



## **Our Issues**

The AHEPA Family's mission, which is based on its cultural heritage extending back to the ideals of ancient Greece, and on its deep involvement in present-day community service programs, guides the organization's public policy priorities.

### **International Relations/Foreign Policy**

- **Strengthen U.S. relations with Greece – staunch, reliable NATO ally**
  - Protect Greece's sovereignty in the Aegean Sea. Help to stop Turkey's airspace violations.
  - Support a mutually-acceptable solution to the name recognition issue of FYROM.
  - Back continued U.S. engagement on Greece's economic and migratory crises.
  - The American Hellenic community will not accept Greece to be left alone to carry the burden of migratory crisis.
  - Maintaining Greece in the United States' Visa Waiver Program is in the U.S.'s national security interest.
- **Secure religious freedom and protection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate – the world's oldest Christian Church**
  - Urge Turkey to respect the rights & religious freedoms of Ecumenical Patriarchate and all religious minorities.
  - Reopen the Orthodox Seminary at Halki.
- **End the 42-year illegal occupation of the Republic of Cyprus—a member of the European Union**
  - Back a just, viable solution where all Cypriots can enjoy the same democratic values & human rights that we do.
  - CBM: Call for the removal of 40,000+ illegal Turkish occupation troops from Cyprus.
  - U.S. policy affirms Cyprus's sovereign right to explore energy findings within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

### **Strengthen Investments that Strengthen Our Society**

We understand it is a challenging budgetary environment. However, we seek to ensure proper federal funding levels for the following **cost-effective, lifesaving, or job creating** programs that impact the AHEPA family's community service programs and projects:

- HUD Section 202 Senior Citizens Housing Program: AHEPA/Daughters of Penelope combined have 91 properties (nearly 4,900 units) spanning 22 states.
  - **Restore & Fund: Section 202 Capital Advance Program** for new units. AHEPA/DOP waiting list: 4,272.
- NIH: A strong investment in medical research improves Americans' lives and drives the economy. Of specific importance to the American Hellenic community is:
  - **Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia)** research programs at **NHLBI** (Blood Diseases Program), **NIDDK** (Kidney, Urologic, & Hematologic Diseases); and cancer research at **NCI**.
- Domestic Violence Programs: Violence Against Women Act (**VAWA**), Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (**FVPSA**), and Victims of Crime Act (**VOCA**). Preserve the **Crime Victims Fund**.
- Foreign Aid Oversight: U.S. aid to former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **must not** be utilized to promulgate hate propaganda toward Greece or contribute to further provocations against Greece.

### **Veterans**

- Support a Presidential review of WWII hero Lt. Col. James Megellas' Medal of Honor case.

### **Caucus Growth (House Only)**

- Join the **Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues** (Contact Reps. **Bilirakis** or **Maloney** to join)
- Join the **Congressional Hellenic Israel Alliance** (Contact Reps. **Bilirakis** or **Deutch** to join)
- Join the **Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus** (Contact Reps. **Poe** or **Costa** to join)

*Founded in 1922 to combat bigotry and discrimination, AHEPA is the largest and oldest American-based, Greek heritage grassroots membership organization. Its mission is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.*

For more information or questions, please visit [www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org), or contact Andrew Kaffes at [Andrew@agkaffes.com](mailto:Andrew@agkaffes.com).