Andrew Manatos – Determined Strategist

President of Washington, D.C. lobbying firm Manatos & Manatos
A Strong Voice In Washington On Greek-American Interests For More Than 40 Years
Tenacious Campaigner for Justice in Cyprus, Greece, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate
Son of the First Greek-American Adviser in the White House
Andrew Manatos: Determined Strategist for the Greek-American Public Voice

By Sophia Stratakis Huling

When it comes to Greek-American politics, names like Michael Dukakis, Paul Sarbanes, and Philip Christopher readily come to mind. You might even consider them “household names” because of a run for President, a long tenure as a United States senator, or managing organizations that campaign prominently to solve the nation’s problems.

But there is one man who, until now, has not been afforded the same recognition: Mike N. Manatos.

Mike’s father, the late Mike N. Manatos, and his son, also named Mike (after his father), Manatos’ 68, is part of “one of Washington’s most prominent lobbying families,” says U.S. News & World Report. The three generations of Manatos’ have been “quietly and tirelessly” working to increase the profile of Greek-American, Greek/Cypriot, and Greek Orthodox interests, and the Greek Orthodox Church at the highest levels of the United States government for more than 75 years.

Manatos’ public policy and lobbying firm Manatos & Manatos, which he opened with his father in 1983, and now runs with his son, is only the latest chapter in the three generations of the Manatos family’s political dynasty. The firm offers its clients – including major corporations, universities, advocacy organizations like the U.S. Olympic Committee, and foreign governments – the expertise to help them manage their public policy and governmental affairs.

Late January the Washington Post called Manatos & Manatos “One of Washington’s most powerful lobbying firms.” The key is that the Manatos have developed rock-solid credibility with members of Congress, and other government officials over the decades. But because those people come and go in Washington, it is a constant, huge effort to keep building it. It takes, “a couple of years and it takes decades with some people,” but it also adds up,” said Manatos. “People you may not even know will listen to you a little more closely because they now know where you’ve been and what you’ve done.”

The Manatos name has built a tremendous reputation among members of Congress, senators, and executive branch officials, he said, because he chooses the causes he will lobby very carefully. Along with his father and his son, they have spent many years building trust with policymakers, he said, and now they’re “in the position last year that the 19-year-old Manatos had when he approached Mike with the Washington job offer, he didn’t want to miss out on that.”

Manatos and his son, Mike, were just in Washington for the Thanksgiving holiday when the 19-year-old Manatos saw the value in maintaining a relationship with a public official. It almost didn’t happen, however, when the senator approached Mike with the Washington job offer, he didn’t exactly jump at the chance or take the position, because the senator got a call from the newspaper writer in their state, “Do you have any ideas?”

‘The next thing I knew I was on the plane,’ Manatos said. ‘I think Andy in particular, or a member of Congress with an issue, they trust that not only you, you people have been really good, and I’ve decided I’d like to hire a Greek to work for me. Do you have any ideas?’” and they recommended Manatos’ father, he said. “The senator didn’t know Dad from Adam, but he recommended the Manatos’ name.”

Mike N. Manatos, far right, the first Greek-American to serve in the White House, with President John F. Kennedy and other presidential staff members.

Mike N. Manatos introduces his son Andy to President Johnson. Andy’s wife, Tina, can be seen behind the president.

CONGRATULATIONS ANDY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LONGTIME COMMITMENT FOR GREECE AND CYPRUS

JAMES AND WANDA
TED AND LEA
PEDAS AND FAMILIES
successes were the Voting Rights legislation through the Senate, and Civil Rights Acts. He also had a unique ability to move legislation through the Senate. Among his Senate colleagues were Fritz Hollings, Robert Byrd, and Carl Levin.

When Johnson took office in 1963, he had high regard in Washington, Manatos said. “He was really very well thought of, a very good person, and had terrific relationships with senators and members. There are still senators who will tell you any time you call them, ‘Ah, Manatos, there he is again.’”

Manatos was born in 1937, the son of Lyndon B. Johnson and Claudia M. Johnson. He grew up in Johnson’s family home in the White House. He was incredibly charming and able to relate well with everyone he met. As an “advance man” for Johnson, he soon gained a reputation for being an extraordinary politician. Many of his colleagues mentioned his political acumen and his ability to persuade Congress to override vetoes. But all of his work was for the benefit of the American people. “I had a chance to meet President Johnson. He was very powerful and persuasive. He and my father were always doing good things for the American people. Everyone said he was too early and would never gain power. I had lunch with his daughter Lynda the other day and we were discussing what an unusual person he was. I also met Kennedy when Dad worked for him in the White House. He was someone that I thought of, a very good person, and had terrific relationships with senators and members.”

After the invasion, Manatos knew that the only way to stop the Turkish invasion of Cyprus was to lobby Congress in support of Greece. He continued to lobby Congress in support of Greece. Eventually, Turkey reversed its position. A “face-saving mechanism” was essential to bringing about a resolution. “It was the first and only time in modern history that the Congress has overruled the Executive Branch on a foreign policy decision. There were 12 different votes. We won seven of those votes by one vote.”

When Jimmy Carter was elected president in 1976, he chose Manatos to be his Assistant Secretary of Commerce. From that position, Manatos coordinated the implementation of the U.S. economic sanctions against Turkey. Eventually, Turkey reversed its position. Carter would withdraw from Turkey if he would just agree to the “face-saving mechanism”.

Manatos was held in very high regard in Washington. “Dad was held in very high regard in Washington,” Manatos said. “I spent my life putting that transaction, the only way the transaction is going to occur is if it is mutually beneficial,” Manatos said, recalling his father’s advice. “So, if I want a senator to introduce an amendment, for example, I need to have political capital.”

Congratulations to Andy Manatos ("Dad / Poppy")

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do every day to preserve, promote and enhance Orthodoxy, Hellenism and our country. Your passion and sacrifice for your family, faith and heritage is unmatched.

With great love, respect and admiration,
Tina Manatos
Mike, Laura, Sienna, Andrea, and Lucas Manatos
Nick, Despina, Andy, and Katherine Manatos
Tom, Dana, and Andrew Manatos
George Manatos

On Ellis Island celebrating the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Manatos family in the United States (July 2010).
A. Manatos: Determined Strategist for the Greek-American Public Voice

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he’s doing me that favor, but it’s him. And that’s the hard part, is to find ways that these issues of the positions of France and Germany to the European Union, something that was finalized in many so that Cyprus could accede to the European Union, something that was finalized in 2004. From a historical perspective and affecting the largest numbers of people, he considers the rest of the island, “Manatos said. And we convinced Hilbrook and Clinton that if the rest of the island when they got an opportunity, and they're not holding their time, until something would happen, and they would see it as an excuse to take the rest of the island,” Manatos said. And we convinced Hilbrook and Clinton that if they were active, they would use it as an excuse to take something out of Cyprus from the European Union, something that would eliminate that possibility.”

Philip Christopher, head of the International Coordinating Council, Justice for Cyprus, PISKA, named Manatos’ contribution to the cause of justice for Cyprus and the concerns of Greek Americans, saying, “Manatos is the guy that keeps us informed.”

“Although we do pay for their work, I can honestly tell you the amount of money we receive doesn’t cover even 50 percent of the amount of hours that they put in on behalf of Cyprus and the Greek cause,” Christopher said.

In fact, a measure of that commitment is the fact that Manatos & Manatos’ proposal to President Reagan to establish the first sitting U.S. President to visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 1989-1993

Manatos receives a blessing from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople (Istanbul), 1989, after Carter left the presidential election to Ronald Reagan, to help nurture the Archbishop’s representation in Washington.

“We needed somebody who understood Capitol Hill and had good relations with the White House,” Father Karloutsos explained. “Manatos and his father, the late Basil Manatos, would involve the Archbishop’s office when necessary, the Archdiocese REACHES OUT

Reverend Alexander Karloutsos, who works at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, serves as the director of the Archdiocese’s representation in Washington.

“My mom would call him, and she would say, ‘I want to meet with you. How is this going? Make sure we’re doing our work,’” Karloutsos said.

“Manatos is the guy that keeps us informed,” Karloutsos said.

“He’s the guy that keeps us informed, makes sure we know when he needs us; you’ve got to set all 15 at exactly the time they’re needed, because if the numbers is off, the whole thing doesn’t work. And the meeting is not at all a secret thing every year, he said, each year requires another effort in which all of us have participated, to again recognize and invite the community, and particularly important to make sure that there is a new president every year in the Ecumenical American community.

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In 1990, during the George”

Basil & Evey Simon

(Detroit, Michigan)

Basil & Evey Simon

(Detroit, Michigan)

Best wishes for Andy Manatos and the Manatos family to continue the fight for justice for Cyprus and Hellenism.

Axiōs

Tassos Zambas & Family

Congratulations to our friend, Andrew Manatos.

Basil & Evey Simon

(Detroit, Michigan)

Best wishes for Andy Manatos and the Manatos family to continue the fight for justice for Cyprus and Hellenism.

Axiōs

Tassos Zambas & Family

The ORDER of AHEPA salutes member Andy Manatos for his years of service to Greek American Community

Continued on page 7
Ted Spyropoulos offers

HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDY MANATOS

for his and his family’s tireless efforts and the tremendous success they have achieved in the U.S.A.
on behalf of Hellas and Cyprus for 75 years.
His father, Mike A. Manatos broke ground in the 1930s,
Andy took up the work in the 1970s,
and Andy’s son Mike now continues the family’s legacy.

ΚΑΙ ΕΙΣ ΑΝΩΤΕΡΑ!

With deep respect and gratitude,

Ted Spyropoulos,
U.S.A. Regional Coordinator
World Council of Hellenes Abroad

2155 W 80th Street, IL 60620, U.S.A.
Tel: (773) 783 5555 - Fax: (773) 994-5037 - E-mail: theospg@gmail.com
By Andy Manatos and Andy Alidis

It may be difficult to see now, but there is light, bright light, at the end of the economic tunnel through which Greece is now passing. In fact, the light at the end of the tunnel is significantly brighter than at its entrance. How can this be?

The answer has two parts. The first part of the answer involves the fact that Greek people have had to adapt in extraordinary ways to their economic conditions. The second part of the answer involves the meritocratic nature of their economic system, which is significantly brighter than at its entrance.

In Greece, historical developments created the system to become based on merit and to become filled with light at the end of this tunnel. How can this be? The answer is two parts. The first part is that the economy will be based on the merit of the individual or company – analogous to those in America and Australia. The second part is that the Greek Orthodox citizens have higher incomes than other religions, except for members of the Jewish faith.

And, yes, one might ask, is Greece still the wellspring of such remarkable people, or is America and Australia, with their entrepreneurial spirit, the places where the best and brightest will seek a career? The answer is yes.

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Involvement in the Greek market by successful businesses owned by Greeks outside of Greece is another indication of an ability of Greece to be the wellspring of such successes. The amount of savings in the real economy generated by the success of Greek citizens investing in their home country, in contrast to the carbon dioxide footprint of foreign multinationals investing in Greece, is a testament to their extraordinary abilities. As well, Greece’s ability to generate significant revenues caused the economic system to become filled with light, bright light, at the end of the tunnel.

If the corruption disappears, so will Greece’s fear-based environment. Villemot’s fear and brightness will remain in Greece, and many who left will return, because of a future, bringing with them their bright and shining jobs and cutting-edge new Greek companies.

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Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios is welcomed to Washington in a ceremony held in the rotunda of
the U.S. Capitol. From left: Speaker of the House Tom Foley; the Archbishop of North and South
America, Iakovos; Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios; the Ecumenical Patriarch to be Bartholomew;
Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell; Senate Minority Leader Ted  Dini and Andy Manatos.

His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos meets with President Jimmy Carter and his assistant Com-
merce Secretary Andy Manatos.

Tina and Andy Manatos with Archbishop Demetrios, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (center) and a Ro-

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Andy Manatos escort Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, center, to a press conference
where the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes presented her with an award in May 2009.

Three generations of Manatoses receive the Archon title: top, Mike N. Manatos; bottom left, Andrew E. Manatos; bottom right, Emmanuel “Mike” A. Manatos.

Continued from page 4
President Reagan’s second inaug-
uration, in 1985, was held
there because bitter cold
weather prevented holding it on
the Capitol steps, as is custom-
ary. Otherwise, the rotunda is
only used for presidents or very
significant people to lie in state.
“We were very proud of that
also,” said Manatos. “It’s an-
other indication of just how ef-
fective our community can be.”
In addition, in 1997, Man-
atos secured the Congressional
Gold Medal for Ecumenical Pa-
triarch Bartholomew something
which he said had more cos-
sponsors in the House than any
other bill on record at that time.
“That helped raise the profile
of the Ecumenical Patriarch, so
therefore when you talk about
the Ecumenical Patriarch, it was
not a foreign entity, it was actu-
ally an honored entity by the
United States government in-
s itself,” said Rev. Karloutsos.
All three Manatoses, Mike
the elder, Andy, and Mike the
younger, have been granted the
title of Archon by the Ecumeni-
cal Patriarch. An Archon is
someone honored by the Ecu-
menical Patriarch for his out-
standing service to the Church,
and a well-known, distin-
guished, and respected leader
of the Orthodox Christian com-
munity.
Under the leadership of Ar-
chon National Commander Dr.
Anthony Limberakis since 1998,
the organization’s highest prior-
ity is achieving religious free-
dom for the Ecumenical Patri-
arch.
Under the leadership of Lim-
berakis, Manatos coordinated a
campaign to get all 100 Sena-
tors to sign a letter to the Presi-
dent alerting him to the crisis
and urging him to change the
United States’ policy toward
Turkey (see letter on page 8).
Continued on page 9

Andy,
Thank you
for being a great role model.

Αξιος!

Maria Allwin

Continued on page 9

LOBBYING FOR RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
Getting the attention of
members of Congress is a her-
culean task, Manatos said: the
average member of the H ouse
of Representatives receives
Continued on page 9

THE NATIONAL HERALD, OCTOBER 13, 2012
Hellenic Leaders

7
December 8, 2011

Dear Mr. President: 

As you begin your second term in office, I urge your administration to seriously consider the issue of religious persecution in Turkey. Freedom of religion is not just another human right. It is the foundation upon which the modern democratic state is built, and it is a necessary condition for the advancement of human rights. We should remember that it was under your leadership that the United States supported the unification of Cyprus and that you, as a Christian, know that the freedom of religion is something that is crucial to the well-being of all of us.

We write to urge the Turkish government to adopt policies that will protect the rights of all religious minorities in Turkey. In particular, we urge your administration to consider the following:

1. Support the return of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to its historic home in Thrace.
2. Urge the Turkish government to respect the religious freedom of all citizens, including members of the Armenian and Kurdish communities.
3. Support the independence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from the Turkish government.
4. Urge the Turkish government to respect the right of all religious minorities to practice their religion freely and without interference.

We urge your administration to take these steps to protect the rights of all religious minorities in Turkey. We are confident that these steps will not only benefit the people of Turkey, but also serve as a model for other countries around the world.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

U.S. Senators Write to President Obama

November 21, 2011

The President

The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The freedom of religion is an important human right that should be protected by all governments. The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Church, has been under threat from the Turkish government for many years. The situation has worsened in recent months, with the closure of the Halki Theological School, which is an important institution for the education of Orthodox priests.

We, as representatives of the U.S. Senate, urge your administration to take steps to protect the rights of the Orthodox Church in Turkey. We urge your administration to:

1. Urge the Turkish government to respect the rights of all religious minorities in Turkey.
2. Support the independence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from the Turkish government.
3. Urge the Turkish government to respect the right of all religious minorities to practice their religion freely and without interference.

We are confident that these steps will not only benefit the people of Turkey, but also serve as a model for other countries around the world.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

U.S. House of Representatives Members Write to President Obama

November 28, 2011

The President

The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

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We are confident that these steps will not only benefit the people of Turkey, but also serve as a model for other countries around the world.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
cies, it was enormously encour-
gaging to me that within the last year
and a half, Turkey has granted
so a successor to the current Pa-
triarch is unlikely to come from
a situation within which religious
freedom for Orthodox is even more
issue than before. 

But all that work did result in
rewards in turning the United States policy, Manatos said. Im-
mediately after those many of-
country. The Turkish Prime Minister
George W. Bush began to appre-
ciate what the Ecumenical Exer-
cise and why it required re-
ligion. In the presidential discussions with the Greek Orthodox Church
and with Turkish leaders, it be-
came clear that Turkish officials
were beginning to take seri-
ously the principle of religious
freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Discussions with Turkish offi-
cials turned the upward pressure on
Turkey to give the Ecumenical Patriarchate religious freedom. The
policy of the Turkish government
had been to prevent any contact
with the Ecumenical Patriarch. It
was lying low during the
Summer Olympics in Athens and for
the Washington Summit...
CONGRATULATIONS ANDY!

We are all very grateful for your effective leadership on behalf of the Diaspora.

Your extraordinary record of accomplishments has made us very proud.

Wishing you health and continued success always.