

HERMES EXPO

INTERNATIONAL

Uniting businesses, fueling
growth through connections,
innovation, and collaboration.



June 14, 2023
Grand Marquis | Old Bridge | NJ
www.hermesexpo.com



CONGRATULATIONS

TO

Paul Kotrotsios

Cheers to another 32 years of
continued success, innovation,
and growth!

PETER KATHOPOULIS
& FAMILY



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Hackensack
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Medical Center

Hackensack Meridian Old Bridge Medical Center and Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center have once again earned straight A's from the *Leapfrog* Group for hospital safety. The *Leapfrog* Group, a national gold standard in evaluating hospital performance, assigns grades to hospitals across the country based on safety, quality, and efficiency of both inpatient and outpatient care. We are committed to patient-first practices with the precision and expertise required to ensure we surpass safety expectations.

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To learn more about Raritan Bay Medical Center, call 732-442-3700.



Hackensack
Meridian
Raritan Bay
Medical Center

HERMES EXPO INTERNATIONAL

AWARDS DINNER

JUNE 14, 2023 | 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM | GRAND MARQUIS, OLD BRIDGE, NJ



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ernie Anastos
New York Emmy Award Winning
Television News Journalist



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Steve Kontos, President, CEO
Nancy Kontos, CFO
Kontos Foods



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Steve Tenedios
Founder & CEO, S.T. Management Group



RESTAURATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Fotis Farmakis
Restaurateur & Co-Owner
Riverwinds Restaurant



PHILOTIMO AWARD

Sam Matthews, Esq.
President, Greek Children's Fund



HIPPOCRATIC AWARD

George Dangas, M.D., Ph.D.
Director of Cardiovascular Innovation
Mount Sinai



PAIDEIA AWARD

Jenny H. Tsantilas, M.Ed.
CEO, Superior Schools Corp



HIPPOCRATIC AWARD

Elias Iliadis, M.D.
Cardiologist, Cooper Heart Institute



HEALTHCARE HERO AWARD

Nikolai Y. Markov, D.O.
General Surgery, Hackensack Meridian Health



PHILOTIMO AWARD

George Siamboulis
Past President, Pan Gregorian Enterprises



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Stavros Theodorou Orchestra

*Enjoy a lavish
cocktail hour, formal
sit-down dinner, and
dancing!*

Master of Ceremonies: H. James Polos, Executive Director Middlesex County Improvement Authority



Ticket price: \$150 | RSVP by May 31st | No tickets sold at the door

For ticket reservations call 610-202-1972 | email aphroditekotrotsios@gmail.com

or purchase online via www.hermesexpo.com



Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos

EXHIBITORS



MEDIA SPONSORS & SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



**UNLOCK THE POWER OF NETWORKING AND CONNECT
WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS, PROFESSIONALS, AND
INNOVATORS AT HERMES EXPO!**

SUBSCRIPTION APPEAL

Dear Friend,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud member of the Greek American community, I urge you to subscribe to the monthly print copy of Hellenic News of America, our vital voice in preserving our culture, heritage, and community strength.

Hellenic News of America is more than a newspaper; it connects us to our Greek roots, serving as a lifeline for our community. By subscribing, you contribute to preserving and celebrating our rich heritage, ensuring that our stories, triumphs, and challenges are heard and understood.

This publication unifies us, empowering our community and amplifying our voices. With your support, we can promote and safeguard our Greek heritage for future generations, instilling pride and identity in our youth.

Hellenic News of America also offers practical benefits. Each issue features informative articles, expert opinions, and exclusive interviews on a range of topics, from politics to art, cuisine, and travel.

Subscribing to Hellenic News of America is a simple yet profound way to express your commitment to our community and heritage. Visit www.hellenicnews.com/subscribe or call [phone number] to subscribe today.

Together, let's celebrate our heritage, nurture our shared values, and build a stronger Greek American community. Subscribe to Hellenic News of America and let our voices echo through history.

Yours sincerely,

Aphrodite

Aphrodite Kotrotsios
Publisher | Hellenic News of America
aphrodite@hellenicnews.com

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thank you



Paul Kotrotsios, MBA

Founder & President | Hermes Expo

☎ 610.202.4465

✉ paul@hermesexpo.com

June 14, 2023

Dear Hermes Expo Community,

We gather today with immense pleasure and gratitude to commemorate the 32nd Annual Hermes Expo. Since its inception, the Hermes Expo has played a vital role in fostering business connections, promoting entrepreneurship, and honoring achievements within the community. Over the years, it has served as a platform for businesses to showcase their products and services, forge strategic partnerships, and gain visibility in the market.

Our journey, starting in Atlantic City and expanding to vibrant cities like New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., has been marked by remarkable growth and success. We owe this progress to the late Theodore G. Spyropoulos, a true champion of Hellenism and a driving force behind our evolution. Today, we pay tribute to his enduring legacy and profound impact on our community.

Set against the backdrop of the prestigious Grand Marquis, our transformed and elevated boutique business expo offers a curated networking platform for professionals from diverse backgrounds and industries. Together, let's embark on a journey of collaboration, growth, and mutual success.

At the heart of our mission is a commitment to fueling commerce, communication, and culture. Our extraordinary exhibit showcase features captivating businesses and professional services, spanning an extensive range of industries. The Hermes Expo invites you to immerse yourself in a world of exploration, where groundbreaking products, cutting-edge services, and visionary ideas await. This is your gateway to limitless possibilities.

Hermes Expo Awards Dinner stands as a tribute to the remarkable achievements of individuals who embody the spirit of excellence, innovation, and philanthropy. Their unwavering dedication and leadership have left an unforgettable mark on their respective industries, inspiring countless others to reach new heights of success.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our esteemed sponsors and exhibitors for their unwavering support in keeping the Hellenic American and Philhellenic business spirit thriving. Together, we shape a vibrant future, fostering a community built on innovation, growth, and mutual success.

As we reflect on our accomplishments over the past three decades, we invite you to watch our latest video, where exhibitors and participants share their experiences. Witness the multitude of diverse opportunities we have created. The Hermes Expo has generated millions of dollars in business for private owners and facilitated trade and cultural agreements between Greece and the U.S.A. We proudly represent companies at HELEXPO and foster enduring partnerships.

With our new home at the esteemed Grand Marquis, supported by the Mayor's Office of Economic Development and local Chambers of Commerce, we look forward to cultivating enduring business relationships and propelling ourselves towards new heights.

Our gratitude extends to our dedicated team and, most importantly, my family for their unwavering support.

We deeply appreciate your active participation in the Hermes Expo and anticipate another extraordinary event. Together, we celebrate and foster a vibrant business community. Let's embark on this exciting journey with enthusiasm, unity, and a collective vision for success.

Sincerely,

Paul Kotrotsios



JOHN P. SARBANES
3RD DISTRICT, MARYLAND
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

June 14, 2023

32nd Hermes Expo Awards Dinner

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all those gathered in celebration for the 32nd Hermes Expo Awards Dinner. For over three decades, the Hermes Expo has promoted professional development and other international business opportunities within the Hellenic and Philhellenic communities and fostered stronger collaboration between American and Greek businesses. I applaud the Hermes Expo's efforts to support Greek-American businesses and help them showcase their innovation, ingenuity and contributions to our society. I want to thank Hermes Expo for its continued efforts on behalf of the Greek-American community through its successful cross-cultural advocacy.

It is an honor to welcome this year's distinguished guests and honorees, each of whom has dedicated their time and talents to positively impacting their communities and the Greek-American community. Thank you, once again, for the opportunity to highlight the Hermes Expo's tremendous work this past year and honor those who truly embody the spirit of Hellenism. Have a wonderful evening.



Sincerely,

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Steven Mamakas, Executive Officer

Mayor's Office of Economic Development



TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE

Paul Kotrotsis, MBA
Founder & CEO, Hellenic News of America
Founder, President & CEO | Hermes Expo International

Dear Paul,

I would like to take this opportunity to first congratulate you on the 32nd year of the Hermes Expo, as well as making Old Bridge Township the Expo's new home. I would also like to express my appreciation for your efforts to assist the Old Bridge Mayor's Office of Economic Development in fostering economic growth between your organization and the Old Bridge Township business community and other communities. My office works closely with our local businesses, stakeholders, developers, and investors seeking opportunities both within Old Bridge Township and the international business community.

Old Bridge Township is the perfect location to bridge the Greek, American, and Township cultures together through your platform. Through working together, there is no doubt we will drive commerce and forge strong relationships with our diverse businesses across our town with your domestic and international partners. This annual event will be a great opportunity to continue to explore the over 600 + businesses that make up the Old Bridge Township business community. Furthermore, the Expo will provide us with an opportunity to show that Old Bridge Township is an unbeatable location with its well-educated workforce, demographics and strong retail and wholesale marketplace profile.

I am looking forward to working with you and networking with the Greek American community, companies, representatives, business leaders and entrepreneurs. Also, I am eager to interact with prospective partners from both sides of the international marketplace at the event and in the future. I wish you another successful Expo here in Old Bridge Township.

Thank you again for all your efforts.

Steve Mamakas

Executive Officer, Mayor's Office of Economic Development
NJBIZ – NJLM Public Private - Partnership Award Winner



AHI

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June 1, 2023

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Mr. Paul Kotrotsios

Founder, President & CEO

Hermes Expo International

P.O. Box 465

Concordville, PA, 19331

Dear Paul:

Congratulations on the 32nd anniversary of Hermes Expo International. The Expo has become a landmark and an indelible event providing networking opportunities with business owners, entrepreneurs and professionals and place to showcase Greek Americans products and expanding then throughout the United States and into Europe.

The success of the Hermes Expo over the past three decades has enriched the Greek American community. It is a testament to how providing access and the proper networking opportunities can help to change communities and lives over many generations.

As an organization that endeavors to promote Hellenism and education, AHI commends you for your hard work and dedication to the particularly important facets of our community—our youth, education and the perpetuation of Hellenism. Furthermore, we congratulate you for this year's theme which focuses on the restaurant and hospitality industry; this is an integral part of the Greek American diaspora and the history of our community in the United States.

In addition, I applaud your work and effort to promote Hellenism through commerce, communication and culture and commend you and your team for 32 years of great success.

I wish you continued success for many more years to come and we at the American Hellenic institute are very proud to be able to partner with you and to call you a friend and supporter.

Warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Nick Larigakis



INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE JUSTICE FOR CYPRUS

Paul Kotrotsios
Chairman

Re: Hermes Expo International

Dear Paul,



The 32nd anniversary of Hermes Expo International is not only a cause for celebration, but also a compelling story of your vision, dedication and commitment to improving trade relations between Greece, Cyprus and the United States. Economy and trade interests shape foreign policy! For 30 continuous years, Hermes Expo has helped to shape American foreign policy towards Greece and Cyprus.

As American citizens of Hellenic descent, we have an obligation to make sure that the Democratic principles that we believe in come true for Greece and Cyprus.

On behalf of the Greek Cypriot community, we salute your commitment and express our gratitude for your support.

Congratulations!

Philip Christopher
President

May 15, 2023

Aphrodite Kotrotsios, MS
Publisher | *Hellenic News of America*
Founder | *Hermes Young Professionals Initiative*
PO BOX 465
Concordville, PA 19331

Re: Hippocrates Award

Dear Aphrodite,

I am humbled and honored to be recognized as the 2023 Hippocrates Award recipient at the Hermes Expo Awards gala. As physicians, we serve to heal the sick and improve the lives of our patients and humanity. It is in this thought that I accept this award on behalf of all who work to improve the health and wellbeing.

I am fortunate to have based my practice at Cooper heart institute and lead a successful heart and vascular practice. I have been selected to teach at Cooper Medical School of Rowan university and teach the next generation of doctors to heal the sick. I strongly believe in supporting and teaching the youth as a legacy for the future.

I believe we have been given an opportunity to lead in our Hellenic community and the Hellenic News/Hermes Expo has been a leader in informing on the news important to our community. In our community, I have also served in many roles: member of the Parish council of St Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, past president, Hellenic Medical Society, past president, Hellenic Federation of New Jersey and current president of the Greek American Heritage Society of Philadelphia and recognized as a New Jersey Hellenic Heritage Commissioner by Governor Murphy. In recognition of my support of my Church, I was selected as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Order of St Andrews.

Congratulations on another successful Hermes Expo as you build synergy within the community business and civic organizations. I am happy to support this endeavor and promote its ideal within and throughout the community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Iliadis MD', written over a light blue grid background.

Elias Iliadis MD
Associate Professor of Medicine, Cooper Medical School at Rowan university
President, Greek American Heritage Society of Philadelphia



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KENILWORTH, NJ 07033
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EMAIL: info@pge-nj.com

Paul Kotrotsios, MBA
Founder & President Hermes Expo
P.O. Box 465
Concordville, PA 19331

June 2023

Dear Mr. Kotrotsios,

On behalf of Pan Gregorian Enterprises, Inc., and the P.G.E.I. of America Charitable Foundation, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations on Hermes Expo's 32nd Anniversary.

The Board of Directors of Pan Gregorian Enterprises, Inc., and the Board of Trustees of P.G.E.I. of America Charitable Foundation, are celebrating their 40th Anniversary this year and it is our honor to salute and congratulate tonight's honoree, Mr. George Siamboulis. Through his many years of service, Mr. Siamboulis has shown exemplary leadership, which was instrumental in the continued success and growth of Pan Gregorian. Mr. Siamboulis' hard work and dedication has been and always will be an inspiration to everyone involved with Pan Gregorian Enterprises, Inc. and their continued mission for excellence and progress.

Congratulations to all honorees!

Warm regards from Pan Gregorian Enterprises Inc. and P.G.E.I. of America Charitable Foundation. We wish you all the best in all your endeavors.

Nicolas Kallas
Chairman

Mike Zavolas
President

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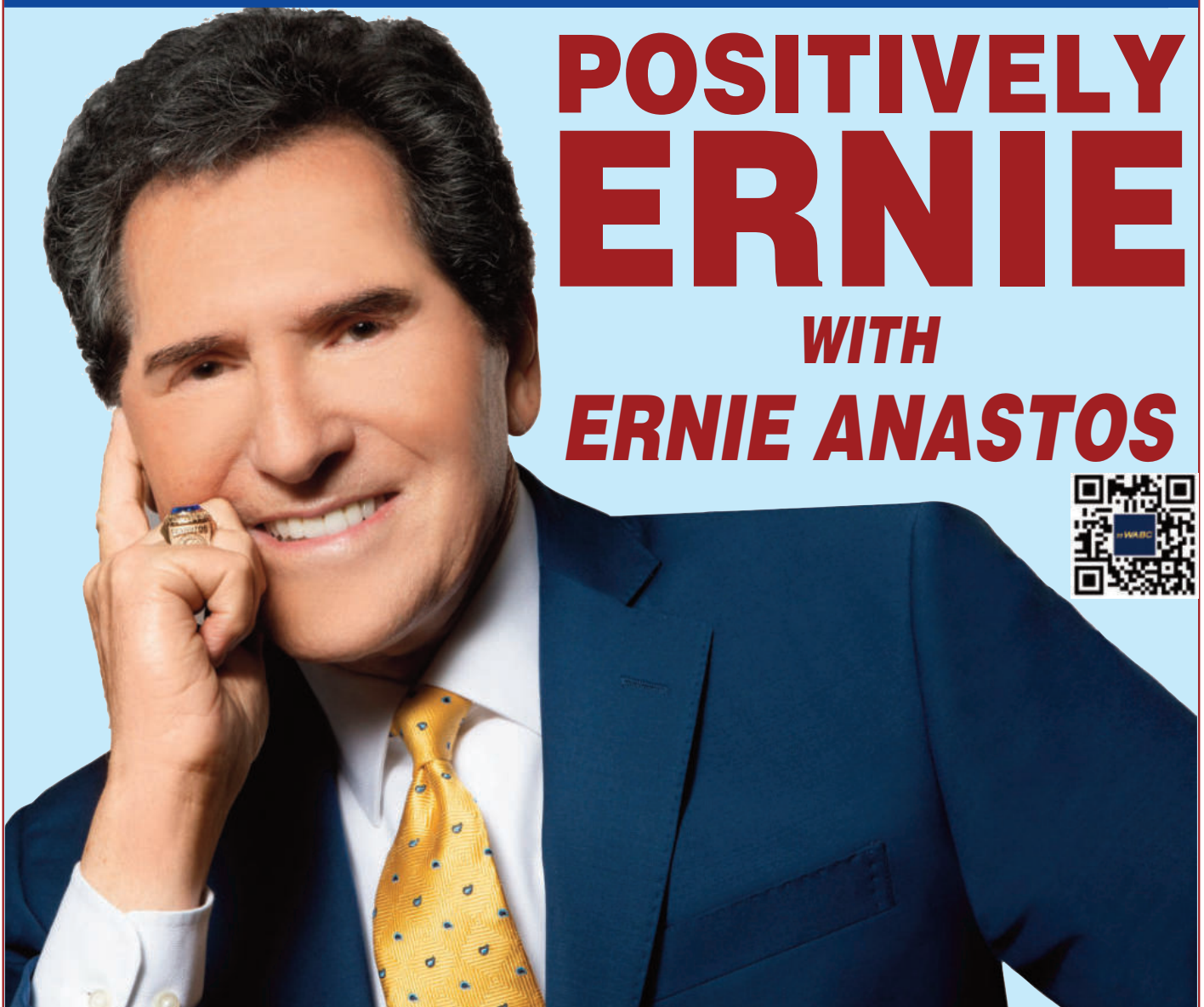
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WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY
APPLAUD

Paul Kotrotsios

For his outstanding
accomplishments and his
unwavering commitment to the
Greek-American community.

PHILIP CHRISTOPHER
PRESIDENT | PSEKA



CONGRATULATIONS
TO

Paul Kotrotsios

The Hermes Expo has flourished,
creating a platform that connects
businesses, fosters collaboration, and
celebrates Greek-American heritage.

H. JAMES POLOS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MIDDLESEX
COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Paul Kotrotsios

On the 32nd Annual Hermes Expo! Your commitment to excellence and your relentless pursuit of empowering the Greek-American community is an inspiration to us all.

MARIYANA SPYROPOULOS
COMMISSIONER,
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
OF GREATER CHICAGO



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www.mariyana4cleanwater.com



CONGRATULATIONS

TO

Paul Kotrotsios

Events such as the Hermes Expo hold immense significance for the Greek American community. It serves as a powerful catalyst for unity, entrepreneurship, and cultural preservation. Through networking opportunities, Hermes Expo enables Greek American professionals and business owners to connect, collaborate, and thrive.

VASILIOS MATARAGAS
PRESIDENT | HANC





CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE ESTEEMED

Honorees

OF THE

32nd Hermes Expo

STEVE TENEDIOS
& FAMILY



CONGRATULATIONS

Steve Jenedios

We celebrate and commend you
for your exceptional
achievements and contributions
to the world of hospitality.

JOHN PASHALIS
NEW YORK, NY



CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR GOOD FRIEND

Steve Fenedios

PANTA AXIOS!

LIBBY AND MIKE ANGELIADES
AND FAMILY



Θα ήθελα να συγχαρώ τον πρόεδρο κύριο Paul Κοτρώτσιο, ιδιοκτήτη και διευθυντή του **HERMES EXPO** καθώς και την Αφροδίτη που στέκονται σκληρά εργαζόμενοι φορείς της ελληνικής ομογένειας και κάθε φορά που τους δίνεται η ευκαιρία στις επιτυχημένες εκδηλώσεις τους, τιμούν εκκλησία, παιδεία και ομογένεια. Είναι κάτι πρωτόγνωρο ο συνδυασμός αυτός του τρίπτυχου της απονομής τιμών που τους τιμά ιδιαίτερα. Σαν εκπαιδευτικός που γνωρίζω τα θέματα παιδείας για 56 χρόνια πάνω σε αυτό τον αυτό που λέγεται εκπαίδευση θα ήθελα να συγχαρώ ιδιαίτερα την κυρία Jenny Tsantilas, την συνιδρύτρια με τον μακαριστό συζυγο της κυρίο Χριστόπουλο, τον **Superior Schools in Florida**, που ίδρυσαν τα 9 ονομαστά **charter schools** στη δυτική πλευρά της Φλόριντας. Θερμά συγχαρητήρια στην ακούραστη Jenny που βάζει τη σφραγίδα της αγάπης, του ενθουσιασμού και της μεταλαμπάδευσης της ελληνικής παιδείας. Την συγχαίρω δίπλα και της εύχομαι με όλους τους συλλόγους της ομοσπονδίας μας και τους άλλους φορείς της παιδείας πάντα επιτυχία, πρόοδο και υγεία στην Jenny μας και την οικογένεια της.

Στέλλα Κοκόλη
Πρόεδρος Ομοσπονδίας Ελλήνων Εκπαιδευτικών Αμερικής.



CONGRATULATIONS
TO

Dr. Leo Iliadis

On this well-deserved recognition.
Thank you for your invaluable
contributions to patient care and for
making a positive difference in the
lives of so many.

DR. DENIS HADJILIADIS

PAUL F HARRON JR PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE
PULMONARY, ALLERGY AND CRITICAL CARE,
PERELMAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
DIRECTOR, ADULT CYSTIC FIBROSIS PROGRAM



CONGRATULATIONS

TO

Fotis Farmakis

On receiving the prestigious
Restaurateur of the Year Award
at the Hermes Expo!



GEORGE CHRISSIKOS
CHAIRMAN & CEO

PETER CHRISSIKOS
VICE PRESIDENT



CONGRATULATIONS

TO

*Paul Kotrotsios
&
All the Honorees*



FOTIS FARMAKIS

CO-OWNER, RIVERWINDS RESTAURANT



We join the Hermes Expo International at the Awards Dinner Gala on June 14, 2023, in honoring distinguished members of Leadership 100, who have made outstanding contributions to the Greek American community. The distinguished honorees include:

Ernie Anastos – Emmy Award winning TV News Anchor, WABC, Lifetime Achievement Award;

Steve and Nancy Kontos – Proprietors, Kontos Foods, Business Leadership Award; and Steve Tenedios – CEO, ST Management, Business Leadership Award.

We also commend the Keynote Speaker, Philip Kafarakis, a devoted member of Leadership 100.

We congratulate all the honorees and commend them for their support of Orthodoxy and Hellenism.

Demetrios G. Logothetis, Chairman
Kassandra L. Romas, Treasurer
Maria Allwin, Secretary

Paulette Poulos, Executive Director

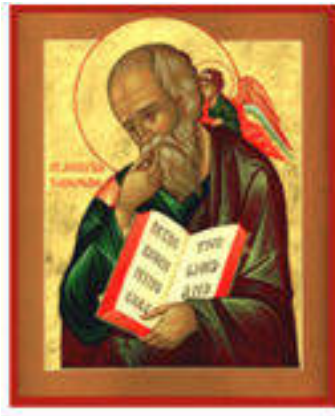
Advancing Orthodoxy and Hellenism in America

Congratulations
to
Steve & Nancy Kontos
Sam Matthews
Steve Tenedios
& all the Honorees

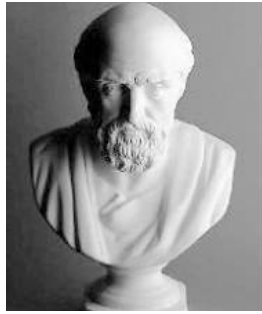


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**Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies (HMS)
of North America, Inc.**

Spyros G.E. Mezitis, MD, PhD, President

Www.hellenicfedmed.com

**Congratulations to Hermes Expo 2023
and the Hippocratic Award Recipients**

Interventional Cardiologists

Dr. George Dangas

Past-President of the HMS of New York

Dr. Elias Iliadis

Past-President of the HMS of Philadelphia

ΑΕΙΟΙ



Congratulations to
Steve Tenedios
and all the honorees
on behalf of Imperial Dade

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**CONGRATULATIONS
AND
BEST WISHES
TO OUR PHYSICIAN AND DEAR FRIEND
DR. GEORGE DANGAS
ON RECEIVING
THE ESTEEMED HIPPOCRATIC AWARD
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**STEVE AND ANGELA ZERVOUDIS
AND FAMILY**

**CONGRATULATIONS
AND
BEST WISHES
TO OUR GOOD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE
STEVE TENEDIOS
ON RECEIVING
THE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD
A WELL-DESERVED HONOR!**

**STEVE AND ANGELA ZERVOUDIS
AND FAMILY**

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Our congratulations to

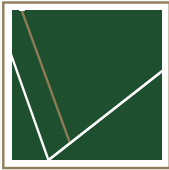
Steve Tenedios

for the

Business Leadership Award

at the

32nd Annual Hermes Business Expo



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**Congratulations to Steve Tenedios
Presented with the Business Leadership Award**

Stephen M. Smolizza President & CEO

2200 Northern Blvd, Ste 200, East Hills, NY 11548

1049 Fifth Ave, Ste 5B, NY, NY 10028



We would like to congratulate all the

Honorees

*Of the 32nd Annual Hermes Expo Awards Dinner
and to congratulate*

Steve Tenedios

For the recognition of your leadership in business.

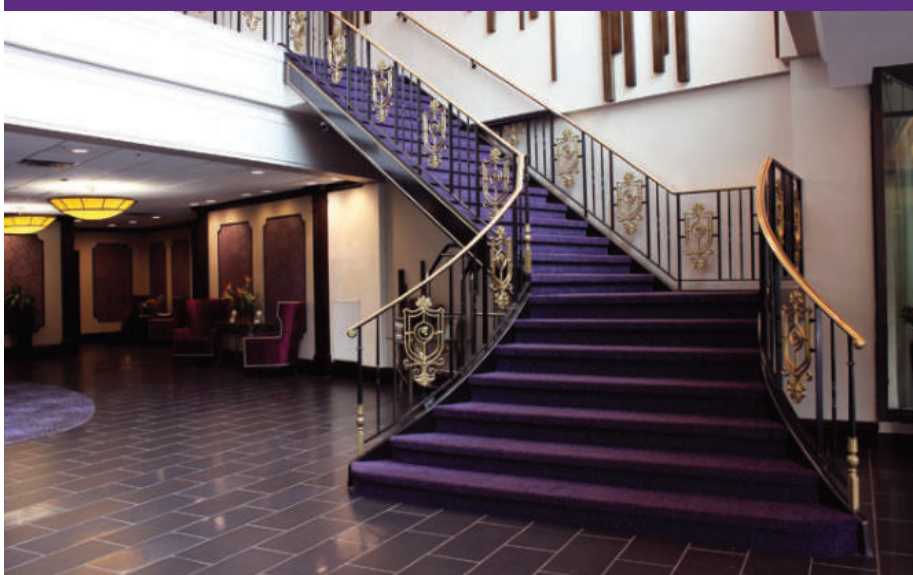


Brian K. Condon, Esq.



Lena E. Paxos, Esq.

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ROYAL REGENCY
HOTEL

We would like to Congratulate
all of the

Honorees

of the 32nd Annual Hermes Expo
International Awards Dinner

and

To Our Friend and Colleague

Steve Tenedios

Congratulations for the
recognition of your leadership in
business.

Mr. & Mrs.
Konstantinos & Phyllis Paxos
& Family

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIEND
STEVE TENEDIOS, THE TRUE
DEFINITION OF PHILOTIMO,
RECIPIENT OF THIS YEAR'S HERMES
EXPO BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD
AND WE SALUTE HERMES EXPO
INTERNATIONAL ON 32 YEARS OF
SUCCESS



PAN-BROTHERS ASSOCIATES, INC.

PETER PANTELIDIS
GEORGE PANTELIDIS
JAMES PANTELIDIS

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Congratulations on a fantastic Hermes Expo

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CONGRATULATIONS

TO

THE HONOREES

AND

PAUL KOTROTSIOS &
THE HERMES EXPO
TEAM!

ANTONY CONTOMICHALOS
& FAMILY



AHEPA DELPHI CHAPTER # 25 SALUTES THE 32ND ANNUAL HERMES BUSINESS EXPO
AND WE CONGRATULATE OUR CHAPTER BROTHERS, **DR. GEORGE DANGAS**
AND **STEVE TENEDIOS**, FOR BEING RECOGNIZED THIS YEAR FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY ΑΕΙΟΙ !!!!



AHEPA DELPHI 25, CIRCA 1926



AHEPA DELPHI 25, CIRCA 1976

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GEORGE ROUKAS & VTC RESTAURANT CORP.

WILLIAM PLANES OF TARPON SPRINGS: AN INSPIRATIONAL STORY

By Auria Moore via USAWire, distributed by Amazon Listing Hub

William Planes was born in New York, and brought up in a middle-class family. In high school, he excelled in academics and sports. William's parents instilled in him a deep Faith in Christ, a strong work ethic, and a love for learning, which would shape his future success.

He was a top student at his university and was actively involved in various clubs and organizations on campus. During his university time, William was the student assistant to several professors in the school of business and taught the labs for the basic and intermediate accounting courses. He also interned at several large corporations, gaining valuable experience in the business world.

William, graduating and completing his military service in the Navy, landed a job at a top international CPA firm in South Florida. He rose through the ranks significantly, impressing his colleagues and clients with innovative ideas and attention to detail.

William resides in Tarpon Springs, where he is a well-respected community member. He is known for his kindness, generosity, and willingness to help others.

Greek Genocide

William Planes is an author whose father, Panayiotis Platanides, survived the Greek genocide in 1922 Asia Minor when he was only 14. Planes wrote a book called "Platanides: Through the Eye of the Storm" that tells his father's true story of survival during the genocide and explores the power of the Greek Orthodox faith that helped his father and family overcome the atrocities they faced.

The book chronicles the early years of a young boy born in Asia Minor in 1908, his life, experiences, and Christian faith. It highlights how he and his family managed to flee the genocide of the Greek and Armenian Christians at the hands of Mustapha Kamal, Ataturk, on September 13, 1922. The book also focuses on their lives as genocide refugees and how the events of World War II on the Island of Crete affected them and their descendants. The book eventually expounds on the relationship between that boy in his adulthood and his son, the author himself.

According to the author's website, he is "the first generation born of a survivor of Genocide in Asia Minor by the radical Muslim troops of Mustapha Kamal Ataturk in September 1922." His parents raised him in the teachings and traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church. The Greek genocide, which included the Pontic genocide, was the organized killing of the Christian Ottoman Greek population of Anatolia, carried out mainly during World War I and its aftermath (1914–1922) based on their religion and ethnicity.

From Crete To America

Panayiotis Platanides, who survived the genocide, managed to escape to America; however, not all of Planes's family members managed to get that far.

Before moving to Crete, other members of his family, including Planes' paternal grandfather, spent two years residing at an immigrant camp in Greece. After moving from the immigrant camp to Crete, the family relatives eventually had to endure German occupation during World War II. The Gestapo sentenced to death two of Planes' uncles for their involvement in guerilla operations to topple the German troops in Crete. The Armistice kept them alive.

The maternal grandparents of Planes had lived in the USA since the turn of the century. According to Planes, the lowest class occupation imaginable, shoe black, was taken on by his ancestor, who worked the streets of Boston.

Faith

William is a devout Greek Orthodox Christian, and his faith plays an essential role in his life and work. In his book "Platanides: Through the Eye of the Storm," Planes explores the power of his father's faith in helping him survive the Greek genocide in 1922 Asia Minor. His grandchildren served as an inspiration for penning the book to ensure that the story of his ancestors inspires them as well as Christian readers worldwide.

"It was a lesson by my father to his kids that no matter what you're confronted with in life if you trust in Christ and you believe without doubt that Christ is with you, you can get through anything. That was what we learned at a very early age, and that's what stuck with me throughout my life."

Planes has also written several articles and blog posts about his faith, including the importance of prayer and the role of the Orthodox Church in modern society. Many blogs highlight subjects such as the history of Christianity in Asia Minor or guiding Christians on how to adhere to a Christian lifestyle. He also pens blogs about the books and contents practicing Christians should read.

Williams Planes often publicly speaks about his faith and its importance. He has given talks at churches and other religious organizations, sharing his experiences and insights with others. In addition, he is involved in various Christian ministries and charitable organizations, including volunteering at a local homeless shelter and helping to support Greek Orthodox schools and churches.

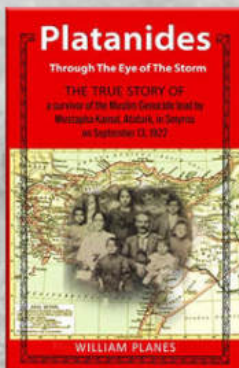
Overall, William Planes is a firm believer in the power of the Christian faith to inspire and uplift individuals and communities. He sees his faith as a guiding force in his life and work and is passionate about sharing its message with others.

DESPERATION SEPTEMBER 13, 1922

FLEEING MUSTAPHA KAMAL, THE QUAY IN SMYRNA



PICTURE TAKEN FROM A US NAVY DESTROYER'S LAUNCH (SEE AMERICAN FLAG ON LAUNCH SHOWN IN THE LEFT FOREFRONT OF THE PICTURE). THE PICTURE IS OF THE OVERCROWDED BOATS OF REFUGEES AS THEY DESPERATELY ARE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE THE FIRE AND GENOCIDE BY THE TROOPS OF MUSTAPHA KAMAL ATATURK AT THE QUAY OF SMYRNA.



PLATANIDES: THROUGH THE EYE OF THE STORM

WILLIAM PLANES

THIS BOOK FOLLOWS THE LIFE, EXPERIENCES, AND CHRISTIAN FAITH OF A YOUNG BOY BORN IN ASIA MINOR IN 1908; HOW HE AND HIS FAMILY MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE GENOCIDE OF THE GREEK AND ARMENIAN CHRISTIANS AT THE HANDS OF KAMEL ATATURK ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1922; THEIR LIVES AS REFUGEES OF GENOCIDE; HOW THESE EVENTS AND EVENTS OF WORLD WAR II ON THE ISLAND OF CRETE GREECE AFFECTED THEM AND THEIR DESCENDANTS; AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THAT BOY, IN HIS ADULT YEARS, AND HIS SON,

THE AUTHOR, PLANES STATED, "I FELT THAT WHAT I HAD LEARNED FROM MY FATHER COMBINED WITH WHAT THE EXPERIENCE OF HIS PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, OUR FOREFATHERS, ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO WHAT I HAD BECOME."

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Honoree Biographies

Ernie Anastos

New York TV Legend – National Talk Host

Ernie Anastos is a legendary New York Emmy award-winning television news journalist. He is the celebrated host and creator of “Positively America” a nationally syndicated TV show and the host of “Positively Ernie” on New York’s popular 77 WABC radio. His signature programs are designed to inform, educate, entertain, and inspire viewers with interviews and positive news you can use. Ernie’s amazing career spans several decades as a leading anchor in New York at ABC 7, CBS 2, and FOX 5 in the most diverse city in America.

A dynamic New York Hall of Fame broadcaster, Ernie has an extraordinary record of achievement. He has won more than 30 Emmy awards and nominations, including the prestigious Lifetime Emmy Honor. He is also a distinguished author of inspiring books for young readers and is committed to various charity and philanthropic projects.

Ernie is very proud of his Greek heritage and honors his commitments as an Archon, a member of Leadership 100, and active with his family at Holy Trinity Church in New Rochelle. His grandfather Reverend Anastasios was a pioneer of the Greek Orthodox Church, recognized as one of the first 100 ordained priests in America.

George Siamboulis

Past President and Honorary President, Pan Gregorian Enterprises and President, Pan Gregorian of America

George Siamboulis was born in Kalesmeno Evrytanas, Greece, where he attended elementary school and spent his childhood. In 1957, George Siamboulis joined his hands in marriage with his childhood sweetheart Evangelia Kotsiana. He served his mandatory service in the Greek Army from 1960 to 1962. He and his wife made a living in Lamia before moving to Athens where they welcomed their two beautiful daughters. Life in Greece was very difficult after the end of the Second World War and Civil War. In order to provide for his family in these very difficult times, George Siamboulis worked very hard delivering fuel from refineries in the outskirts of Athens. But he had a very keen entrepreneurial spirit. He believed that he would be more successful living in the land of opportunity. Finally, in 1969, George Siamboulis moved with his family to the USA in West Orange, NJ in search of better business opportunities and a finer education for his daughters. After working briefly in some restaurants and diners in the state of New Jersey, in 1971, just two years after his arrival in the States, George Siamboulis was able to buy his first restaurant in Clifton, NJ. In 1974 he bought the Tom Sawyer Diner in Paramus, where after 50 years he is still a proud owner. Mr. Siamboulis’ business ethics, great organizational skills, attention to the food quality, as well as customer service made the Tom Sawyer Diner a landmark and a point of interest in Bergen County.

On the fateful night of Tuesday, September 12, 2006, Tom Sawyer Diner was reduced to ashes. Mr. Siamboulis’ business of more than 30 years had been destroyed. It was then as he stood with his family in front of the burned ruins that he made the decision to rebuild. He owed it to the generations of people who considered this restaurant a haven of comfort food and relaxation. Its simple but elegant design made it a small gem in Paramus. Its customers were standing patiently in line to get a table the first day after it was reopened. His daughters and his sons-in-law got involved to help him reorganize and promote the newly built restaurant. Tom Sawyer Diner has truly become a success. Since 1983, he has been affiliated with Pan Gregorian Enterprises, Inc. of New Jersey. George Siamboulis was elected as a member of the Board of Directors in 1991 and served as 1st Vice President before he was elected President. He has been the President of Pan Gregorian Enterprises, Inc. since 1998 and the President of Pan Gregorian of America since its inception in 2009. He is dedicated in serving these unique entities successfully, while remaining faithful to the ideals and vision of their founding members. His great organizational skills and leadership abilities have helped Pan Gregorian increase its membership volume.

A lot has changed in the world since he joined the cooperative. His mission of advancing knowledge about the ideals of Pan Gregorian Enterprises, Inc. has remained in constant. His ability to adapt and respond in a dynamic environment has ensured the cooperative’s success in leading the way towards a stronger more vital and profitable Greek American restaurant sector. Mr. Siamboulis’ business ethics and nobility has helped to build partnerships with big financial entities that fulfilled the mission of the Pan Gregorian Enterprises and the P.G.E.I. of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.

In 1988 he became Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle. He is ded-

Honoree Biographies

icated to serving the Greek Orthodox Church and community to the best of his abilities. George Siamboulis has served on all positions of the Board of Kalesmeno society, the Evrytania Society, and the Velouchi Association. He also has served the community of St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church in Paramus for the last seventeen years, as a member of the Executive Board and is an active member of the AHEPA Chapter #54 in Paramus, NJ. He resides in Washington Township, NJ. His beloved Evangelia, has since passed on but her legacy still lives on in all those who knew and loved her. He has his two wonderful daughters, Paraskevi and Aspasia by his side along with his six beautiful grandchildren. Paraskevi and her husband Stylianos Spyrou gave them three delightful grandchildren: Dimitri, Evangelia, and George. Aspasia and her husband Kostas Panagiotopoulos also gave them three amazing grandchildren: Christo, Evangelia, and George. They all have been residing in New Jersey since 1969.

Steve Tenedios

Founder and CEO of S.T. Management Group

Steve Tenedios is the founder and CEO of S.T. Management Group, STMG. Together his daughter Christina Tenedios, SVP and son George Tenedios, EVP, STMG owns and operates several notable NYC restaurant concepts and Corporate Catering and Events Brands. These include Cafe Metro, Metro Marche, Metro Catering and Events, Cambridge Catering, Fresh&Co and the Fresh&Co Franchise System. STMG is also the managing partner of the popular Kyma Restaurants in New York.

Mr. Tenedios is an Archon of the Order of Saint Andrew of The Ecumenical Patriarchate, a member of Leadership 100, a founding member of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation and a member of Ahepa Delphi Chapter 25. He is a member and benefactor at the Cathedral of St John The Theologian in Tenaflly NJ, the Church of The Ascension in Fairview NJ as well as the Saints Anargyroi Taxiarchis and Gerasimos Church in Greenport NY.

He is a Founding Member of the New York City Hospitality Alliance and he proudly serves on the New York City Advisory Board of Friends of Karen, a local charity that serves the needs of families with terminally ill children.

Steve and his wife Olga are married for 37 years and reside in Englewood Cliffs NJ.

Jenny H. Tsantilas, M.Ed.

CEO, Superior Schools Corp

As the CEO of Superior Schools Early Learning, owner/broker of Superior Realty Corp, and President of JHT Acquisitions, I spend my days overseeing 10 Early Learning Centers as well as managing a portfolio of over 40 commercial, residential, and vacation rentals.

2022 was a very successful year for Superior Realty Corp where we represented buyers and sellers in over \$41,150,000 in residential and commercial transactions. Even with a successful brokerage, my commitment to ensuring Superior Schools Early Learning continues to provide quality education to students throughout the Tampa Bay Area is paramount.

My passion for education began in 2004, after forming the first Plato Academy Charter School with Steve Christopoulos, concentrating on the Greek language and culture at the forefront. After seeing the critical need for those in educational leadership to also have an understanding of how to effectively manage, I earned my bachelor's degree in management and organizational Leadership, then continued my education at USF where I earned my Master's Degree in Education.

Currently, as the CEO of Superior Schools Corp and Superior Schools Early Learning, I oversee 10 quality pre-schools in Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties with plans to open three more locations in 2023.

We are also the before and after-school provider at all of the 9 Plato Academy Charter Schools in addition to offering summer camps throughout Pinellas and Pasco County. While providing comprehensive educational services, I also oversee the building of new charter schools.

From beginning with one school and one preschool, to now having 10 pre-schools, I have poured my heart into these schools doing everything I possibly could to make them a fun, safe, and reliable learning environment for the students. For me, the most exciting aspect of being an education administrator is creating an environment where we combine learning and fun to ensure that our students look forward to coming to school every day and continue to learn and thrive.

Honoree Biographies

Most importantly, I consider Plato Academy/ Superior Schools like family because my family and I worked so hard to make our schools what they are today. I have had the privilege of working with some of the greatest administrators and teachers in Florida and I am looking forward to our continued growth in 2023.

Sam Matthews, Esq. President, Greek Children's Fund

Sam Matthews, Esq. is the current President of the Greek Children's Fund for the past four years. For the past 30 years, he is an active Board member and executive officer, including Past President. During his tenure with the GCF, Sam has played an instrumental and leadership role in raising and distributing in excess of \$10 Million to over 10,000 needy pediatric patients facing life threatening illnesses. He was an integral participant in the sold-out Concert of Hope at Madison Square Garden; first ever International Greek telethon with Antenna Satellite, TV; various National Greek TV telethons; Greek Night with the Mets; several dinner galas; and various other fundraising events. Sam is happily married to Anastasia for over 20 years, and they have four beautiful children, Athena, Niki, Steele and Phoebe. He has been an entrepreneur for over 30 years. He is an active member of the Greek Orthodox church and has served on boards of numerous other philanthropic organizations. In 2013 he received the GCF lifetime achievement award for his leadership and dedication to the Fund and in 2017 he received the US Congressional Flag of Honor issued by the U.S. House of Representatives commending his philanthropy and his community service.

Nikolai Y. Markov, D.O. General Surgery, Hackensack Meridian Health

Nikolai Y. Markov, D.O., is a fellowship trained, board certified general surgeon who has been affiliated with Hackensack Meridian Health for a number of years and recently joined Hackensack Meridian Medical Group. Dr. Markov has over 20 years of experience practicing medicine and provides a wide range of inpatient and outpatient procedures. He makes it a priority to foster comfort and confidence in his patients by helping them understand their diagnosis and the range of available treatment options.

Dr. Markov's clinical areas of interest include abdominal and digestive issues. He has presented on various topics including rectal cancer, gastric cancer, Gastroesophageal reflux, Crohn's disease, hernias, and other disorders related to gastro and abdominal matters.

Additionally, he is fluent in several languages including French, Bulgarian and Russian. Dr. Markov will continue to serve his patients with his care, compassion, and expert opinion to help them achieve the best possible outcome.

George D. Dangas, MD, MSCAI, MACC, FAHA, FESC Director of Cardiovascular Innovation at the Cardiovascular Institute of the Mount Sinai Hospital

Dr. Dangas is a Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) and Surgery (Vascular) with tenure at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Director of Cardiovascular Innovation at the Cardiovascular Institute of the Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, the Director of the Medical School Course Cardiology as well as Associate Director of the Mount Sinai Heart Department and Chief of Cardiology at Mount Sinai Queens. He is a Founding Physician of the Cardiovascular Research Foundation, New York City.

He is an internationally recognized expert in coronary, heart valve and vascular disease and specializes in minimally invasive, interventional treatments with cutting edge technologies in combination with novel medical therapy approaches.

Dr. Dangas completed his education in Athens College, the Medical School of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, and the Hellenic Navy School of Hyperbaric Medicine. He trained in Internal Medicine at the Miriam Hospital/Brown University in Rhode Island, and in Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Before joining Mount Sinai as a full Professor, he was Associate Professor at Columbia University Medical Center and Chairman of Cardiology at the Onassis Heart Center in Athens.

His active research interests include cardiovascular device therapy and its combinations with pharmacotherapy and he has authored over 750 publications, an international referral textbook on Interventional Cardiology Principles.

Honoree Biographies

ples & Practice (3rd Edition 2022, Wiley London), and is the Section Editor (interventional subjects) of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. Additionally, he is a course director and invited/featured speaker in many of the highest ranked cardiovascular conferences in the USA, Europe and around the world.

Dr. Dangas has received Fellowship distinction in 7 international professional societies and was a Trustee of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and also of the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions (SCAI). He was founding Chair of the ACC Interventional Cardiology Council and has received teaching awards from early on in his career; in 2017 he was the ACC Distinguished Teacher awardee and designated a SCAI Master. In 2019 he was the ACC Distinguished Fellowship awardee and in 2022 a Master of ACC (MACC). He has received Career Achievement Awards from the Hellenic College of Cardiology (2015) and the Italian Society of Cardiology (2019). He included for many years in many WHOisWHO and TopDoctors Listings.

He is President-Elect and President of SCAI 2022-24, and currently Chairing the Interventional Cardiology and the Laennec Committees of the American Heart Association (AHA) and the Journal of the ACC WorkGroup of the Academic Council of the ACC. He is Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria and Professor of Cardiology at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens School of Medicine.

Dr. Elias Anthony Iliadis **Cardiologist, Cooper Heart Institute**

Elias attended medical school at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick. After completing his Internship and Residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Elias completed his Cardiology Fellowship at Rush Presbyterian St Luke's Medical Center in Chicago and advanced training in Interventional Cardiology at the University of Michigan Medical Centers.

Dr. Iliadis is currently Program Director, Interventional cardiology fellowship, and Associate Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories at Cooper University Hospital, Camden, NJ. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Elias is a brother of the AHEPA Camden 69 Chapter and was the 2020 District 5 AHEPAN of the year for his work during the COVID pandemic. Elias's community involvement includes long term participation on the Parish council, Chairman of the Education Committee, Secretary, Treasurer, and current Vice president of Stewardship of the Parish Council, St Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

In 2015, he served the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as a camp physician at Ionian Village, Glyfa Greece. He is a founding Board Member and past President of the Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia. Elias is immediate past President of the Hellenic Federation of New Jersey and was commissioned as New Jersey Hellenic Heritage commissioner by Governor Phil Murphy in 2109. He was selected as a board member of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical school Alumni Association and serves as Vice President. He is current president of Greek American Heritage Society of Philadelphia.

Elias is married to Katherine Dedes Iliadis, RPH, they have three children: Sophia, 27, Nicholas, 24, and Elena, 21. The family resides in Moorestown, New Jersey.

Fotis Farmakis **Restaurateur, Co-Owner, Riverwinds Restaurant**

52 years ago, a 13-year-old boy, Fotios Farmakis, left his village of Papadates, Greece, his family, & the only life he ever knew to come to Camden, New Jersey. He had little education & no money to his name, but he had a dream & determination. Upon arriving in New Jersey, he started earning money as a dishwasher at the local Ponzio's Diner. He spent his days working in the restaurant & his nights hiding in basements & garages of people he didn't know to get some sleep. For more than a decade, Foti struggled & performed low paying restaurant positions that really have helped him learn the ins & outs of the restaurant business & prepared him for his present journey.

At the age of 25, Foti married his wife Zinovia & started a family shortly after. The pressure of providing for his family here & across the Atlantic helped him to take the first step in his business career & at the age of 29, he became a partner of Hunterdon Valley Diner. He has been an owner/partner of multiple diners & restaurants since then. His most recent establishment is the Riverwinds Restaurant, a 500+ seat fine dining restaurant & banquet facility located on the Delaware River with views of the Philadelphia skyline & airport.



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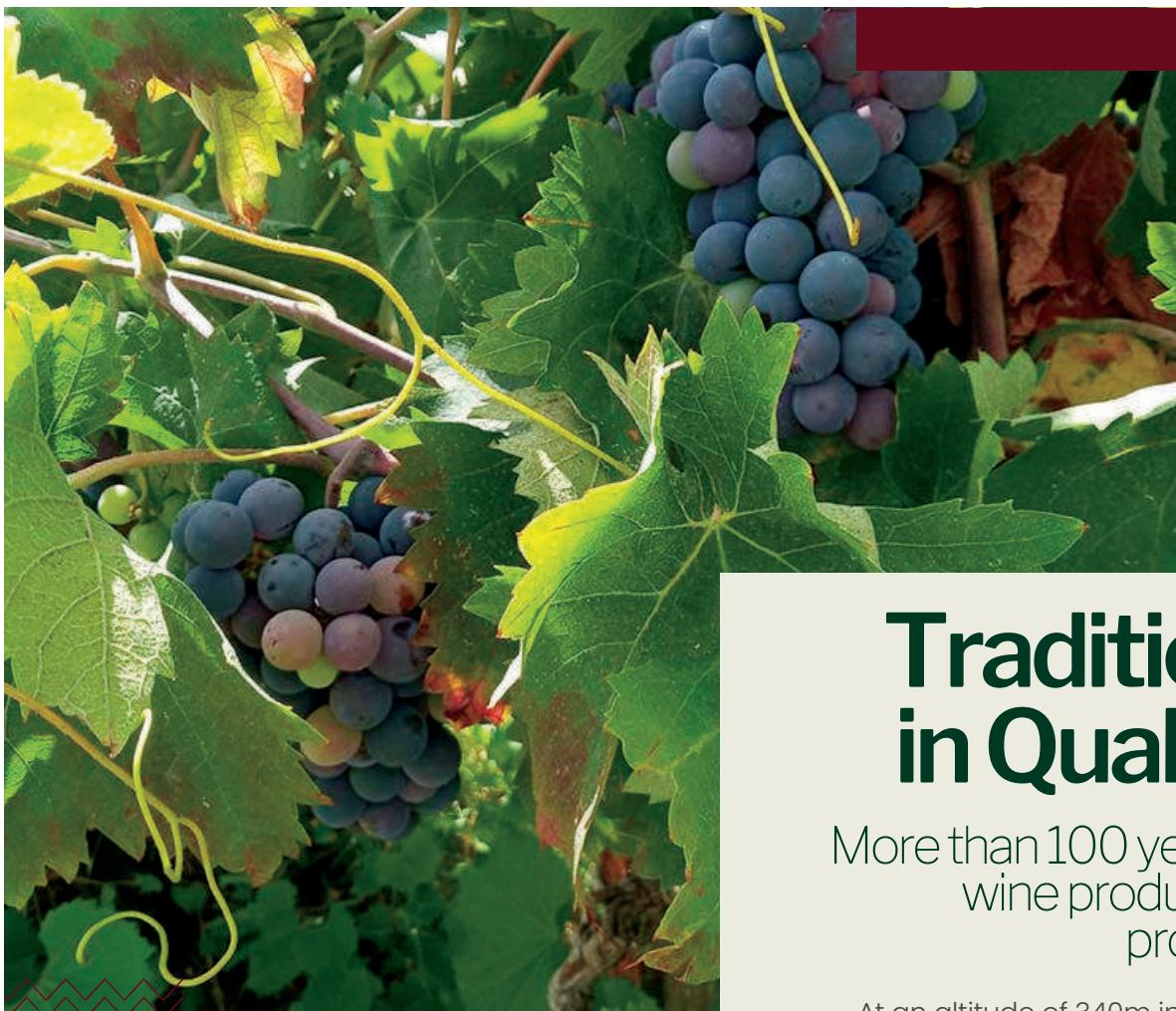
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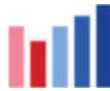
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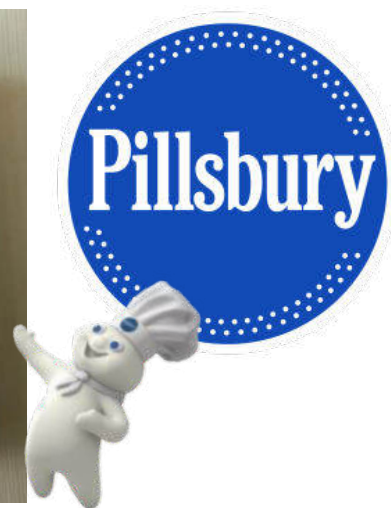
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Owen Henry, Mayor



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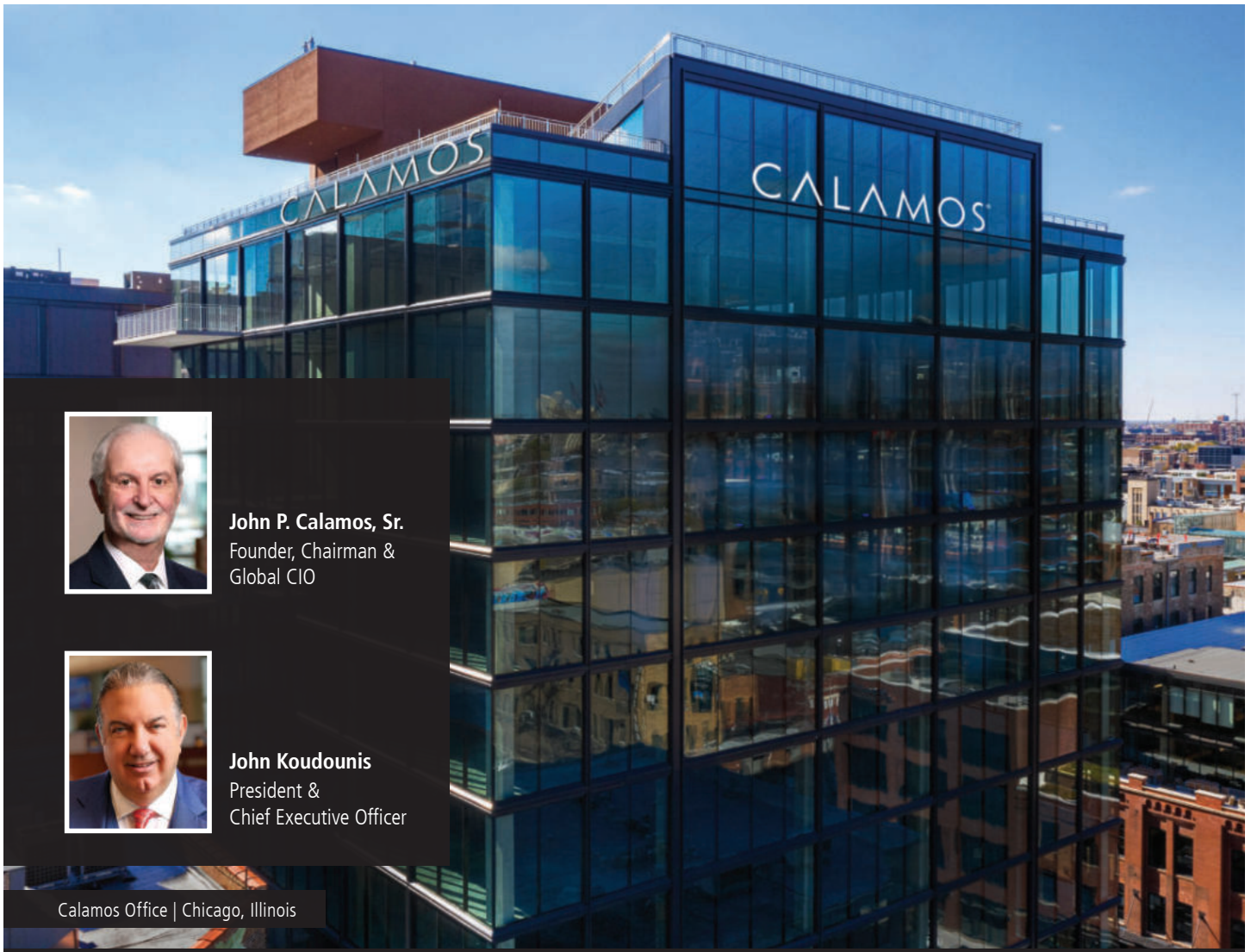


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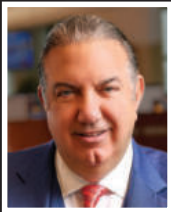


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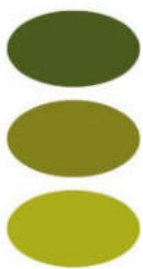
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