



Hellenic American Police Association

Greek and Cypriot Americans in Law Enforcement need Your Support!

Greetings Your Eminence, this is Elias Voulgaris, a retired Commander of the Chicago Police Department and Founder & President of the Hellenic American Police Association (HAPA). I am sending you this letter cordially inviting you and a guest, as our guests at our 30-Year Anniversary Dinner Dance to be held on Friday, February 24, 2023 at the Chateau Ritz in Niles, Illinois. Your presence would be deeply appreciated, and welcomed. We would also appreciate a letter from you which we will place in our Program Book.

I founded the Hellenic American Police Association on February 24, 1993 in the City of Chicago. The HAPA exists so that our members carry on our proud Hellenic culture, customs, traditions, and continue our faith through the Greek Orthodox Church, while performing the duties and responsibilities of our noble profession. In addition, we assist both the Greek community and the Greek Orthodox Church whenever called upon. I represent 600 law enforcement officers from local, state, county, federal, law enforcement agencies and departments from within our beloved United States, as well as from Countries outside the United States. The only exception being New York City as they have their own such association through the St. Paul's Society.

The majority of our members are Chicago Police Officers. However, we have members who are Suburban Police Officers, Deputy Sheriff's, Special Agents, Investigators, Troopers, etc., from within the United States as far away as Alaska. Many of our members hold high ranking positions within law enforcement such as Colonel Stavros Mellekas who heads the Connecticut State Police, and Deputy Chief Chris Papaioannou of the Chicago Police Department.

Our headquarters is located at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Chicago. Father Chrysanthos "Chris" Kerkeres serves as our Chaplain, assisted by Father Richard Andrews of the Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church of Glenview, Illinois and Father Peter Sarolas of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church. We are recognized as a not-for-profit association by the Illinois Secretary of State and as a police association by the Chicago Police Department and Cook County Sheriff's Office. We are fraternally recognized by the Hellenic Police.

Members include individuals who are renown worldwide, such as retired Deputy Chief Steve Georgas of the Chicago Police Department, an expert in managing special events. I myself was recently recognized by being selected as an Expert on Policing to the International Criminal

Court at The Hague. Many of our members are Police Chief's, Sheriff's, Special Agents in Charge, etc.

The Hellenic American Police Association is one of only 4 such associations; the others being the St. Paul's Society of the New York Police Department (NYPD), the Metropolitan Police Service Greek & Cypriot Association of the London Metropolitan Police Service, and the Victorian Hellenic Police Association of the Victoria, Australia Police. We maintain brotherly contact with these fellow associations.

Our members have had to endure criticism, anti-police rhetoric, defund the police rhetoric, etc. They have been attacked, spit on, called every name in the book. Yet I can tell you they feel neglected and unappreciated by many communities, including from members of the Greek community. Your support is so needed and welcomed, which in turn will show our members they are appreciated and supported by our own... Our members were Altar Boys, served in the Choir, attended Greek and Sunday School, serve on Parish Councils, Coach athletic teams, participate in youth activities, etc. They have families with the same concerns of all parents.

If you wish to further support us, such as an ad for our Program Book, or a donation, we appreciate it. Support us in any manner you are able to do so; our finest need your support which will benefit them through different programs. We are hoping for a financially successful Dinner Dance so that we can build our Health and Welfare Fund which exists to assist our members in times of need. The money raised will also allow us to fund an on-call psychologist to be available to our members who are hurting right now. Unfortunately, due to Covid, we were unable to hold any type of fundraising, thus our Health and Welfare Fund is very limited. Your support will assist us with ensuring our members are properly equipped mentally and physically. In return, you will show us you support our noble profession. We will let our members, their families and friends, know of your support and continue to acknowledge your support!

Sincerely,

Commander Elias Voulgaris, Retired, Chicago Police Department
Expert on Policing to the International Criminal Court, The Hague
voulgariselias@gmail.com – 312.480.8612/cell