

AHEPA SOCRATES AWARD WINNERS

1964 | HENRY R. LUCE – PUBLISHER OF TIME AND LIFE MAGAZINES

The first recipient was Henry Luce, publisher of *Time* and *Life* magazines. He was cited for *Life* magazine's 1963 series, "the Miracle of Greece." Luce gave one of the most eloquent addresses ever delivered to an AHEPA Banquet.

"In the 20th century we have a little feeling of what it must have been like in the time of Pericles. The challenge is to create an American civilization based on the idea of Greece – the expansion of knowledge, music, culture, and universities. For 200 years, the American people have been faithful to one dominant purpose, namely to the establishment of a form of government. That purpose has now been fulfilled, and we are at present seized by a broader challenge, namely, the shaping of civilization. We will meet that challenge too. We will succeed in creating the first modern, technological, prosperous, humane and reverent civilization – 2500 years after Pericles'. Pursue excellence rather than mediocrity – that is what the Greek community is saying to us."

1966 | LYNDON B. JOHNSON – PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

President Lyndon Johnson received the 1966 Socrates Award at the 17th National Banquet in honor of the 89th Congress. The award was accepted on behalf of President Johnson by Mike Manatos, Administrative Assistant to the President.

In his message to the AHEPA dinner, President Johnson stated: "In honoring the 89th Congress, the members of the Order of AHEPA are extending well-deserved tribute. And as you acknowledge America's debt of gratitude to her forward-looking legislators, I want to acknowledge my appreciation for your alert and responsible membership. The laws of any progressive government must be formed and directed to improve the life and objectives of all of its citizens. They must be designed to assure equal opportunity for personal achievement – and they must stimulate the development of each man's talents to their fullest capacities. Ancient Greece recognized these foremost principles of a democratic society, and Americans in 1966 sustain the legacy of your forefathers. As an American society dedicated to these principles, the Order of AHEPA has adhered to the highest tradition of democratic citizenship."

1968 | SENATOR EVERETT DIRKSEN (R-IL)

Senator Dirksen, the United States Senate Minority Leader, received the 1968 Socrates Award at the 18th National Banquet. In presenting the Socrates Award to Senator Dirksen, Supreme President Andrew Fasseas said, "Senator Dirksen, an active member of AHEPA for thirty years, symbolizes what Socrates stood for. When one gives of oneself, one truly gives. He has dedicated his life not only to the people of Illinois, but the people of the world. He is our second Lincoln."

Senator Dirksen said as he accepted the award that Socrates was "one of the greatest minds that ever lived in the history of mankind." He also said that Socrates "embodied the very best in the Greek mind. First its clarity that somehow made manifest to his pupils the principles by which they had to live; and then his moral concern for his own society in his day and time. He always went about saying, 'Know thyself,' because that's where wisdom begins. When people know themselves, everything will be added unto it. And that was the greatness of it. But, you see, he was brilliant in life and perhaps even more brilliant and greater in death.

Senator Dirksen, in conclusion said he was honored and deeply grateful to receive the Socrates Award, which he said, "shall have a place of honor, and whenever I look at it, always and always it will be a reminder of those amazing truths that must be discovered and rediscovered in the interest of a free society and a stable civilization."

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1970 | SPIRO T. AGNEW – VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The 1970 recipient of the AHEPA Socrates Award was Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, who received the honor at the 19th National Banquet of the Order of AHEPA. In a message to the AHEPA, President Richard Nixon said, “Diversity has been one of America’s greatest strengths. The Order of AHEPA has enriched this diversity while contributing to our national unity through its many patriotic and public service programs. And I can think of no spokesman more representative of your important role in the American way of live than Vice President Agnew.”

Upon receiving the Socrates Award from Supreme President Louis Manesiotis, Vice President Agnew said, “Mister Supreme President, I am deeply honored to receive this year’s Socrates Award, as and Ahepan, as a Greek-American, and above all, as an admirer, a profound admirer, of the Age of Socrates, an age when the power of reasoning superseded the raw energy of protest and physical dissent.”

1971 | RICHARD M. NIXON – PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Members of the Supreme Lodge presented the 1971 Socrates Award winner his award in the Oval office; Supreme President Louis G. Manesiotis stated, “This award is emblematic of all the principles every US President has shown in office, derived from the political philosophy and prowess of Socrates and the Socratic method”

1972 | HIS ALL HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH ATHENAGORAS

This award in 1972 marked the first ever that a religious figure was honored by the AHEPA. It began a long tradition of honoring members of the clergy for their work, together with the AHEPA for the promotion of our Greek communities in the US and abroad.

1976 | THE UNITED STATES SENATE & HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To commemorate the Bicentennial anniversary of the founding of the United States, the Order of AHEPA presented the 1976 Socrates Award to all members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives at the 22nd AHEPA National Banquet. The members of the Supreme and Grand Lodges of the AHEPA Family bestowed the honor on Congress en masse to express the gratitude of the Hellenic people for the great services rendered by all the legislators on Capitol Hill. Although the AHEPA Established the Socrates Award to be awarded to a person deemed worthy, it was felt that on the 200th anniversary of the birth of the United States, it was only fitting that the U.S. Congress be honored for its support of Greece throughout her trials and tribulations.

1978 | HUBERT H. HUMPHREY – VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Socrates Award for 1978 was awarded posthumously to the late Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey at the 234d Biennial Banquet. The award was presented to Mrs. Muriel Humphrey. In her response, Mrs. Humphrey stated that it was a great honor for her to accept the award for her husband. She said she was so proud on October 4, 1948, when her husband joined the Minneapolis Chapter of AHEPA.

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1982 | SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL (D-CT)

Sen. Claiborne Pell received the 1982 Socratic Award at the 15th Biennial Banquet. “I think it may be of some interest to you why an old New England Yankee became such a Phil Hellene,” Senator Pell told the gathering. “Well, I think there are several reasons – all rather emotional ones. I think Greece means different things to different people. It brings back memories of sailing in a kayak in the Aegean, being buffeted by the Meltemi, and seeing people on the Acropolis admiring the Parthenon. “Now those of us who love Greece always have certain ambitions for it. We want to see a Greece that’s at peace and that’s prosperous, that doesn’t have to worry whether the troops are on the northern flank or on the eastern flank, but where peace remains. We want to see a Cyprus where Turkish soldiers are no more, particularly when we bear in mind that all the weapons they carry are American weapons in defiance of American law, but with no punishment to the Turks for doing it, not even a tap on the wrist.”

1984 | BOB HOPE

Entertainer Bob Hope was the 1984 recipient of the Socratic Award at the 16th Bicentennial Biennial Banquet. Hope told more than 1,800 guests that AHEPA should give the Socratic Award to President Reagan, “I think that’s appropriate, considering he knew Socrates personally.”

“I owe an awful lot to the Greeks,” he said. “If it weren’t for mythology, I’d never be able to fill out my tax return. I was just thinking during the dinner, Greece invented democracy, and America is what helped it grow.”

“What can I tell you?” Hope said. “You know, I appreciate this award, and I’m grateful just to be this year’s recipient of this coveted Socrates Award. Talk about Greeks bearing gifts! Coming from this organization, a group that has done so much for so many people, it’s significance is all the more meaningful and I’m deeply honored. I’ll cherish it. It’s going to hold a very, very high spot in my trophy room and my heart. Thank you very much.”

1986 | RONALD REAGAN - PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The 1986 recipient of AHEPA’s highest award was President Ronald Reagan. President Reagan represented a time of nostalgia and remembrance for the AHEPA. The Order believed that the President espoused the best our country could do for the entire world. For this reason, AHEPA chose President Reagan.

1988 | ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS – PRIMATE OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

Archbishop Iakovos was the 1988 recipient of the Socratic Award at the 28th Biennial National Banquet. In his acceptance speech, Archbishop Iakovos said, “in my wildest dreams I never thought that I would be receiving an award from the Order of AHEPA. First, because I am not a person that must anticipate awards. For a clergyman there is one reward: to respond to the dictates of his conscience, to follow steadfastly in the footprints of the saints of the church, and, above all, his master’s.”

“The Socrates Award should be given to the founders, leaders and members of the AHEPA who have departed from this world because they were the ones who gave us the great blessing of Greekness, of identity, of Orthodoxy, and of integrity. The founders of the AHEPA are to be ever respected by all of us for they, ahead of their time, in 1922 found it possible to believe that the ideals of AHEPA could be perpetuated among the generations to come. He who writes the history of AHEPA must place the emphasis where it belongs – the Ahepans have been the inheritors of the great ancient Greek legacy and the ones who were able to instill and implant those values in the hearts of their children and grandchildren. I humbly accept this gracious award on behalf of all of you who have labored year after year so that the legacy of the ancient Greek spirit may be carried on courageously, committedly, lovingly, and dedicatedly.”

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1990 | GEORGE H.W. BUSH - PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The AHEPA was extremely honored by President 1000 points of light speech where he mentioned the Order of AHEPA. In recognition for his extraordinary efforts in the Gulf War and for his steadfast support of what was right and just. President George Bush was awarded this honor in 1990.

1992 | LT. GENERAL WILLIAM "GUS" PAGONIS

Awarded in 1992 at the AHEPA Congressional Banquet. His service and logistics during the Desert Storm assisted in securing a swift and decisive victory for the United States and their allies.

1992 | MARY MATTHEWS - PHILANTHROPIST

1992 philanthropist Mary Matthews was awarded the Socrates award. For her unselfish service to her community and support of institutes of higher learning, Dr. Matthews was singled out for her support of Greek American studies and her family's staunch support of the United States. Dr. Matthews donated \$25,000 to the AHEPA.

1993 | SENATOR PAUL SARBANES (D-MD)

In 1993 the AHEPA awarded Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland the Socrates award. For his devotion and support of the Greek American community.

1996 | WILLIAM J. CLINTON - PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1996 had the Socrates award back in the White House. After several years, the award was once again given to the highest elected official in the land.

1997 | PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW – HIS ALL HOLINESS, BARTHOLOMEW I, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE, NEW ROME, & ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

In 1997 the Socrates Award was given to the Ecumenical Patriarch. Awarded in the United States during his first official visit, the Patriarch was honored with a banquet in Washington, where 500 AHEPANS from across the country came to be with his Holiness. Supreme President Steve Manta was honored when he spoke about the importance of this function.

2002 | GEORGE W. BUSH – PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The President of the United States was once again the man in the spotlight in 2002. After the devastating events of 9/11 the country rallied behind the President and he represented all Americans in their greatest test of patriotism and need.

2007 | TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS – PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS

The Socrates Award for 2007 was awarded to Tassos Papadopoulos, the President of Cyprus, for his efforts in fighting for Greek Cypriots as well as overseeing Cyprus' entrance into the European Union.

2007 | COSTAS KARAMANLIS – PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis was honored with the AHEPA Socrates Award in 2007 in recognition of his commitment to Hellenism and the Hellenic Republic. He personally thanked the AHEPA for the support the organization has given to Greece and gladly accepted the honor bestowed on him.

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2014 | GEORGE A. KALOGRIDIS – PRESIDENT OF WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT

The President of Walt Disney World Resort, George Kalogridis, was honored by AHEPA in 2014 for his commitment to guest services and hospitality. Upon accepting his award, Kalogridis addressed the banquet audience by saying “I stand before you both as a son of America and a son of Greece,” and went on to speak about what Hellenism meant to him and what an honor it was to be bestowed with such a high honor by AHEPA.

2015 | JOHN BOEHNER – SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AHEPA honored Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, with the 2015 Socrates Award for his fulfillment of the American Dream that saw him go from mopping floors and waiting tables at his family tavern, to working his way through college and becoming a small business owner. Eventually, Speaker Boehner pursued public service and became the U.S. representative from Ohio’s Eighth Congressional District. He was elected the 53rd Speaker of the House in 2010 and reelected to a third term in 2015.

2019 | PHILIP CHRISTOPHER – PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE “JUSTICE FOR CYPRUS”

Philip’s relentless passion to see justice for Cyprus is immeasurable. As an advocate, Philip has set the benchmark to which all others aspire. We are proud to call him a Brother Ahepan, not just for his advocacy. Philip Christopher embodies and exemplifies why AHEPA was founded nearly 100 years ago. He immigrated to the United States at the age of 10. Through a hard work ethic and spirit of entrepreneurship, Philip ascended over a 30 year career to become a leader in the wireless industry – as President/CEO and Founder of American Network Solutions and serving on several trade association boards.

2019 | MICHAEL PSAROS – CO-FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER OF KPS CAPITAL PARTNERS

Upon receiving the Socrates Award for his achievements, Psaros had the following to say about AHEPA.

“I thank you for presenting me with the 23rd Socratic Award. I accept this extraordinary honor with humility and respect. I cannot comprehend that AHEPA has presented me with an honor bestowed to Ecumenical Patriarchs and Presidents of the United States. I dedicate this prestigious award to my family, to my parents, but above all, to my grandparents: που εταν προτοποροι και μεταναστες – who were pioneers and immigrants. I dedicate this prestigious award to that generation.

I am proud to be an AHEPAN because AHEPA was originally created to defend those metatastes from discrimination. AHEPA was critical in helping the generations of metanastes assimilate. When they were in need, AHEPA answered the call. I am proud to be an AHEPAN, because it was created to promote Hellenism and the Hellenic ideal. Hellenism is God’s gift to human civilization and represents the best of humanity: philotimo, philanthropia, philoxenia and agape. Central to Hellenism is the primacy of the individual in society, of free will, of free choice, of free expression, of free action. These values form the foundation of this Republic.” Additionally, he praised AHEPA’s philanthropy and commitment to their mission.