for scholarship. 2014/2015 academic year. Scholarship Committee awarded 7 of those scholarships with the highest being \$6,500. Total amount given out: \$23,100.
  - The chaiir of the Committee, Ms. Vicki Kiriazis, was unable to attend. Ch. 18.
  - President acknowledges her heavy support on the scholarship committee.
  - iv. Mr. Gus Kazakos asked about scholarship, if it is an even delegation to each party or one set amount to the committee to decide as they please. Mrs. Nixon said that motion was passed that \$20,000 be delegated to Scholarship Committee and that the committee has the authority to disperse as they please.

#### c. Mr. Tom Nixon. Children with Special Needs in Karpenissi.

- i. 10 children in program. Calculates about \$1,500 needed per child per year. Largest amount comes from Fayetteville Chapter #2. Several others assisted greatly. \$2,000 needed by August.
- ii. Atlanta's General Assembly agreed to give \$1,500 to sponsor 1 child.
- iii. Chapter #9 Greenville, #6 Asheville, #4 Charlotte and others stand to voice they give every year for this need.

#### d. Constitution and By Laws.

- Mr. John Peslis addresses proposed amendment by Mr. Bobby Ziogas to allow virtual participation to count towards quorum.
  - i. Motion from the By-laws Committee. Seconded by Mr. John Peslis
  - ii. Against by Mr. Nick Apostolopoulos and Mr. James Caras.
  - Ms. Sophia Kazakos and Dr. Kotsianas speak in favor of the motion.
  - iv. Fr. Stratis asks two questions.

- v. Concern about confidentiality and how to ensure that.
- vi. How do you maintain levels of participation? Concerns about participation at general assemblies.
- Mr. Larry Peroulas mentions the changing age and the lack of young people coming in.
- Mr. Tom Nixon. Votes for it with the exception of the general assembly.
- ix. Mr. John Peslis speaks in favor of the motion, in agreement with and Seconds Mr. Nixon's change that this not be prevalent at the General Assembly.

#### Lunch with Special Guest and Keynote Speaker

#### Mr. Gary R. Wade, Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court

• The family of the late Mr. George Sipsis gives a check of \$5,000 to Mr. John Peslis, a donation to be used for a family in need and an education fund. His wife and son give many thanks and stress the importance of helping those in need and the love his father had for his homeland.

An icon to Mr. Kostas Kazakos of Winston-Salem by President John Peslis. Εικόνα του «Καλού Ποιμένος» from President Peslis' mother is given to Mr. Kazakos. Mr. Kazakos explains that when we had to leave for America your mother would give you an icon and tell you to be a good Evrytanian. Mr. Kazakos gives many thanks to his good friend, the president, and to the Velouchi Association.

#### 2:39 PM.

#### Part B. Continued.

- **Budget** No discussion on the budget. All in favor. Majority favors to approve and move on.
- Mr. Apostolopoulos makes a motion with 3 criteria:
  - o Mid-year conference for the Association in Charlotte.
  - o Fundraising for the Foundation (same date).
  - o Daughters of Evrytania's dance to take place Saturday after Thanksgiving.
    - •Mr. James Caras seconds the motion.
  - •Mr. John Peslis is for the motion but asks that these motions are to be brought to the Board first for discussion.
  - •Mr. Kostas Kazakos asks that since the Daughters must make their decision as well, let's focus on making the Mid-year conference happen first until we receive their approval.
  - •Mrs. Laura Nixon, Chair of the Gen. Assembly, asks that Mr. Apostolopoulos change his motion to focus on the mid-year conference.
  - Mr. Apostolopoulos wants the discussion to start now for all three.
  - o The President urges again that we reconsider this request as passing this request at this time because it will be mandating parties (largely parties who are not present) to make a mid-year conference/fundraiser in November.
  - o All voted. It passed.

#### • Public Relations:

- o DVD still under production but getting close to completion.
- o The Board of Karpenissi Hospital has decided its new wing be named "Evrytanian Association of America Velouchi".

#### • 2014 Annual Raffle, Mr. George Katergaris

- o 479 raffle tickets sold. Seems small considering the size of the Evrytanian Association. Asks for assistance in selling more.
- o Thanks everyone for his or her help.
- o Those who give tickets to others are responsible for those ticket sales.
- $\circ$  Mr. John Peslis encourages we will not mandate personal responsibility.
  - Chairs are responsible in overseeing the progress.
- Charlotte Property, Mr. James Cavalaris No report. One vacant room.
- Named Scholarships. Mr Larry Peroulas Named scholarship given in memory of John F. Kanos.
  - $\circ~$  Mrs. Laura Nixon offers to give \$1,000 scholarship next year and will give name later to Mr. Peroulas.
- Information & Technology Skype system & audio-visual installed & work.
- Press & Information. Mr. Larry Peroulas.
- Dr. Kotsianas asks why the present website still has yet to be fixed.

- o Mr. Peslis responds. Ladies suggested that we allow the company to do website pro-bono. They said they needed two weeks, 6 months ago.
- o Mr. Bobby Tsiabassis gives a point that someone must be appointed and paid to carry this out as not to hold volunteers accountable for such big undertakings.
- o Motion \$3,000 by Dr. Kotsianas for the website Let the committee decide whether Panagiotis Steele will continue to work on this or if outside source is needed. In solution, \$3,000 given to Technology Committee to use as needed to complete the website at the earliest convenience.
- o (this amount was calculated as a portion of the budget in which we went under last year, thus \$3,000 fits well into our budget.)

#### • Membership Report - Mr. John G Peslis.

- o The president and Mr. Larry Peroulas ask that the leadership of Chapters do their due diligence to improve membership that is unpaid.
- o The VP of Atlanta Chapter says that young adults who did not get membership because parents had membership are now fully adults and are not becoming members.
- o Mr. Gus Kazakos mentions the hard-working people in the Winston-Salem chapter and the issues of gathering membership dues without offending people.
- o Mr. Larry Peroulas mentions the scholarship assistance and how Dr. Canavos' rules worked well to allow only those whose parents are up-to-date with dues could receive the scholarships.

#### • Other Committees:

 $\circ$  Financial Advisory Committee: Last year charged committee to combine accounts. Up 8.5% in 10 months.

#### • The Convention 2015: No location as of yet.

- o D.C has said no.
- o Dr. Kotsianas suggests that we allow until 1<sup>st</sup> quarter meeting to get a FINAL answer from D.C and if not, then let's discuss now plan B.
- o Mr. James Caras asks what the Plan B is. Atlanta turns down the request.
- o Mr. Gus Barlas suggests that a survey is sent to the chapters.
- o All chapters asked say no, up to Winston-Salem. Winston-Salem agrees to ask local chapter.
- $\circ\,$  The President Mr. Peslis asks Mr. Tom Nixon (Charlotte) about the 2016 Convention.
- o President Peslis also wants to plant the seed of possibly doing every other year annual convention.
- o Mr. Tom Nixon would like to do 2019 Charlotte.
- $\circ$  Mr. Vasili Steele offers to help with Basketball Tournament in D.C. for Youth.
  - Mentions how wonderful the central location is.
  - Ms. Sophia Kazakos offers to assist if D.C. says yes as well.
- o Asheville will get an answer in writing by next meeting (August) for 2016.
- o Mr. Sipsis asks that we focus and re-design our processes.
- o Mr. Apostolopoulos agrees that we need to revisit the core

#### • Chapter Reports.

- o Ms. Sophia Kazakos motions to dismiss of the reading of the minutes. 4PM.
- The Velouchi President and Co-Chair of the General Assembly Mr. John Peslis seconds.
  - Mr. Tom Nixon speaks against motion.
  - Vote. Tie.
- Chairman Mrs. Nixon appointed to break the tie. She votes against and all Chapter reports begin to be read.
- o Charlotte − Has paid off all of its loans. Mr. Tom Nixon. Elatos Park − 6x6 patio project to put coverage on the patio.
- Asheville Had a meeting with the daughters and seemed to work well. Asheville will consider convention in 2016 or assisting another chapter.
- o Knoxville Pascha picnic with all Evrytanians. Convention.
- o Roanoke Little activity since the last convention, which was very successful. Correction that there was a tremendous success with tournament in Roanoke.
- o Greenville 78 paid members. Sold 69/75 raffle tickets.

- $\circ$  Washington, D.C. Trying to discuss possible National Convention. Evrytanian Picnic June  $8^{th}$ .
- o Atlanta, GA. Had a successful Gen. Assembly and elections, submitted their Fin. and Annual Report., sold lots of Raffle tickets, and they are planning their annual Panagia Prousiotissa celebration.
- o Camp Hill, PA Working harmoniously.

#### Old Business:

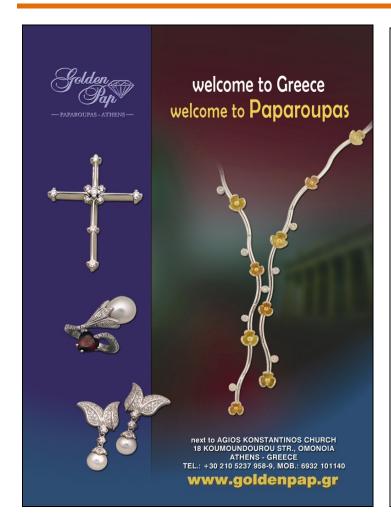
- o Mr. Gerry Clonaris motions that the <u>order of the conventions</u> be in numerical order and the chapter must find a way to participate in some way or hold the event. They will not be given the option to say no but can be assisted or work together with other chapters.
- o Change to by-laws must be submitted.
- o Ms. Sophia Kazakos speaks on the youth and the desire to streamline processes. Also mentions the decline in participation. Motions to move forward with the **Executive Director** role without the approval of the quorum as there are too many opinions and the role will change and mold with applicants and with the organizations need.
- Dr. Paul Dallas asks that the motion is edited to include beginning interviews by September.
- Sophia agrees to the edit and adds that at least \$500 will be needed for the expenses in posting the position to job boards.

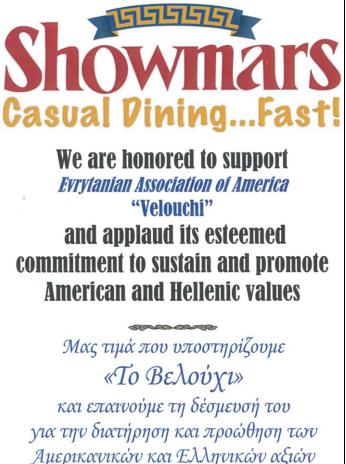
• Majority votes and agrees to move forward immediately with the hiring of the Executive Director.

#### New Business:

- o Mr. Bobby Tsiabassis motions that when members submit their application for the scholarship their tax return should be prepared by a professional tax preparer and not by the individual.
  - Mr. John Peslis seconds.
- Comment against. Mr. Dallas mentions that this is unnecessary as the federal government is O.K. with any signature, why is it not good enough for the Velouchi Organization?
- Mr. Tsiabassis would like a more cohesive and consistent signing of documents so that different signatures are not on financial verifications.
  - Mr. Chris Kappas opposes motion.
- Dr. James Kotsianas opposes humbly also (as a member of the scholarship committee).
- Mr. Tsiabassis motions that he calls and gets records of the scholarship recipients, "where are they now?"
  - General motion is seconded and the blessing is given.
  - Mr. Larry Peroulas has records 20 years back and will sist.

Mr. Apostolopoulos asks that we send our best wishes to currently ill members.





Save the dates... JUNE 26-28, 2015
71<sup>SI</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION \* KINGSTON PLANTATIONMYRTLE BEACH, SC

## 71st Convention Schedule \* June 26-28, 2015 Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation \* Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

#### Friday June 26

**Registration:** Noon-9:00pm \* Embassy Suites

President's Cocktail Hour: 7:30pm-8:30pm \* Hotel Bar

Evrytanian Youth Greek Night: 9:30pm-2:00am

2001 VIP Private Club \* Professional DJ.

Saturday June 27

Registration: 9:00am -5:00pm \* Embassy Suites

General Assembly: 10:00am -1:0 pm \* Windsor A

Daughters Meeting: 10:00am -12:00noon \* Windsor BC

General Assembly (continued): 2:00pm-5:00pm

Windsor A

Daughters Luncheon & Excursion: 12:30pm-5:00pm

Place to be announced

Velouchi Night Dance: 9:30pm-2:00am \* Pembroke Hall

Featuring: "ORCHESTRA ASTERIA"

Sunday June 28

Divine Liturgy: Orthros: 9:00am—Liturgy: 10:00am

St John Greek Orthodox Church

**Luncheon:** Noon–1:30 pm \* St John Community Center

General Assembly: 2:30pm-4:30pm \* Windsor A

• Continuation of Business

• Election of National Officers

#### Formal Banquet Dinner/Scholarship Awards:

7:00pm-9:00pm \* Embassy Suites Kingston Plantation Keynote Speaker: To be announced

#### **EVRYTANIAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

The basketball Tournament will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 27 & 28

For your participation, registration form and additional information, please contact the Basketball Tournament

Committee Chair Mr. Christopher Fillos, at

646-678-2892, email: cfillos@hotmail.com





## **2015 Convention Accommodations**

In order to take advantage of our discounted rate, we encourage everyone to reserve rooms by May 25<sup>th</sup>.

More details about this year's events will be posted on our website as they become available:

#### www.velouchi.com

Please reserve your room by using the information below:

#### Call (800) 876-0010

Option 1 is for Kingston Plantation Condos & Villas Option 2 is for the Embassy Suites.

You will need to identify yourselves as attendees of the Evrytanian/Velouchi Event

and use the SRP code: EVT

#### The New Velouchi Website

he Association's new website is up and running at www.velouchi.com. It includes a calendar of events and everyone is encouraged to check the site for dates of meetings and other events. Chapters are also encouraged to send notices and news to our site manager to be posted on the website. Maria Kazakos is managing the site and you can reach her and send her information at Mrkazakos@gmail.com.

The 2015 scholarship application is on the site for applicants' easy download and timely submission, as is general information for our 2015 Convention.

Please log on regularly and check for news and updates.

Bobby Ziogas – Maria Kazakos

# --Open Letter--2015 Convention Book

March 30, 2015

**Dear Fellow Members:** 

want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy Easter.

The Convention committee is working diligently preparing for upcoming 71<sup>st</sup> Convention to be held in Myrtle Beach on June 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>.

As Vice-President of the Daughters of Evrytania, I was recently appointed to serve as Chairperson of the Convention **Book Committee.** 

The Convention is a costly endeavor and the Advertisement Book helps to defray some of our expenses. We need your support. The intent of this letter is to kindly ask for a helping hand towards purchasing an ad to compile a memorable Convention book for this year.

We hope you are willing to contribute to the fulfillment of our Association's accomplishments.

Please send your business card, personal message or greetings with your donation by May 1st, 2015 to:

**MARIA PESLIS** 1207 BRIDGE STREET **NEW CUMBERLAND, PA 17070** 

Phone: 717-774-7246

Email: mpeslis@comcast.net

A flyer is attached with more information in submitting your ad.

I kindly thank you for your generous donation for this good cause. God Bless in making us successful in our mission!

Sincerely,

Maria J. Peslis Committee Chairperson

## We Need Your Support...

71st Evrytanian Association National Convention Kingston Plantation - Myrtle Beach, SC June 26-28, 2015

**Program Book Ad Order Form** 

**Ad Book Prices** 

Outside Back Cover \$400 \* Inside Front Cove Inside Back Cover \$250 \* Full Page \$150 Half Page \$100 \* Quarter Page \$75



Advertiser's Name:				
Advertiser's Address:				
City:		_State:		Zip:
Phone:		_ Email:		
Ad Size:	Amount Paid:		_Signed:	

#### **Terms and Conditions**

- 1. Payment must be received at the time ad is placed.
- 2. All ad work must be camera ready art and no copies.
- 3. All photos must be glossy and cannot be returned.
- 4. Make your checks to Evrytanian Association with the indication "Convention Book 2015". Deadline for all copy and ads is May 1, 2015.

Ad Copy, Check and Correspondence for Program Book should be forwarded to:

Mrs. Maria Peslis 1207 Bridge Street New Cumberland, PA 17070 (717) 774-7246

E-mail: mpeslis@comcast.net

#### 1990909090

## ==Scholarship Applications 2015==

For a Scholarship Application, please visit our new website www.velouchi.com or call 704-366-6571 \* E-mail: velouchi@bellsouth.net

**Applications Deadline: May 1, 2015** 

Eligible for scholarships are Evrytanian Association members' children of the US or Canada, who will be attending Canadian or US Universities/Colleges for the academic year 2015-2016. Parents or students must be of Evrytanian descent and members in good standing of the Association for minimum 3 years prior to application for scholarship, including the year in which application is submitted.

## 71<sup>st</sup> VELOUCHI CONVENTION – JUNE 26-28, 2015

Plan your 2015 one-of-a-kind Myrtle Beach dream vacation with family and friends and make our National Convention weekend at the Kingston Plantation Embassy Suites part of your plans



==Open Letter==

Dear Velouchi members and friends,

The 71<sup>st</sup> National Evrytanian Convention will take place on June 26-28, 2015 at the oceanfront Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC. We urge you to make our convention part of your summer family vacation plans and focus on relaxation and new friendships, live popular Greek music and dancing.

Myrtle Beach is all about you and your family. Sandy beaches, romantic sunsets, fun and excitement, dining, beautiful memories, live shows, aquarium, Alligator Adventure, basketball tournament, golf courses, shopping, and endless activities, attractions and amusements for the whole family.

An unforgettable weekend getaway with the Velouchi Family!

Please look for the hotel reservation information in this issue and our website:

The Convention Committee Co-Chairs Nick Apostolopoulos & Bobby Tsiabassis



Don't miss our two nights, June 26-28, 2015 of great entertainment with popular singers and musician artists of

## "ASTERIA ORCHESTRA"



Harry Athanasiou Rena Tsapelas Anthi Aggeloy



Kostas Triantafilou Giannis Staikos Nikos Spaniotis Nikos Kalivas

#### PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL



The greatest of days under the sun must come to an end with a great sunset; likewise my term as the Velouchi president is coming to an end. I want you all to know that I bid farewell to the position of president with great pride, full of appreciation and confidence that our Association will pass on to great and capable hands.

You have bestowed upon me the honor of presiding the Board of Trustees (BOT); for that I am forever grateful and humbled. I assure you with every ounce of my blood and every breath I take, that I have always made decisions after consulting the BOT and using the democratic process. I am humbled also that you've allowed a son of Marathos, birthplace of Katsantonis to lead.

I fully appreciate all the members' support of our association and the processes that we have in place through our By-Laws. I appreciate those who supported and those who did not any of our efforts but who remain faithful members. I am very appreciative of the work and ethos of our Daughters of Evrytania. I am respectfully asking again for our young adults to step up and grab the reins of committees and lead the association into the next millennium.

My confidence oozes from some of the conversations that I have had with our young adults, some of who did not just remain words but turned their ideas into action. Conditions and relationships have changed in the year that we are living and only those who think who live those changes and can foresee into the future. With fear that I will sound like a broken record, I respectfully ask them to step up, this is THEIR time!

As for what we have accomplished in the past 4 years, I would like to report to you, that we have stabilized how we disbursed funds and have prioritized whom to give to, we have brought to date how to conduct business with the office and also installed a video system in the office to bring the association close to any member who wants to participate throughout the world and by use of the Internet. Our website is back up and running again; both of these electronics accomplishments need some tweaking and are a work in progress.

Heartfelt gratitude goes out all those who travelled around to make sure our Association remains vibrant and those who have been agents of reformation of some of our inactive chapters.

Instead of saying farewell, I will bid you Kali Antamosi in the future, because I am only leaving the presidency but will NEVER leave the Association.

I will always support its endeavors from a different position along with grandson Yiannaki.

#### God and Agios Taxiarhis be guarding and guiding us!

Η ομορφότερη ημέρα κάτω από τον ήλιο κάποτε τελειώνει μ' ένα γλυκό ηλιοβασίλεμα. Έτσι και η δική μου τετραετή θητεία άρχισε να δύει. Θέλω να σας αποχαιρετήσω από τον θώκο της προεδρίας γεμάτος υπερηφάνεια, γεμάτος ευχαρίστηση, ικανοποίηση αλλά και γεμάτος από σιγουριά ότι η παράδοση της ηγετικής φλόγας θα περάσει σε ικανά και καλά χέρια.

Μου εμπιστευτήκατε την προεδρία τού Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου, γι΄ αυτό θα σας είμαι για πάντα υπόχρεος αλλά και ταπεινός. Σας ευχαριστώ που επιτρέψατε σ' ένα παιδί του Μάραθου Αγράφων, την γενέτειρα τού Κατσαντώνη, να ηγηθεί της ιστορικής μας Ενώσεως. Θέλω να σας διαβεβαιώσω, με κάθε ρανίδα αίματος και κάθε ανάσα που παίρνω, ότι όλες οι αποφάσεις πάρθηκαν μετά από συζήτηση με το συμβούλιο, διευθετώντας έτσι πλήρως τις δημοκρατικές μας διαδικασίες.

Θερμές ευχαριστίες σε όλα τα μέλη που συνεχίζουν να υποστηρίζουν την Ένωση αλλά και τις διαδικασίες που ορίζει το καταστατικό μας. Ευγνωμονώ όλα τα μέλη που συμφώνησαν αλλά επίσης και εκείνα που στο παρελθόν διαφώνησαν, τα οποία όμως παραμένουν πιστά μέλη. Ευγνωμονώ τις Θυγατέρες Ευρυτανίας που με το ήθος τους, τα έργα τους αλλά και την συνεχή καλοσύνη τους και τα χαμόγελά τους είναι και παραμένουν σαν τις Καρυάτιδες σταθερά στηρίγματα.

Ευελπιστώ, βάσει συναντήσεων και συζητήσεων που έχω κάνει κατά τη διάρκεια της θητείας μου, ότι το μέλλον της Ενώσεως θα περάσει στα χέρια των Νέων Ενηλίκων μας σύντομα. Παρόλο πού ίσως ν' ακούγεται ότι...κόλλησε η βελόνα μου...όμως ακόμη σαλπίζω το μήνυμα αυτό στους νέους. Ήρθε η σειρά τους.



Το Μετάλλιο Αγίου Παύλου και την Τιμητική Περγαμηνή παραλαμβάνει από τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο ο πρόεδρος της Ενωσης, κ. Ιωάννης Γ. Πεσλής, παρουσία πολλών μελών του Δ.Σ., μελών του συλλόγου από διάφορα ανά την Αμερική τμήματά της και μελών του Δ.Σ των Θυγατέρων Ευρυτανίας.

Τα κατορθώματά μας την περασμένη τετραετία είναι η σταθερότητα που θέσαμε για την διευθέτηση αιτήσεων παροχής χρηματικής βοήθειας, πλήρη και απόλυτη διαφάνεια και ο εξυγχρονισμός με τον τρόπο επικοινωνίας με το γραφείο μας και επίσης με τις περισσότερες συναλλαγές μας. Τοποθετήσαμε ένα ηλεκτρονικό σύστημα επικοινωνίας στο γραφείο, το οποίο μηδενίζει όλες τις αποστάσεις και φέρνει οποιονδήποτε θέλει να παρακολουθήσει η να συμβάλει στις συνεδριάσεις μας. Και όχι μόνο! Δημιουργήσαμε τη νέα μας ιστοσελίδα προς αντικατάσταση της παλαιάς, η οποία, λόγω ηλεκτρονικού ιού είχε πάψει να λειτουργεί. Παρόλο που και τα δύο συστήματα δεν είναι ακόμη στην τέλεια ευθεία τους, ευελπιστώ πως σύντομα θα ολοκληρωθούν οι εργασίες για μια σύγχρονη και αποτελεσματική επικοινωνία.

Από τα βάθη της καρδιάς μου, ευχαριστώ όλους εκείνους και εκείνες πού έκαναν ταξίδια μακρινά και κοντινά για να παραβρίσκονται στο κάθε σάλπισμά μας. Εσείς είστε η ψυχή και η καρδιά της Ενώσεώς μας. Επίσης, ευχαριστώ τα μέλη που έκαναν και κάνουν τα πάντα να ξαναζωντανέψουν τα Τμήματά μας.

Αντί να σας αποχαιρετήσω, θέλω απλώς να σας ευχηθώ Καλή Αντάμωση στο μέλλον αφού φεύγω μόνο από την προεδρία και όχι από την Ένωση. Θα είμαι θερμός υποστηρικτής της Ενώσεως μαζί με το πρωτοπαλίκαρό μου, τον εγγονό μου τον Γιαννάκη.

Ο Θεός και ο Άγιος Ταξιάρχης φύλακές μας!

Μετά τιμής,

Ιωάννης Γ. Πεσλής

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# **VELOUCHI NATIONAL CONVENTION**

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