

**THE RIGHT REVEREND SPYRIDON**  
**ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE**  
**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA**

**The Honorable  
Honorary Consul General of Cyprus  
Andreas Kyprianides**

**Your Honor, please permit me the privilege of addressing you informally only of respect for our personal friendship these many years.**

**My dear Andreas, we first met shortly after the Turkish invasion of your beloved homeland, the Republic of Cyprus. You were young, yet you carried a maturity that set you apart from most of your contemporaries. At first, I thought it was simply the burden and pain of witnessing the violation of the serenity your island offered to all its people and visitors. certainly, that was true—but there was more. It was your belief in freedom and in the dignity that you felt God bestowed upon all humankind.**

**During those early days of struggle, as we pleaded for justice and for the withdrawal of Turkish troops and the inhumanity expressed in all the horrors that war brings—war never comes alone, as you know: the rape, the cruelty, the murder, the degradation—you stood with dignity and dedication to the cause. You did not resort to loud outbursts of emotion; instead, you persevered, seeking to convey to America and to the world the cry for help, hoping they might listen and act rather than merely appear to care.**

**You were one of the founders of the *Save Cyprus Council*, which through the years evolved into the American Hellenic Council, and you have been steadfast in your support. Your involvement in those early, heady years was crucial. Yet your greatest contribution came later. You possessed vision, and through that vision came the greatest guarantee for the protection of the integrity of the republic—both its land and its democracy. you convinced those charged with representing the interests of Cyprus to campaign for its entry into the European Union, the benefits of which, led by its sovereignty, have been clear and enduring. On May 1, 2004 this became a reality, Cyprus became a member of the European Union!**

**I remember a mournful song from those early days: the ship of Cyprus sailing by, its rigging and all its sails draped in black, lamenting its fate. We pray for the mediterranean waves of yesteryear to rise up from the deep and let their misty drops become a cleansing foam, purging the color black and restoring the sails to their pearly white. Let it sail once again along the Cypriot shores, reveling in God's bright light of freedom.**

**My dear Andreas, your homeland has not yet been restored to its unity and beauty in the days and years that have passed. Hold hope high, lest we forget freedom. Bless you, Andreas, lover of truth and justice for all.**

**The American Hellenic Council, in honoring a founder, does honor to itself—for your dedication has been a lifetime's offering. Bravo, American Hellenic Council. Well done!**

**Beloved Cyprus, Andreas did not let you down!**

**Congratulations, my dear friend. Axios!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spyridon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

**+Spyridon (Kezios)  
Bishop of Amastris**

**April 18, 2026  
Palm Desert, CA**