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The Forty “Best and Brightest” College Stars in America

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is proud to present its 2012 Scholarship Recipients. A total of \$250,000 in awards was presented to outstanding Greek American university students from across the United States at the Foundation's 10th Annual Awards Ceremony and Gala, Soaring with the Stars, held June 16th in Chicago. More than 450 guests attended the event to applaud and celebrate the achievements of these exceptional students.

“Our recipients are the pride of Hellenism, for their success has been guided by their drive and ambition for education as well as their Hellenic upbringing. They are passionate about learning and strive to achieve a higher level of education and they have the promise to contribute meaningfully to American society,” said Mr. Chris P. Tomaras, Chairman and Founder of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation. “They join the 227 members of the Foundation's PanHellenic Honor Society,” continued Mr. Tomaras.

Student applications are thoroughly reviewed by an independent committee of the Board of Directors. Careful consideration is given to academic performance and level of financial needs as well as volunteer services. “I personally had the opportunity to read the essays that brought tears to my eyes for their excellent content and unbelievable ideas which these young students expressed so vividly and emphatically, showing their sincere love and pride for their Hellenic roots and heritage,” said Mr. George Alexopoulos, Chairman of the Foundation's Academic Committee.

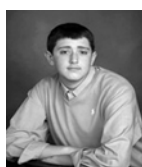
The 31 recipients who were able to attend the event were excited to receive their award.

“I am honored and blessed to have been chosen to receive the PanHellenic Scholarship. It has allowed me to further my education in the sciences and has given me the means to fulfill my dream to become a doctor. I want to thank Mr. Tomaras and all the members of the Greek-American community who have made my dream possible. Their generosity proves that the Hellenistic spirit is still thriving and that the Greek thirst for knowledge is still alive,” said Antonio Anagnostopoulos, who is attending Loyola University with a double major in Biology and Psychology with a minor in Neuroscience.

Speaking on behalf of her fellow recipients at the Gala, Cleopatra Haviaras, a junior at CUNY Queens College said, “We promise to do our best to be worthy of your trust and confidence in us, to study hard and complete our academic mission, to move on to our pursuits and become successful members of our society, so that someday we too will contribute and help others reach their goals, as you do for us today.”

“As you read the biographies of our recipients, you will see why they are the ‘best and brightest’ of our Greek-American community,” said Mr. Tomaras. The Board of Directors and staff members of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation are joined by the Foundation's generous supporters in expressing congratulations to these outstanding scholars. To support a deserving student achieve academic success please contact our office at 312-357-6432. Visit www.panhellenicscholarships.org to learn more about the Foundation's scholarship and educational programs.

2012 PanHellenic Scholarship Award Recipients



Antonio Anagnostopoulos – Antonio is a student at Loyola University with a double major in Biology and Psychology, and a minor in Neuroscience. He aspires to pursue a career in medicine, and has been on the dean's list every semester.



Melpomeni Anastasia Arianas - Currently attending the Honors College at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Melpomeni is majoring in Biology and plans to attend medical school. She is a member of the National Honor Society and also received the Presidential Education Excellence Award.



Anna Baboulas. A freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-champaign, Anna plans to major in Nursing before pursuing her Master of Science in Health Science. She is Illinois State Scholar and member of the national Honor and Cum Laude Society. Zacharias

(Continued p. 3)

National Hellenic Museum Welcomes New Staff

New Director Connie Mourtoupalas Sets Sights on Raising Museum's National and International Profile

CHICAGO, IL — The National Hellenic Museum announces new executive team to be led by Museum Director Connie Mourtoupalas, whose family emigrated to the United States in 1966. Ms. Mourtoupalas joins the Museum after 16 years at the Embassy of Greece in Washington, DC, where she served as Cultural Attaché, initiating, developing and managing the Embassy's cultural and public outreach programs. In this capacity, she collaborated with many major American cultural



institutions, such as the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic Society, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and facilitated extensive cultural exchanges between Greece and the United States. Ms. Mourtoupalas also served as Public Affairs Advisor to the Ambassador, establishing relationships with the U.S. Congress and Administration, major media outlets, the diplomatic community, think-tanks, museums, cultural centers, universities and Greek American organizations nationwide.

“With her years of service promoting Hellenic culture and developing public programs and exhibits, her extensive knowledge of Greek culture, history and traditions, as well as her knowledge and personal experience with the Greek American community, and her nationwide and international relationships, Ms. Mourtoupalas brings extensive professional experience and the vision needed to make the National Hellenic Museum a truly national museum,” said Board of Trustees Chairman John Calamos.

Connie Mourtoupalas was Co-Founder of “The American Friends of the New Acropolis Museum”, Founding Member of the National Council of the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington DC, and also served as Executive Director of The Society for the Preservation of Greek Heritage.

According to Mourtoupalas, “The Museum and its beautiful new building are proof and testament of the commitment of the Chicago Greek American community to its Greek heritage and culture. Our aim is to make sure that the Museum is nationally and internationally recognized as the only museum in the U.S. that documents and presents the Greek path towards becoming American, the significant contributions of Greek Americans to American society and history, while also showcasing Greek culture and traditions through exhibits and public programs. Having immigrated to the United States myself, it is also very important to me and my family that our younger generations have a place to go that tells our story, their story, and presents a small part of American history.”

The museum also welcomes a new Director of Development, Tula Gogolak and Director of Marketing, Amelia Dellos. Tula Gogolak served as the Director of Community Relations and Development for Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana. During her tenure there, she increased philanthropic giving by 45 percent by creating and implementing the agency's first financial development and marketing plans. Gogolak is currently the Vice President of Fundraising Professionals for the Northwest Indiana Chapter. Amelia Dellos joins the Museum after working as

(Continued on p.2)

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- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
- 2.To support the ideas of the Hellenic-Christian tradition
- 3.To promote the preservation of the Greek language
- 4.To encourage all worthy Community causes
- 5 To assist all the Greek-American fraternal, cultural patriotic and religious organizations
- 6.To install Americanism in the Greek-American community
- 7.To advance the just causes of Hellenism.
8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

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National Hellenic Museum Welcomes New Staff

(Continued from p.1)

a consultant at AED Communications, a firm she launched and operated for five years. There, she provided strategic marketing communications services for corporate and non-profit clients, creating and implementing marketing, public relations and social media programs. She developed and implemented marketing and promotional programs for organization such as Chicago magazine, CoolSavings.com, the League of Chicago Theatres, the Arts & Business Council of Chicago, and the Berghoff Catering and Restaurant Group.

The National Hellenic Museum, which opened December 2011, is located in a 40,000-square-foot space. The three-story LEED certified building is home to interactive exhibits, children's education center, research library, oral history center, gift shop, special events hall, and rooftop terrace.

The National Hellenic Museum is the first and only major museum dedicated to chronicling the entire Greek story from the path to the United States, to becoming American, to the Greek contribution to the American historical landscape and culture. Now through August, meet Greek gods or climb into a 12-foot Trojan horse when you experience the family-friendly exhibit Gods, Myths and Mortals: Discover Ancient Greece. Museum hours are Tuesdays – Sundays. Located in the heart of Chicago's famed Greektown on the corner of Halsted and Van Buren. For more information, visit www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org or call 312-655-1234. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



Fighting is intensifying across the Syrian capital Damascus, where the military has deployed tanks and helicopters, activists say. Shooting was reported in one of the main central streets and a square housing the Central Bank. Rebel forces say they have launched an all-out assault on the capital, calling it Operation Damascus Volcano. UN envoy Kofi Annan has held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow over the crisis. Mr Putin told reporters after meeting Mr Annan that Russia still backed the envoy's six-point peace plan, which called for a ceasefire and talks between the government and opposition.

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2012 PanHellenic Scholarship Award Recipients

(From p. 1)



George Bouras - Zach graduated 2nd out his class of 1,003 students at Lane Tech College Prep High School with a 5.23 GPA. He is attending the University of Chicago, where he will complete a double major in Economics and Political Science.



Teresa Boikis - A Senior at Northern Illinois University pursuing a degree in Communicative Disorders, Teresa plans to attain her goal of becoming a speech-language pathologist through graduate studies. She aspires to be a professor and continue research in the area of Autism.



Theresa Chresand - Theresa is currently a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, where she is pursuing a double major in Greek and Latin. A National Merit Scholar, she was accepted into the University's Honors Program and has made the Dean's List every semester.



Eleni Christou - Eleni, a Greek Cypriot, is an Honors Student at the University of Florida pursuing a degree in History with a double minor in Greek and French. She is a National Merit Scholar as well as a National AP Scholar with distinction. Eleni plans on serving in the Peace Corps and then attending law school.



Agnes Dardas - Agnes is completing her degree in Neurobiology and minor in Economics at Harvard University. She has served as Research Assistant at BIDMC's Hand Orthopedic Surgery Department and is Operations Manager at The Harvard Crimson.



Nickolas Demas - Nick is currently completing his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering at Yale University. His independent research in developing a 3D skin imager for cancer detection took 1st prize in the Collegiate Inventors Competition and 2nd in the CIMIT Prize for Primary Healthcare in 2011.



Edward Fancher - Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Edward moved to New York City to pursue a degree in finance from New York University's Stern School of Business. He has been awarded AP Scholar With Distinction, is a member of the National Merit Society has made NYU's Stern's Dean's List.



Stergios Gatzoflias - Stergios is a freshman Biology major on the Pre-Med track at Northeastern University. He has volunteered over 300 hours in the Emergency and Cardiology Departments of local hospitals.



Vasiliki Giannakakos - A freshman at Cornell University, Vasiliki is following the pre-med track. She was a member of four honor societies in high school and graduated in the top ten percentile of her class.



Alexander Gruebele - Alexander is a freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Alex is currently a James Scholar and a Raymond and Birute Viskanta Mechanical Engineering Scholar.



Yvonne Hajaj - Yvonne is a junior at Youngstown State University in the Respiratory Therapist Program. Her goal is to help people, as she herself has a chronic blood disorder and spent most of her teen years in and out of the hospital. She aspires to work at Akron Children's Hospital or the Cleveland Clinic.



Demitrios Haldes - A Chicago native, Demetri attended Lincoln Park High school, where he graduated from the International Baccalaureate program. He is currently attending the University of Notre Dame, where he is majoring in Economics.



Cleopatra Haviaras - Currently a junior at CUNY Queens College, Cleopatra is pursuing degrees in History and Classics with minors in Business & Liberal Arts and Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. She is an Honors Student, a Racial Tolerance Project Facilitator, and Project ExCEL Mentor.



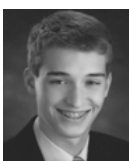
Andrew Kalina - Andrew is a sophomore at Harvard University pursuing a major in History and Science with a secondary in Religion. He is manager of the Wind Ensemble and is involved in Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Band, the Harvard Health Advocacy Program, and IM Football and Hockey on campus.



Mary Kamos - A freshman at Loyola University Maryland, Mary is pursuing a major in Biology on a Pre-med track along with a Spanish minor. As a Baltimore Polytechnic Institute student, she conducted gastrointestinal surgical research at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center.



Evangelos Kustubardis - A student at Stevens Institute of Technology studying Chemical Biology, Evangelos aspires to become a plastic surgeon in order to help burn victims. He has excelled in all of his classes and for the past three years has been the President of the Hellenic Students Association.



Nicholas Lambert - A freshman honors Biochemistry major at the University of Minnesota, Nicholas also plans on pursuing a minor in Italian Studies. He was a National Merit Scholar and a recipient of the International Baccalaureate Diploma.



Melissa Likiardopoulos - Melissa is a Religious Studies major at Hellenic College, with the goal of becoming a youth director in the Orthodox Church. As a high school senior, she won the Antiochian Archdiocesan Oratorical Festival as well as second place in the International Bible Bowl competition with her team.



Alexandra Mullenax - A sophomore at the University of Florida, Alexandra is majoring in Classics with a concentration in Greek Studies. An International Baccalaureate Scholar, she aspires to achieve a PhD in Classics, with the hope of becoming a professor in Classical Studies.



Vassiliki Papagermanos - Vassiliki is attending Barnard College at Columbia University, where she is studying Neuroscience and Behavior. Vassiliki is currently a research assistant at the Silver Neurobiology Laboratory at Columbia University and a health educator through the Peer Health Exchange Program.



Paul Papazisi - Paul is currently a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, majoring in Civil Engineering with a Business minor. His ultimate dream is to design a structure in downtown Chicago.



Efthimia Peiralis - Efthimia attends DePaul University and hopes to one day restructure the educational system stressing math, science and the arts. She attributes her accomplishments to her Greek education and love of Hellenic ideals, which laid the foundation for her success.



Elia Pepps - Pursuing a degree in Vocal Music Education from Millikin University, Elia participated in Choir, Musical Theater, and Private Voice during her High School career as well. She held leadership positions in all of these arena's, earning her the National Arion Musical Excellence Award.



Demetra Perry - A junior at Cornell University, Demetra studies Chemistry and Chemical Biology and has been on the Dean's List each semester. She graduated from Avon High School as a distinguished scholar, having received the recognition of National Scholar Athlete and AP Scholar with Honors.



Anna Petrides - Anna is a Communication Science and Disorders major in the Health and Human Development Department at Pennsylvania State University. She is preparing to attend graduate school to pursue a master's in Speech and Language Pathology.



Petros Petrides - Currently at Columbia University, Petros is studying Biology along with a pre-medical curriculum. He is actively involved in both Columbia University Emergency Medical Services and Tissue Engineering Research. He is a Merit Commended Scholar, an Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar, and an AP Scholar with honors.



Katerina Rallis - A junior at Elmhurst College pursuing a major in elementary education with minors in reading and theatre, Katerina is a member of Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society and has been on the Dean's List every semester.



Jenny Sampras - Currently a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Jenny is and Illinois State Scholar majoring in Biological Sciences on a pre-medicine track with a minor in Greek. She serves as Co-Coordinator for the Peer Health Exchange, where she volunteers as a health instructor in Chicago Public High Schools.

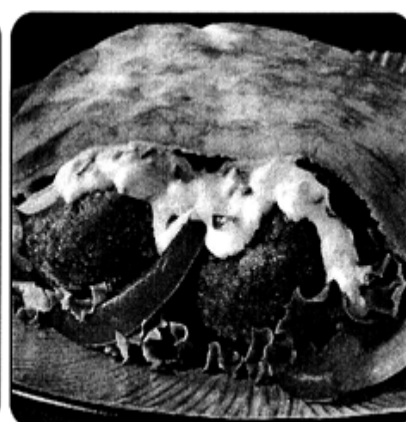
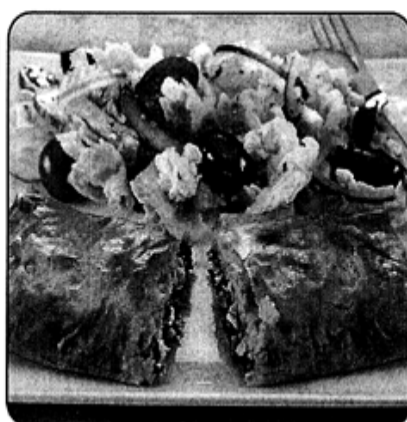
(continue p. 7)



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Dr. Peter J. Pantan, a graduate of the Brown University School of Medicine, is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and former president of the Chicago Ophthalmological Society.

Dr. Peter Pantan Discusses ALL LASER LASIK

Dr. Pantan, What is ALL LASER LASIK?

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Dear Cook County Taxpayer:

As you read this, your 2nd Installment property tax bill for tax year 2011 is in the mail. You should receive it in a day or two.

Read your bill. It will show you the 12 to 20 taxing agencies which claim part of your payment, and how much each agency gets.

Here's how to read your bill. Visit cookcountytreasurer.com or cookcountypropertyinfo.com and:

- Click "View Taxing Districts Financial Statements"
- Enter your 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN)
- Click the icon beside each agency name to display its financial information

That information includes budget and debt figures for your municipality, school district, police and fire districts, library district and other units of government, along with the rate of salary increases and the levy (tax) for each taxing agency - with a percentage figure of levy growth over 10 years.

The data available through cookcountytreasurer.com or cookcountypropertyinfo.com contains the following information for 526 taxing agencies across Cook County:

- Local government budgeted revenues
- Local government outstanding debt and pension debt
- Local government 10-year-levy (taxing) history
- Percentage of levy (taxing) change over 10 years
- Rate of return on investments
- Rate of salary increases

We give you this information online and on your bill because you have a right to see the numbers that make up what you pay. Our latest calculations show the governments of Cook County owe at least \$140 billion for pensions and other costs, money which will come out of our payments and our future.

A note: 24 agencies have not fully reported their data, as required by the Debt Disclosure Ordinance which was passed by the Cook County Board of Commissioners. We are working with these agencies to comply with the DDO before they are compelled to do so.

Meanwhile, read your bill when you receive it.

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Toni Preckwinkle
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National Hellenic Museum Announces 5th Annual Kouzina Event.- Guest will “Taste the Food, Taste the Wine, and Taste the Culture”

National Hellenic Museum (NHM) announces their 5th Annual Kouzina Event to be held from 6 to 9 pm on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at the Museum, located on 333 South Halsted, in the heart of historic Greektown. The Museum invites guest, from all over the Chicago metropolitan area to come “Taste the food - Taste the wine - Taste the culture.” Guests will experience an authentic Greek event when they:

* Taste the food – prepared by top chefs from around the country who will whip up delectable Greek and Mediterranean bites.

* Taste the wine – and enjoy premium wine tastings from Greece.

* Taste the culture – sample and shop at the pop-up “Agora” (The MarketPlace) featuring authentic Greek foods and products.

* Experience the culture – with a special Kouzina exhibit: Exploring Greek History and Tradition through Food and Wine.

Mia Figlia Chef John Boudavas will serve as Kouzina Chef Committee Chair. According to Chef John Boudavas, “It is an honor to help support the Museum and the work it does to preserve the Greek American story. Events like Kouzina, gives us an opportunity to convey our story and our culture through our food and wine.”

Boudavas is joined by participating Chefs George Alpogiannis from City Porch and Jimmy Bannos, Sr. from Heaven on Seven.

Tickets for Kouzina are \$100 per person and \$125 at the door. Community and

corporate sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information or to buy tickets visit [NHM website/Kouzina](http://NHMwebsite/Kouzina).

The National Hellenic Museum, which opened December 2011, is located in a brand new 40,000-square-foot space. The three-story eco-friendly building is home to interactive exhibits, children’s education center, research library, oral history center, museum store, special events hall, and rooftop terrace.

The National Hellenic Museum is the first and only major museum dedicated to recording, documenting and presenting a piece of American history, the path of Greek immigrants towards becoming American, and their contributions to the American landscape. Through events like Kouzina, exhibits, and public programs on ancient and Modern Greek culture and traditions, the Museum works to enrich their immediate neighborhood, the City of Chicago and the Nation, as they engage with a broad range of communities that make up the American mosaic.

Now through September 2, meet Greek gods and climb into a 12-foot Trojan horse when you experience the family-friendly exhibit Gods, Myths and Mortals: Discover Ancient Greece. Museum hours are Tuesdays – Sundays. For more information, visit www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org or call 312-655-1234.

Follow NHM on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

2012 PanHellenic Scholarship Award Recipients

(Continued from p. 3)



John Secaras - John is a sophomore at Northwestern University double-majoring in Sociology and Legal Studies, and is a member of the Brady Scholars Program in Ethics and Civic Life. He is currently serving as assistant editor on the Northwestern Interdisciplinary Law Review.



Theodora Skeadas – Theodora attends Harvard University and will graduate with a double major in Philosophy and Government as well as a minor in Modern Middle East Studies. She speaks Arabic, Greek, French, and Spanish, and seeks to pursue a career in human rights and conflict resolution in the Middle East and North Africa.



Andrew Sotiriou – Andrew is majoring in American Studies at Yale University, where he is exploring his spirituality through his studies of Modern Greek, painting, literature, film, and theatre. He graduated valedictorian of his high school class, was selected for Cooper Union’s Saturday Outreach Program, and is a National AP Scholar.



George Sotos - George is a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is currently on the Dean’s List, where he is majoring in Accounting. As a member of GIVE (Givers of Important Volunteer Efforts), he has volunteered at multiple nursing homes.



Lydia Souroufis – Lydia studies at Boston University where she is majoring in Political Science with a minor in Modern Greek Studies. She has interned for Massachusetts’ Governor Deval Patrick, where she helped out with the process of nominating judges for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Evan Tassis – Evan is a pre-med student at Johns Hopkins University and is Vice President of Alpha Omega Tutoring Services, a free tutoring help to autistic students. He has completed a internship with the Food and Drug Administration and received the Congressman Chris Van-Hollen Public Service Award, and the Obama Presidential Volunteer Service Award.



George Touloumes - Currently a sophomore at Princeton University, George is an Electrical Engineering major, planning to graduate with a certificate in Robotics and Intelligent Systems. George is an active member of Engineers Without Borders He is an AP Scholar with Distinction and a U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar-Athlete



Ted Vlahos- Currently a student at Loyola University Chicago, Ted is studying Bioinformatics and Economics and plans to pursue a PhD in Virology. He was awarded two research fellowships to study genetic mutations using computational methods.



Neil Vranis- Neil is a senior at the John Hopkins University majoring in Neuroscience with a minor in Entrepreneurship and Management. Neil has served as the chairman of the JHU Ethics Board and has been inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa, Golden Key and National Society of Collegiate Scholars honors societies.

Needles found in Delta Air Lines on-board sandwiches



The FBI has opened an investigation after needles were found in sandwiches served on four Delta Air Lines flights bound for the US from the Netherlands. The needles, which the authorities said appeared to be sewing needles, were found in five sandwiches prepared by the Amsterdam-based Gate Gourmet.

One person flying to Minneapolis was injured. Needles were also found on two flights to Atlanta and one to Seattle. Delta said it was taking the matter “extremely seriously”.

In a statement, the airline said it was co-operating with the FBI and the authorities in the Netherlands and was working with Gate Gourmet “to ensure the safety and quality of the food” served on board. James Tonges, who was travelling on one of the flights, said he felt a needle in his mouth after biting into a sandwich.

“When I pulled it out of my mouth it was very clear,” he told ABC News. “I cleaned the food off and it was about a one inch-long straight needle.” Mr Tonges said he was taking Truvada, a drug just approved in the US for HIV prevention, while officials investigated for “any type of substance on the needle”.

Delta spokeswoman Kristin Baur told the Associated Press news agency that flights attendants stopped serving the sandwiches as soon as the first needle was discovered, and alerted other flights. Passengers were served pizza instead. The person who was injured declined medical treatment, said Ms Baur. A spokeswoman for Gate Gourmet, Christina Ulosevich, said the company had also launched its own investigation.



Former Syrian diplomat Nawaf Fares, who defected last week, has said President Bashar al-Assad would not shy away from using chemical weapons on his own people, and has colluded with al-Qaeda to carry out attacks. But how valid are the claims, asks the BBC's security correspondent Frank Gardner in Doha. Nawaf al-Fares does not look at first glance like a man who has just defected from a regime he calls “murderous criminals”. Neatly dressed in suit and tie, he was until last week Syria's ambassador to Iraq and is the most senior diplomat to defect so far from the rule of President Bashar al-Assad. Sitting now in a luxury hotel in the Gulf state of Qatar, he piles one accusation after another against the regime he served for 34 years. I have built my opinion based on my knowledge of the regime's mentality and the government's mentality

NEWS FROM GREECE

Savings remain elusive

It seems likely that Samaras, PASOK leader Evangelos Venizelos and Democratic Left chief Fotis Kouvelis will not be in a position to sign off on the cuts as some ministers were less than forthcoming in their willingness to propose areas where savings could be made during talks with Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras over the last two days.

Stournaras held a second day of talks with some ministers but was unable to obtain the commitments to the magnitude of cuts that he needs to put together to come up with the 11.5 billion euros the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund -- collectively known as the troika -- have demanded.

The finance minister is expected to give the three party leaders a broad outline of the cuts. He will indicate how much will be saved by each department without giving further details. Sources said Samaras may seek to hold telephone conversations with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande to convey to them the difficulty that Greece is having finding the 11.5 billion euros and to inform them that the government might need more time to finalize some of the cuts.

Stournaras, meanwhile, was due to meet with the heads of the troika on June 24, but

this meeting will instead take place on Thursday, July 26, the Finance Ministry announced Tuesday. Before that, the economist will take part in a teleconference with fellow eurozone finance ministers. This is scheduled for Friday.

Finance Ministry sources told Kathimerini that following talks with fellow ministers on Monday, Stournaras had identified 5.6 billion euros of cuts and was trying to agree the remaining 6 billion euros yesterday. Ministry officials do not expect that these savings will have been agreed on by Wednesday's meeting.

Finance Ministry sources could not rule out Stournaras being forced to revert to "horizontal" measures, such as salary or pension cuts, or new taxes. There is also concern in Athens that the troika may ask for supplementary measures this year to make up for the government missing its deficit target.

PASOK chief tells critics to take sides

Socialist leader Evangelos Venizelos on Tuesday called on any cadres of his beleaguered party who want to leave or set up a separate grouping to do so, indicating how-

ever that the once-mighty PASOK would be willing to cooperate with other parties.

"Whoever has doubts or an identity crisis and does not feel that PASOK expresses them does not need to stay and suffer in PASOK," Venizelos told Vima FM radio. He said the party could cooperate with Democratic Left -- the government's third coalition partner -- and the Ecologist Greens, noting that officials of both parties had attended PASOK's recent party summit.

Venizelos on Tuesday chaired the inaugural session of his party's new organizational committee, the chief aim of which is to lay the groundwork for PASOK's conference in the fall. The main focus of debate yesterday was the political basis for the planned "recreation" of the party which was all but decimated in two elections in May and June.

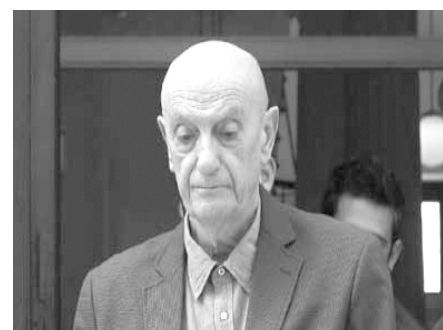
Venizelos noted that the period between the end of August and the beginning of October would be critical for Greece as the country's troika of foreign creditors will have issued a crucial audit report and negotiations on a possible renegotiation of the terms of a debt deal are expected to have begun.

Ex-minister's cousin reveals all

Nikos Zigras, the first cousin and long-time confidant of former Defense Minister Akis Tsochatzopoulos, has allegedly admitted to managing millions of euros in kickbacks the latter is alleged to have pocketed during his time in office and to helping launder the money through the purchase of properties registered in the names of the ex-minister or his wife, Viki Stamati.

In nine hours of testimony before an investigating magistrate, Zigras is said to have implicated Tsochatzopoulos and Stamati, who are both in pretrial custody on money-laundering charges.

Zigras is one of several suspects implicated in a complex money-laundering network that Tsochatzopoulos is alleged to have benefited from during and after his stint as defense minister between 1996 and 2001. Until Tuesday's marathon testimony, he had not opened up to investigating magistrate Gavriil Mallis, who is handling the case, possibly due to his close relationship with Tsochatzopoulos. According to sources, Zigras visited Mallis of his own volition and spoke openly about the ex-minister and the latter's wife. He allegedly told the magistrate that Stamati was fully aware that the money used to buy a luxury home on the capital's exclusive Dionysiou Areopagitou Street had come from her husband's



kickbacks.

Zigras reportedly made a wealth of revelations during his cross-examination by Mallis and by prosecutor Evgenia Kyvelou, who was involved in compiling the scathing report that led to Tsochatzopoulos's dramatic arrest in April. According to sources, Zigras said he was replaced as manager of Tsochatzopoulos's illicit dealings in 2004 by Giorgos Sachpatzidis, a businessman who is already a suspect in the investigation. Zigras also gave the names of new suspects, including a government official who has yet to be implicated.

After details of Zigras's testimony was leaked, Tsochatzopoulos was quoted as saying from jail that his cousin had always been envious of him while Stamati allegedly described the ex-minister's one-time confidant as a "snake."

Hopes for drug cost cut

Health Minister Andreas Lykourantzou told a conference in Athens on Tuesday that the government's aim is for state pharmaceutical expenditure to decline to 2.88 billion euros, including value-added tax and hospital medicines. Spending on drugs declined from 5.6 billion euros in 2010 to 3.8 billion last year, according to data presented earlier this year by the ministry.

"The health system is at a crucial point indeed," Lykourantzou said, highlighting the positive impact of the electronic prescriptions system.

Constantinos Frouzis, the president of the Association of Pharmaceutical Enterprises of Greece (SFEE), said that the key lies in the funding of the National Organization for Healthcare Provision (EOPYY).

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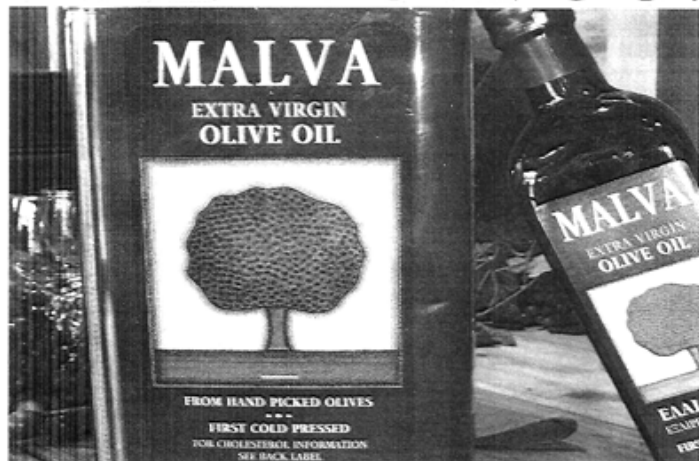
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Committee Grants Christians Freedom in Turkey

By Christine Thomasos , Christian Post Reporter

After years of religious discrimination, the United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs voted to adopt a Berman-Cicilline Amendment which aims to end the oppression of Turkey's Christian minority. The 43-1 house vote that added a return of churches passage to H.R. 2583, a State Department-Foreign Relation Authorization Act, called for the protection of Christian citizens.

according to CNN-Turkey.

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Legate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church, was in attendance when the congressional committee voted in favor of the bipartisan amendment. He expressed the importance of the vote. This is a vote of justice against injustice, said Aykazian. I hope that this will be the first of many steps towards preserving Arme-



Armenian, Greek and Assyrian-Chaldean appear to be the groups most affected by the amendment that recognizes the mistreatment of their people practicing Christianity in Turkey. The driving force behind the passage of the amendment was Republican California Representative Ed Royce, who said it is important to recognize the wrongs being committed against Christians in Turkey.

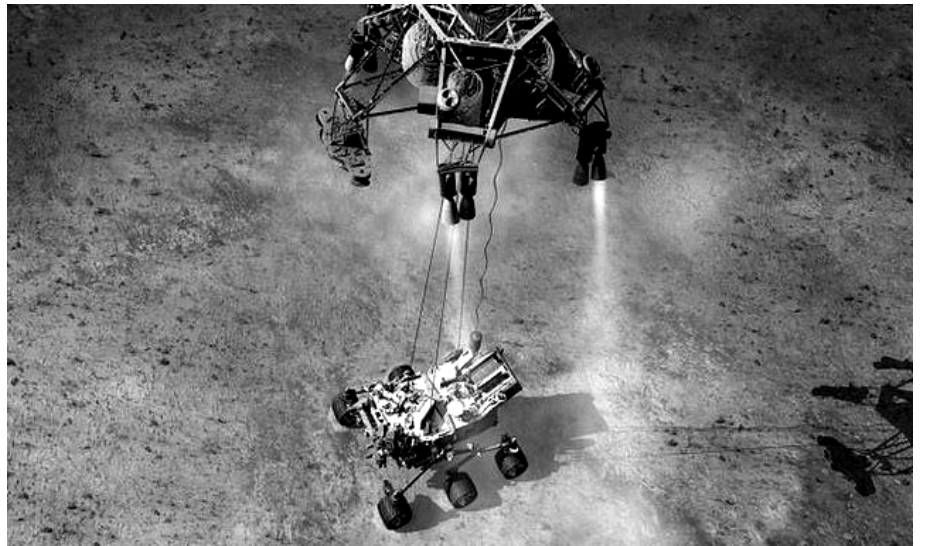
Religious minorities are under grave threat in today's Turkey, said Royce, a Republican from California. Rather than enjoying protection, very vulnerable religious minority groups including the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church are denied full legal status. Ken Hachikian, chairman of the Armenian National Committee of America, said the congressional committee vote was a step in the right direction for Christians in Turkey. We won this landmark victory in the face of years of Turkey's lies about its supposed tolerance, and despite its token conversion of a few ancient churches, said Hachikian,

nian Christian heritage in Turkey. The United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs is responsible for overseeing and creating legislation regarding foreign assistance. This type of assistance includes security and health issues taking place overseas, according to the U.S. House of Representatives website.

The Berman-Cicilline Amendment recently passed by the committee encourages the Turkish government to honor international treaties and human rights laws.

The amendment encourages the Turkish government to allow the rightful church and lay owners of Christian church properties, without hindrance or restriction, to organize and administer prayer services, religious education, clerical training, appointments, and succession, religious community gatherings, social services, including ministry to the needs of the poor and infirm, and other religious activities.

Nasa may miss Curiosity Mars rover's landing signal



Nasa might not be able to follow the progress of its big Mars rover all the way to the surface when it attempts to land on the planet on 6 August (GMT). The Curiosity vehicle is aiming for a deep depression known as Gale Crater. The US space agency will be tracking the descent with satellites, but its prime craft for the task may not now be in the correct place in the sky.

Engineers have been tackling a fault on the Odyssey satellite and it is no longer in the best observational orbit. Unless it can be moved back in the next three weeks, Nasa will lose signal to the rover just as it is about to touch down. This will not affect the outcome of the landing because Curiosity's descent manoeuvres are all performed autonomously, but it will give rise to some high anxiety as everyone awaits confirmation that the \$2.5bn mission is safely on the surface.

"Odyssey right now looks like it may not be in the same spot that we'd expected it to be," said Doug McCuistion, the director of Nasa's Mars exploration programme. "There may be some changes in real-time communication. We'll let you know as this develops; we still have more work to do. But keep in mind, there is no risk to [Curiosity] landing. It does not have an effect on that."

The 900kg robot's entry, descent and landing (EDL) will be the most dangerous aspect of the entire mission. The rover, in its protective capsule, will hit the top of the Martian atmosphere at 20,000km/h (13,000mph) and attempt to slow to just one metre per second to execute a soft touchdown.

This rapid deceleration must be achieved in about seven minutes or Curiosity will smash into the ground. Engineers have built a complex EDL system that includes a supersonic parachute and a rocket-powered crane. Everything must work on cue and in sequence. It was expected that the Odyssey orbiter would track the whole descent, relaying UHF signals from the rover right up to the landing and for a few minutes beyond. But the spacecraft recently experienced a reaction wheel failure. This would leave Nasa blind for the final, nail-biting two minutes of the landing operation.

Liberal alliance scores wins in Libya poll results



Results from Libya's first elections after the overthrow of Col Gaddafi have shown gains for an alliance of parties seen as broadly liberal. The National Forces Alliance, led by interim Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril, has won 39 out of the 80 seats reserved for political parties, local media say. The Muslim Brotherhood's party has gained 17.

The 200-member National Assembly will also include dozens of independent candidates. The overall orientation that the assembly will have is therefore unclear. What remains to be seen is who, if anyone, will lead the assembly by majority.

That will depend on the allegiances of 120 independent candidates, which are largely unknown. While congratulating other parties, the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated Justice and Construction Party said it had made gains in seats reserved for independent members.

They may now be banking on a shift in their favour from the non-party lists, our correspondent adds.

It was, for many, the act of voting that mattered most. Nevertheless, this landslide victory for the centrist National Forces Alliance in the party-list was largely expected since the preliminary results started trickling out over the past week.

Talking to Libyans, you find that many of its youth - who make up the majority of eligible voters - cast their ballots against anyone running on a religious platform. They opted for policy-makers rather than ideologies. You often also hear about lessons being drawn from election results in Tunisia and Egypt, where it was viewed that Islamists hijacked the Arab Spring.

The recent sporadic attacks against foreign missions in Libya, believed to be carried out by some hardline Islamists, also seemed to spook people here and probably played some role in swaying the vote. There will now be a two-week window for any appeals against the tally. More than 100 parties competed in the poll, many of them formed only in recent months.



Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia. The Kamchatka Peninsula off the country's east coast is closer to Los Angeles than it is to Moscow. Among Russia's least visited areas, the 1,200km-long peninsula is also perhaps its most spectacular, a hyperactive geothermal land containing more than 200 volcanoes. The surrounding lava fields were used as testing grounds for Russia's lunar vehicles.