ORDER OF AHEPA
HARRISBURG CHAPTER #64 OF HARRISBURG, PA

AHEPA WISHES KALO MINA OF APRIL 2019
GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE CAPITAL – March 20th, 2019

On March 20, 2019, a delegation from The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and the AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association) gathered at the Harrisburg State Capitol to celebrate the 198th anniversary of the Greek War of Independence which started on March 25, 1821 and achieved the liberation of the Greek nation from the 400-year occupation by the Ottoman Turkish Empire.

Distinguished guests from the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association (AHEPA) Power District #4 were District Governor Charles Mackenzie and District Marshal Dr. Michael Billys, along with Lieutenant Colonel Vaseilios Bozoudis of the Hellenic Army currently serving at The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) in New Cumberland, Dr. Zissis Chroneos, Assoc. Professor of Pediatrics, Hershey Medical Center/Penn State and Protopsalti Tom Paparoidamis who all represented the Holy Trinity Cathedral and the AHEPA Harrisburg Chapter #64 to recognize Greek Independence Day at the State Capitol. This highlighted the role of AHEPA in the life of Greek immigrants. AHEPA was formed in Atlanta, Georgia in 1922 to help Greek immigrants to assimilate into American society and to counter KKK attacks on young Greek men.

A delegation from the Holy Trinity Cathedral joined these distinguished guests to participate in the programs at the State Capitol. The day will begin with a tour of the Capitol from 8:30 am – 9:00 am. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral choir soloist Ms. Diane Foutres will sing both national anthems accompanied by pianist Peter Ariano. The Olympic Flames will follow led by Director Ann Ariano while dancing to very inspiring Greek music from 9:10 - 9:40 am to the delight of the audience on the floor in front of the Capitol Rotunda. These dancers include Vasoula Petinas, Tina Kaufman, Will Winters, Angelo Winters, Peter Ariano, Nicoletta Ariano, Lambrini Balafoutas, Mia Demopoulos, Maria Shay, and Kristina Chroneos. The entire group was then
honored with several short speeches from Reps. Sheryl Delozier, Ryan Mackenzie and Greg Rothman, which was followed by a special presentation from the honorable Senator Mike Regan and concluded with a photo shoot of the entire group underneath the Capitol Rotunda. This event is a tribute to the memory of Stella Jatras, departed wife of Col. George Jatras, who was the originator of this event.

A brief recess ensued only to be resumed with a visit to the House of Representatives where our group was recognized by the entire body of the House officially present dignified by Speaker of the House Mike Turzai. Our 5 AHEPAN honorees will then be introduced and recognized and introduced to the entire body. Other activities included the opening prayer at the House of Representatives with a presentation of the official Greek Independence Day “House Proclamation” by the Honorable Mike Turzai, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Representative Sheryl Delozier, representing the 88th Legislative District in which Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral is located, personally greeted each member of the delegation. Representative Greg Rothman, representing the 87th Legislative District was the sponsor of House the Resolution and spoke on the House floor about the Greek Independence Day and our Greek community in general. Representative Ryan Mackenzie, representing the 134th Legislative District (Allentown, Pennsylvania area) and local AHEPA chapter president spoke on the House floor about the Greek Independence Day, AHEPA and our Greek community in general. The group also met with other Representatives and Senators. The day included a tour and pictures by the Capitol Photographer at the governor’s reception area and at the rotunda steps inside the State Capitol, where for a week, a Greek flag and an American flag stood side-by-side, with a poster identifying the flag and the reason for its presence. Unfortunately, Father Michael and Father Aaron were not be able to attend this year because of the Clergy-Laity Retreat in Pittsburgh conflicting with this schedule. Culminating our journey to the Capitol will be a visit with Lt. Governor John Fetterman and meeting with him personally at 11:45 pm. The entire journey concluded at 12:30 pm.
The day included a meeting with Lt. Governor John Fetterman who presented the group with the “Governor’s Proclamation”. The Governor’s Proclamation recognizes the struggles of the Greek people for freedom in their homeland and to reflect upon the self-determination for all the world’s people.” The Proclamation also recognizes the links between our two nations, as it states, “Whereas the ancient Greeks developed democracy… the Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew upon the experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy.” It furthermore recognizes that, “many Americans fought alongside the Greeks in the fight for Greek independence, and Greece has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict in the 20th Century.” The Proclamation also quotes Sir Winston Churchill when he said of the Greeks, “Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks.”
There is so much the world owes to Greece but if you bear in mind that one third of the English vocabulary is in fact Greek, you can then understand the magnitude of Greek culture. Not only was Greece the birthplace of Democracy and modern Western philosophy, but universities today still study such Greek philosophers as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. It was the works of the Greek philosophers that laid the foundation for their contribution in math, science, medicine, law and politics. Many of these cultural aspects began with Greece’s Golden Age, a time of peace and cultural prosperity, and it was the time from which most of Greece’s contributions to Western civilization, organized Democracy and the Olympics all began. No matter where you are in the world today, you will come across Greek-inspired architecture and its profound influence has endured for more than 2,000 years and is seen in buildings across modern America.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY – MARCH 25TH, 1821

"Greek Independence Day, national holiday celebrated annually in Greece on March 25, commemorating the start of the War of Greek Independence in 1821.

Greece had been part of the Ottoman Empire since 1453. The Greek revolt was precipitated on March 25, 1821, when Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the flag of revolution over the Monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponnese. The cry “Freedom or death” became the motto of the revolution. The Greeks
experienced early successes on the battlefield, including the capture of Athens in June 1822, but infighting ensued. By 1827 Athens and most of the Greek isles had been recaptured by the Turks. Just as the revolution appeared to be on the verge of failure, Great Britain, France, and Russia intervened in the conflict. The Greek struggle had elicited strong sympathy in Europe, and many leading intellectuals had promoted the Greek cause, including the English poet Lord Byron. At the naval Battle of Navarino, the combined British, French, and Russian forces destroyed an Ottoman-Egyptian fleet. The revolution ended in 1829 when the Treaty of Edirne [Treaty of Adrianople (Sept. 14, 1829)], established an independent Greek state.

In celebration of Greek Independence Day, towns and villages throughout Greece hold a school flag parade, during which schoolchildren march in traditional Greek costume and carry Greek flags. There is also an armed forces parade in Athens". (Bibliography: Encyclopedia Britannica)

Philhellenism ("the love of Greek culture") and philhellen ("the admirer of Greeks and everything Greek"), from the Greek word "φίλος" philos "friend, lover" and "ἕλληνισμός" hellism "Greek", (an intellectual fashion prominent mostly at the turn of the 19th century) contributed to the sentiments (feelings) that led Europeans such as Lord Byron or Charles Nicolas Fabvier to advocate for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire.

The annual recognition of Greek Independence Day is an opportunity for all of us to be proud of our Greek heritage and to be thankful for the blessing of living in The United States of America.

Ζήτω το Έθνος! Zito i Ellas! Zito i Orthodoxia! God Bless America!

AHEPA CHAPTER #64 THANKS all the merchants who so compassionately support the many philanthropic and educational causes our fraternal organization stands for. Without your support this endeavor would be impossible to achieve. Ahepa Chapter #64 would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the outstanding design and printing from FORMEX and to Brother Nick C. Mallios who designed the card to be folded into 3 making it able to be placed in a wallet.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS: You will soon be invited by one of our dedicated brothers to secure an OPA DISCOUNT CARD for yours and the Ahepa’s benefit. This
Fundraising project has been adopted by our Chapter #64 for the benefit of civic responsibilities and philanthropy. This much needed project involves both prospective consumers and merchants from our community. There are 18 total restaurants participating to benefit our Chapter #64 that are posted on the back of each card. We thank all who purchase these OPA cards and also the merchants who are honoring them. The OPA cards will be used from April 1st, 2019 until April 1st, 2020 and cost only $20 each. It is good for $15 off any purchase of $30 or more from any of these participating restaurants. Your card can be used only once for each restaurant participating. Each Ahepan has received an OPA participation letter, a list of the 18 venues with addresses, along with a stamped return envelope addressed to our Treasurer brother Eric Solomon, with 3 OPA Cards for each member to distribute. These OPA Cards may be sold for $20 each or you may be given as gifts at your discretion. You may also return the OPA Cards to our Treasurer Eric Solomon if not interested to participate.

*AHEPANS: If you did not receive the OPA Cards, please contact me at your earliest possible convenience and they will be provided.

**OPA Cards may be purchased following Liturgy during Coffee Hour in the Social Hall!

MERCHANTS & ADDRESSES FOR OPA CARDS

Boomerangs 110 Limekiln Road New Cumberland, PA 17070

Hillside Sports Cafe 589 Salem Road Etters PA 17319

Theos’ Bar & Grille 3315 Hartzdale Avenue Camp Hill, PA 17011

Skyline Restaurant 7510 Allentown Boulevard Harrisburg, PA 17112

Rustic Tavern 823 Newville Road Carlisle, PA 17013

Dafnos Italian Grille 1190 W. Chocolate Avenue Hershey, PA 17033

Smoked Bar & Grill 201 W. Chocolate Avenue Hershey, PA 17033

The Chocolate Avenue Grill 114 W. Chocolate Avenue Hershey, PA 17033

N. Hanover Grille 37-39 N. Hanover Street Carlisle, PA 17013

Lancaster Brewing Company 469 Eisenhower Boulevard Harrisburg, PA 17111

302 Plum Street Lancaster, PA 17602

Zembies 226 N. 2nd Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

Nathan’s 201 N. Enola Road Enola, PA 17025

Rookies 2238 Derry Street Harrisburg, 17014

Sierra Mader 4035 Market Street Camp Hill, PA 17011

Waterfront Bar & Grill 13 S. Main Street Marysville, PA 17053

Orchards Restaurant 1580 Orchard Drive Chambersburg, PA 17201

Mr. G’s 3745 N. 6th Street HBG, PA 17110

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Monday, April 15th – General Business Meeting – Ahepa Room – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, May 8th – Membership/Steering Comm. Meeting - 6:30 pm

Monday, May 13th – General Business Meeting – Ahepa Room – 6:30 pm
Sunday, May 26th – Ahepa Day - Memorial Day Tribute – following Liturgy

Sunday, June 2nd – Prokop/ Vladyka/Prokop Scholarship Sunday – Awards

Monday, June 17th – General Business Meeting – Ahepa Room – 6:30 pm

*The meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Monday of each month beginning at 6:30 o’clock p.m. in the AHEPA Lodge Room, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA:

*NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED PRESENTLY FOR THE JULY AND AUGUST RECESS

Election of Officers and Delegates to the National & District Conventions shall be conducted at the April meeting since the District #4 Convention will be held from June 7-9, 2019 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville, Pa. Our Power District #4 Lodge is hosting this year while. Your attendance at our meetings is always important & vital to the success of our Chapter’s goals and objectives.

Ahepa Blood Mobile Donor Schedule:

Sunday, April 21st, 2018 – Holy Trinity Cathedral – Palm Sunday

Friday, May 17th, 2018 – 2 buses – Holy Trinity Cathedral – Church Festival

Sunday, September 8th, 2018 – Holy Trinity Cathedral

Sunday, December 8th, 2018 – Holy Trinity Cathedral

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Billys, Chaplain

Membership/Steering Committee, Chairman

Power District #4 – District Marshal

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