

## President's Speech

Greek American Odyssey Gala Dinner  
8<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

"Excellencies, Prime Minister, Ambassadors, Honorary Consuls, Sophia Tsouvelekakis and members of the Communauté Hellenique de Monaco, members of the American Club of the Riviera.

Before I start I would like to have everyone raise their glasses in toast to the memory of an amazing man, a bon vivant, raconteur, a true New Yorker, and President Emeritus of the American Club of the Riviera, Burton Gintel who passed away recently. Burton was the longest serving President of the American Club of the Riviera and will be deeply missed by all that knew Him. To Burton.

I would like to thank on behalf of The American Club of the Riviera Members, Board and Officers, Sophia Vaharis Tsouvelekakis and the amazing Board of the Communauté Hellenique de Monaco for their tireless work to make this event happen. Sophia is an incredible lady as I am sure anyone who has worked with her knows. I also want to thank some special people within the Greek Community of Monaco for their generous donations in making this event possible Alexandra Florakis who provided the transportation that many of you used to get here, Gregory Stassinopoulos who is providing the photographer for this evening, Benjamin Laurens for the gifts, Greek oils and Marinis Makis for the statues.

When Sophia and I got together to attend the American Club of the Riviera Thanksgiving Dinner on November 24<sup>th</sup> of last year. Which by the way is another wonderful event and hopefully you will all be able to join us this year at the Hotel Hermitage on November 24<sup>th</sup>. We discussed an event we wanted to put together to celebrate the Anniversaries of our clubs, 70 years for the Communauté Hellenique de Monaco and 60 years for the American Club of the Riviera. Sophia at the time talked about how incredible it would be if Clubs and Organizations could work together for the good of a Community. Well I think we have certainly achieved that with this event this evening. From the International Women's Clubs of the Riviera, Var and Provence. The Anglo American Club of Provence who's President Christine West is with us tonight, The British Association of Menton who's President Birgitt Nordbrink and members of her Association are also here tonight, Monaco USA Association who's President Mike Powers joins us this evening. The British Association of Monaco, the Canadian Community in Monaco, Lions Club International, France Etats-Uni, The American Society of London, The American Club of Paris, The American Club of Lisbon who's Executive Director Anne Taylor and members of her club flew here to enjoy this special celebration with us. By the way The American Club of Lisbon is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday October 22 at Hotel Palacio Estroil. Anne would love to invite you to attend. All these Groups have had a hand a hand in making the event this evening the success it is.

Also, all these clubs advised their members of the Greek American Odyssey Gala Dinner in their newsletters. I think you will agree that is amazing accomplishment.

I would like to introduce the new members of the American Club of the Riviera who have joined us this evening Michael and Lorna Bates and Ekaterini Malliou

Please enjoy this incredible evening and before I forget, It would be remiss of me not to extend an invitation for you to join The American Club of the Riviera at our next event Monday July 4<sup>th</sup> for our Fourth of July Independence Day Celebrations”