

# THE NATIONAL COORDINATED EFFORT OF HELLENES (CEH)

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## CLINTON, OBAMA, McCAIN, BIDEN ADDRESS HELLENIC LEADERS

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 18, 2007 -- For the first time in Hellenic-American history, three of the four leading American Presidential candidates from both parties, and others, made presentations regarding Hellenic and Orthodox matters to Greek-America's political leadership. It took place on Thursday, May 17, 2007 in Washington, D.C. at the **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cyprus, Hellenic and Orthodox Issues Conference** organized by the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH). CEH leaders include Andrew Athens, Philip Christopher and Andy Manatos.

**Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis**, a preeminent American business leader and Democrat introduced Senator **Hillary Clinton** (D-NY). Senator **Barack Obama** (D-IL), who is also the Chairman of the Senate European Affairs Subcommittee, was introduced by his protégé, the recently-elected Illinois State Treasurer, 30-year-old **Alexi Giannoulis**. Senator **John McCain's** (R-AZ) Hellenic supporters **John and Linda Tavlarios** brought his presentation to the group. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, Senator **Joe Biden** (D-DE), who also spoke at this meeting, is a long-time friend of many of the Hellenic leaders at the CEH conference.

Governor **Bill Richardson** (D-NM) attempted to meet with these Hellenic leaders earlier that day, but a conflict in the conference schedule prohibited his presentation. And,

Congressman **Dennis Kucinich** (D-OH) attended the event in an effort to make a presentation but the extended stay of Senator Obama unfortunately prohibited it as well.

Previously, few major Presidential candidates addressed Hellenic and Orthodox matters personally, and then it was usually with an individual supporter like **Alex Spanos** with President **George H.W. Bush**. The closest the Hellenic/Orthodox-American community has come to this recent event was during the general election period when the Democratic Party's nominee, **Michael Dukakis**, and the Republican Party's nominee George H.W. Bush each addressed the Clergy-Laity Congress in Boston in 1988.

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**Andrew A. Athens**, Chairman, National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH); National Chairman, United Hellenic American Congress (UHAC), Honorary President, World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE)

**Philip Christopher**, Vice Chair, National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH); President, International Coordinating Committee--Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA); President, Pancyprian Association of America

**Andrew E. Manatos**, President, National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH); Executive Board Member, UHAC and PSEKA

**Panicos Papanicolaou**, Supreme President, Cyprus Federation of America

**Nikos Mouyiaris**, Executive Vice President, Pancyprian Association of America