

The New England Scene

By Sophia Nibi

This month we celebrate the 215th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Americans of Greek ancestry are known to be among the most patriotic citizens of our country. Throughout the history of these United States, the Greek American patriots have loved, supported and defended this land with faith and pride. Many gave their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms we sometimes not only take for granted, but also abuse. It is well, therefore, that on Memorial Day we paused to remember and honor those members of our armed forces killed in war.



For God and Country — George K. Menichios American Legion Post No 324 Commander George Antonopoulos, left, and past Commander George Toumpouras proudly stand by the monument which honors Greek Americans who died for our country.

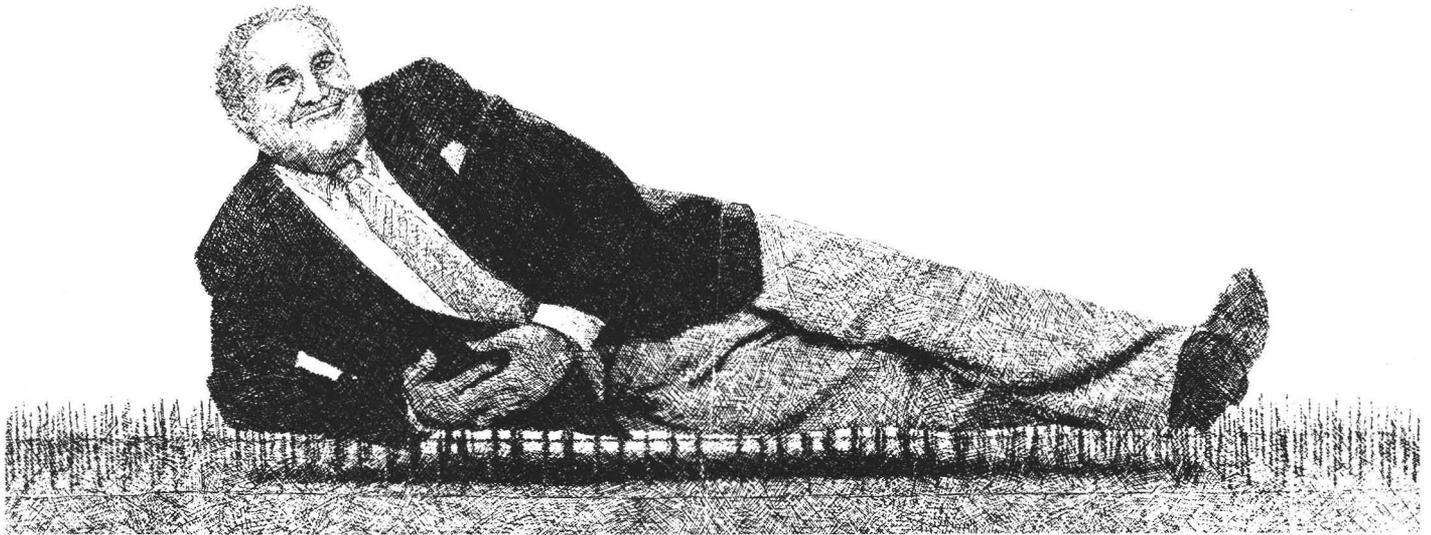
A most moving celebration in the Boston area, was sponsored by the members of the George K. Menichios American Legion Post No. 324. Led by their Commander, George Antonopoulos, many Legionnaires along with members of their families, attended the Divine Liturgy in the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Chapel, witnessed a memorial service for those who died in wars throughout our history, and dedicated a memorial honoring the "Greek Americans who sacrificed their lives throughout the world defending human freedom and dignity." The memorial, located adjacent to the Diocesan Center, was donated by George Toumpouras, a proud World War II Veteran and a former Commander of the George K. Menichios Post which recently celebrated its

golden anniversary. Surrounded by the American, the Diocesan and the Greek flags, the color guard proudly marched to the memorial site. The current governing board of the Post in addition to Commander Antonopoulos, includes: James Elis, Arthur Koufos, Chris Kotros, George Mentis, John Raftes, John Xenos, Peter Condos, William Antonopoulos, George Hantis, Leo Risvas, William Stavropoulos, Theodore Economo, George Arvanitis, Byron Economo, Matthew Pino, Charles Zevitas. To these veterans, and through them to all who have served our country, we express our appreciation for remembering, and for reminding us the great prize of freedom and the ideals of democracy.

Now, back to July 1991. Maria Lempesis still lives with Homer and Georgia Ypsilantis and two of her three handsome grandsons, Evan and Mark. The third grandson, Nicholas, is married to Kathy Metaxas, the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Metaxas. They live in West Newton, MA. Last month, Bishop Methodios of Boston awarded a special Diocesan Award to Maria Lempesis, in appreciation of her sterling Greek Orthodox life. Not only did this remarkable woman anchor a wonderful family, she has served the Church with faith, humility and dedication. The 52-year Philoptochos member has been making prosphoron for services for the past 26 years! Her stewardship of talents and money sets an example to follow. Those who know her say



His Grace Bishop Methodios of Boston welcomed the United States Ambassador to Greece, Michael Sotirhos, who was the Commencement Speaker at Hellenic College/Holy Cross. During a dinner in honor of Ambassador and Mrs. Sotirhos, Stephen E. Pappas, right, a Great Benefactor of the School, made a donation which brought him and his wife Catherine closer to fulfilling their one million dollar pledge made last year during the Patriarchal Visit. The donation will result in the establishment of a Chair of Patristics at Holy Cross.



STAVROS COSMOPULOS

The Wall Street Journal — April 17, 1991

they have been deeply touched by her example. But of all the things I have heard about Mrs. Lempesis, I believe the best tribute came from Homer Ypsilantis, her son-in-law, who, upon learning that Mrs. Lempesis was going to be honored and thanked by the Diocese of Boston, scribbled the following, along a copy of the above mentioned Boston Globe article, "Although a bit dated, this article truly details mom's beautiful outlook and attitude and why all three generations have been happy and blessed together these past 34 years."

Nine years ago, on April 6, 1983 to be exact, I received the shortest letter I have ever read. It was in response to an op-editorial article which appeared in the *Boston Herald* on April 4, 1983. "Dear Sophia, I read your article in today's *Boston Herald* and enjoyed it very much. Keep up the good work. Sincerely, Stavros Cosmopoulos." I thought of this letter recently, when I read the full page advertisement which appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, entitled *The Cosmos of Stavros*. Steve Cosmopoulos is a living legend in New England advertising. As the paper reported, he is a self-taught art director and creative leader who provided the name and reputation on which Hill, Holiday, Connors, Cosmopoulos was founded. Today, Steve serves as chairman of the board of Cosmopoulos, Crowley and Daly.

If you did not read the April 17th issue of the *Wall Street Journal*, this is what you missed: Steve is a first-generation American. He grew up in Dorchester (a section of Boston), a "little Greek kid in the middle of 5,000 Irishmen. Tough neighborhood, but hey, could you imagine a better place to learn what life's all about?" "I'm a high school dropout, didn't make it past the 10th grade. After a hitch in the Navy, I decided to become an art director. Spent some time in Detroit, then drifted down to Palm Beach where I started my first agency at the age of 25... with \$75. With my second shop, the ante went up to \$1500. And the third time, a little more. I'm an optimist. I believe you could start an agency with almost nothing... I get up at 3:30 a.m., to my office at 4:00 a.m.; work until 6:00 p.m. or so. That's always been my

style. It's more humane than coming to work at nine and working into the night. Get up early, go home on time and you can have dinner with your family, spend time with your kids." Now, Stavros is a man who knows himself. He described himself perfectly, honestly, unpretentiously. Stavros Cosmopoulos not only understands but pursues excellence. It's not easy, he'll be the first one to admit, but it is most rewarding. His self respect has earned him the respect of others. His philosophy on life, personal and professional, is "no phony chic, no flashy style, no glitz, just substance," like the letter I was so thankful to receive years ago. It has served him well. Well done, Stavros.



Memories — One of the families which has inspired Archbishop Iakovos, ministry during the past 32 years is that of Maria Lempesis of Arlington, MA. This nostalgic photo was taken about 18 years ago. Left to right: Maria Lempesis, now 86, Nick Ypsilantis, now 33, Homer Ypsilantis, Mark Ypsilantis, now 24, Archbishop Iakovos, Evan Ypsilantis, now 31 and Georgia Ypsilantis.

Since tradition is something we all value, we rejoice when we have the opportunity to observe time honored values pass

from generation to generation. Thus, some observations on the life of Maria Lempesis, 86 years young, of Arlington, MA., as reported in a *Boston Globe* article in 1973!! Read on to see the relevancy of this article today.

Family of three generations live happily in Arlington

On a quiet Arlington street home, a sprightly, round, 68-year-old grandmother is frying squid — a dish of her native Greece — for her daughter and son-in-law, her three grandsons and three other relatives. Mary, who lives with her daughter, son-in-law and three grandsons, explained it simply in her rolling Greek accent: "It is good because we know respect. If you have respect and love, it is beautiful. When you live with your children, you've got to give in, to understand. I don't feel I am imposing because I know they love me and I love them." The energetic grandmother (a former gas station attendant, factory worker and bartender) does most of the cooking and clothes-mending, helps care for the children and tends a small vegetable garden in the backyard. When her daughter Georgia married a young chemist, Homer Ypsilantis, 16 years ago, Mrs. Lempesis was at the door to shower them with Greek coins when they returned from their honeymoon. They have lived together ever since. "I wouldn't have it any other way," says Homer. "I grew up in a house with my paternal grandfather. There was a lot of family life. My children have a much richer experience because their grandmother is here." Georgia has a law degree and has recently taken a part time job as a law librarian. "The only reason I can do this is because my mother is here to greet the kids when I get home from work," she said...



An example to follow — During the dedication of the memorial monument by the Boston Diocese Center, Cynthia and Christopher Koufos learned about patriotism, faith and heritage. Their grandfather, Arthur Koufos is the Adjutant of the American Legion Post George K. Menichios.

The beautiful, poised young woman who sang the national anthems at the annual Diocesan Awards Banquet at the Sheraton Boston Hotel last month was Katerina Sitaras, a student at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Katerina is a 1985 graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music where she majored in Music Education and Voice. In 1987, she was Miss Pennsylvania in the Miss America Pageant and won the talent award for singing Musetta's Waltz from Puccini's *La Boheme*. Katerina is currently recording



Katerina Sitaras is working on a recording of her favorite Greek folk songs. The 1987 Miss Pennsylvania in the Miss America Pageant is a talented young woman who is currently studying at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

her favorite Greek folk songs for a soon-to-be released tape. She delighted those who attended the Hellenic College/ Holy Cross graduation with her rendition of *Na Ti Tha Pi Ellada*. Katerina's parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Nicholas Sitaras are natives of the beautiful island of Chios as are her brothers Michael and Stelios. Her sister Sophia was born in Pireas. Katerina was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA! I am sure we will be hearing more from Katerina in the months ahead.

George Kariotis, founder of Alpha Industries, Inc., manufacturer of microwave and electronic components, of Woburn, MA has stepped down as chief executive of the company, although he will retain his title of chairman. In 1986, George Kariotis was the Republican Gubernatorial nominee in Massachusetts. He lost the election to Governor Michael Dukakis.

Think about it: Liberty is a boisterous sea. Timid men prefer the calm of despotism. — Thomas Jefferson.

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