

HELLENIC AMERICAN PROJECT

NEWSLETTER



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MAY DAY

May Day is an ancient festival marking the first day of summer, and a current traditional holiday in several European countries and provinces of Canada. It is usually celebrated on May 1st or the first Monday of May. The earliest [known] May celebrations were held from April 27–May 3 during the Roman Republic era (509 BCE–27 BCE). The celebrations were oriented around the festivals of Flora (Floralia), the Roman goddess of flowers, and of Ceres (Cerealia), the Roman goddess of agriculture, fertility, the harvest, and cultivated crops. May Day was celebrated by some early European settlers of North America. Modern May Day ceremonies in the United States vary by region and many are an amalgamation of the pagan tradition described above and the labor tradition that relates to International Workers' Day.

International Workers' Day is known as *Labour Day* in most countries and is often referred to as May Day. International Workers' Day is a national, public holiday in many countries across the world observed on May 1st annually. The date was chosen in 1889 by the Marxist International Socialist Congress in support of working-class demands for the eight-hour day. While the date coincides with the May Day holiday, it was chosen for political reasons.

Before the Marxist International Socialist Congress, the date had been chosen by the American Federation of Labor (AFL) to continue a campaign for the eight-hour day in the United States. The campaign culminated in the Haymarket affair in Haymarket Square, Chicago, Illinois. The Haymarket affair was the aftermath of a sequence of events that started on May 1, 1886 with thousands of workers across the United States going on strike in support of the eight-hour day. Chicago was the movement's center with an estimated 80,000 workers and participants showing their support. On May 3, striking workers in Chicago met near the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company factory where strikebreakers were entering the factory under protection from police officers. McCormick wanted to end all talks about the eight-hour day. At the end of the workday, a group of workers surged to the factory's gates to confront the strikebreakers. The police fired on the crowd. Two McCormick workers were killed.

Responding to this act of police violence, local anarchists printed and distributed fliers calling for a meeting on the following day at Haymarket Square. The meeting began peacefully on the evening of May 4th at around 7:30 pm. Labor activists August Spies, Albert Parsons, and Samuel Fielden each addressed the crowd,

while on-duty police officers watched. As Fielden was completing his speech, at around 10:30 pm, a delegation of police arrived, marching toward the speakers, and ordered the meeting to disperse. Fielden briefly protested, insisting that the meeting was peaceful, and then stepped down from the wagon on which he and the others had been speaking. It was at that moment that a home-made bomb was thrown into the path of the advancing police. The bomb killed policeman Mathias J. Degan at the scene and mortally wounded six other policemen. After the bomb explosion there was an exchange of gunshots between police and demonstrators. Accounts vary on who fired first and how many shots were fired. The violence that ensued lasted a few minutes and resulted in 11 deaths, 7 Chicago policemen and 4 civilians. About 60 policemen were wounded and it remains unclear how many civilians were wounded, fearing arrest, many did not seek medical attention. The bomb thrower is unidentified.

There was widespread public outrage in Chicago and nationwide in the weeks that followed. Police searched the homes and workplaces of anarchist and labor activists, including seven of the eight eventual defendants. By May 27th, the grand jury indicted 31, charged with being accessories to the murder of policeman Mathias J. Degan; eight were chosen to stand trial: Albert Parsons, August Spies, Oscar Neebe, Louis Lingg, George Engel, Adolph Fischer, Michael Schwab, Samuel Fielden. The jurors, like the public at large, held preconceived notions about the defendants' connection to the bombing. The trial, *Illinois vs. August Spies et al.*, began on June 21, 1886 and lasted until August 11, 1886. On August 19, 1886, the jury convicted the defendants and sentenced Oscar Neebe to fifteen years in the penitentiary and the others to death by hanging. Louis Lingg committed suicide in his jail cell on November 10, 1887. Parsons, Spies, Engel, and Fischer were executed on November 11, 1887. On June 26, 1893, Illinois Governor John Peter Altgeld pardoned Neebe, Fielden, and Schwab. Altgeld issued the pardon because he concluded that the defendants had not been given a fair trial [because] the judge was biased, the jury packed in the prosecution's favor, and much of the evidence fabricated.

While the pardon was the final act related to the legal actions of the trial, the demands of the international

labor movement and the recognition of the defendants resonated. In 1889, May 1st was chosen by the Marxist International Socialist Congress in commemoration of the Haymarket affair. May Day was formally recognized as an annual event at the International's second congress in 1891.

The Haymarket affair had the opposite effect in the United States, hysteria and suspicion were directed against immigrants and labor leaders, factory owners resumed the ten-hour and twelve-hour workday. May Day was not adopted by the United States as a public holiday that celebrates laborers and the working classes for political reasons. In 1887, Conservative Democratic President Grover Cleveland publicly supported the September Labor Day holiday because a labor holiday on May 1st would strengthen international socialist and anarchist movements. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, "Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country."

It is worth noting how Labor Day was established in United States before legal protections for workers were in place. It took the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 to guarantee the right of private sector employees to organize into trade unions. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) established the 40-hour workweek as the legal norm and imposed over-time pay requirements on employers for all work in excess of 40 hours and restricted the employment and abuse of child workers. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 (a civil rights and labor law) that was submitted to Congress by President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964, outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, and later sexual orientation and gender identity.

In light of May Day 2021 it is helpful to conduct a review of the labor force with current data along four parameters, which affect every household. A first and perhaps most telling is parameter is presented in the

graph below, the civilian labor force participation rate steadily declined from 66.9% in 2001 to 62.4% in 2015. It remained steady in the 62% range from 2015 to 2019. It plummeted to 60.2% in April 2020 and was 61.7% in April 2021. The interactive graph is available at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website, www.bls.gov.

A second parameter is the union affiliation of the employed population. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 10.3% of the employed were union members in 2019 and 10.8% of the employed were union members in 2020.

A third parameter is the Consumer Price Index. According to the Consumer Price Index – April 2021 release, “Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 4.2 percent before seasonal adjustment. This is the largest 12-month increase since a 4.9-percent increase for the period ending September 2008...The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.9 percent in April, its largest monthly increase since April 1982. Nearly all major component indexes increased in April.”

A fourth and final parameter is health insurance coverage, as the United States remains the sole industrialized nation in the world without universal health care coverage. According the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2019, 8.0 percent of people, or 26.1 million, did not have health insurance at any point during the year. [Note: the Congressional Budget Office puts the percentage of uninsured at 12 percent of people under 65.] Of the 92% of people with health insurance coverage for all or part of 2019, 68% were insured through a private plan and 34% where insured through a public plan.

The problematic determination that can be made from this data is that employment and wellness (prevention and treatment) are treated as privileges rather than as human rights. Article 23.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: “Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.” The employment landscape and the healthcare landscape of the United States need fundamental structural changes to meet the basic needs of the population in a comprehensive and stable manner. When basic needs are met there can be meaningful dialogue about progress.

Civilian labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted

Click and drag within the chart to zoom in on time periods



Hover over chart to view data.

Note: Shaded area represents recession, as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



LOUIS TIKAS AND THE ROLE OF GREEK AMERICANS IN THE EARLY LABOR MOVEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Industrial Revolution (1760–1840) marks the first 100 years of United States history. The Industrial Revolution was delayed in the United States because of the Civil War (1861–1865); still, it brought the nation into the modern era through rapid growth, urbanization, and for some, great prosperity. The shift from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy created a high demand for workers that was satisfied as the population of the United States tripled between 1860 and 1910, and the industrial workforce tripled with it. Heightened immigration during the same period empowered industry bosses to employ the arrivals looking to find work immediately. Some used “padrones” or labor brokers to exploit immigrant workers. Working conditions were far from ideal, however, there were also dire consequences to not having work. It became clear that this was not a battle to be fought individually; rather, the voice of the workers was better heard through a structure of solidarity, advocacy, and representation, a union.

Some of the early unions were: Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (1863–present), National Labor Union (1866–1872), Order of the Knights of St. Crispin (1867–1874), Knights of Labor (1869–1893/1949), and the American Federation of Labor (AFL) (1886–1955). The AFL merged into the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) in 1955. It is the largest federation of unions in the United States today, made up of 56 national and international unions that represent 12 million active and retired workers.

Greek immigrants arrived during the period of industrialization. While Greek workers arrived to New Smyrna Beach, Florida, as early as 1768, the first wave of mass immigration was between 1900 and 1924. Greeks were among the last of the Europeans to immigrate to America during the Great Migration. Immigration and Naturalization Services data provide documentation that approximately 421,000 Greeks immigrated to the United States between 1890 and

1921. In actuality, this number is closer to 500,000 because many Greeks arrived with passports from other countries, including Asian Minor and Egypt. The settlement patterns show that the majority settled on the East Coast (Florida and New York), in the industrial Midwest, and on the West Coast. Upon arriving, most Greek immigrants found jobs in the flourishing industries of their respective geographies. For example, in New England, they worked in the textile mills and formed a large community in Lowell, Massachusetts. In the Midwest, they worked in the automobile factories and in the coal/copper mines. On the West Coast, primarily in California, they worked on the railroads. Other occupations that Greeks took include sponge divers, bridge workers, tanners, and furriers.

The coal mining industry employed a large number of workers in Colorado. The demand for coal was huge. It was the lifeblood of the railroads. Mining in all its phases was the engine of the Colorado economy until the early twentieth century. The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, owned by J.D. Rockefeller, had a monopoly on Colorado coal mining. At one point, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company produced 75% of Colorado’s coal. By 1900, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) (1890–present) was actively organizing Colorado’s coal miners. In 1913, they launched a massive strike, involving 10,000–12,000 miners, nearly 90% of the labor force. The strike involved an exodus from the mining camps by the miners and their families to tent cities sponsored by the UMWA. The demands of the miners were safer working conditions and fair pay. Between 1884 and 1912, Colorado’s fatality rate among miners was more than double the national average, with 6.81 miners killed for every 1,000 workers compared to a national average of 3.12.

Louis Tikas (March 13, 1886–April 20, 1914) was born in Loutra, Crete as Elias Anastasiou Spantidakis. He arrived to the United States on March 25, 1906 and in 1910 submitted his papers for citizenship at the District Court in Denver, signing as “Louis Tikas”. At the time, he was part owner of a coffeehouse on Market Street where miners frequented. It is easy to understand the role of the coffeehouse as a place of trade, socialization, and fraternity among the patrons. By 1912 Tikas was involved in organizing the miners with the UMWA.

The labor uprising known as the Colorado Coalfield War was organized by the UMWA against the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, it lasted from September 23, 1913 to December 1914. Tensions climaxed at the Ludlow tent city of striking miners when the Colorado National Guard and private guards employed by Colorado Fuel and Iron Company attacked.

On the morning of April 20, 1914, Tikas was summoned to a soldier's tent to meet a woman who was looking for her husband. He refused the meeting. After a phone call with Major Patrick J. Hamrock of the Colorado National Guard, Tikas agreed to meet at the Colorado & Southern train station near the tent city. During the course of the morning the miners were growing restless and were mobilizing and the National Guardsmen had provisioned a second machine gun for reinforcement. Tikas rushed back to the tent city in an attempt to prevent a fight. It was too late. Accounts vary on who fired first. An all-day battle followed and ended in a fire that burned down the tent city. Tikas was found unarmed and shot dead. Approximately 21 people including children were killed in what became known as the Ludlow Massacre. The Colorado Coalfield War ended unsuccessfully for the miners eight months later.

The Ludlow Massacre captured national attention, raising awareness about the workplace hazards of mining. The public had already been shocked by the practices of the meatpacking industry exposed in Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* (1905/1906). Sinclair wrote a 5-page letter to J.D. Rockefeller about the Colorado strike situation on June 17, 1914. The letter is part of a research article on Ludlow from the Denver Public Library, available [here](#). In 1917, Sinclair published *King Coal*, a novel based on the coal mining industry of the 1910s. He wrote the novel just after the Ludlow Massacre. The sequel to *King Coal* was posthumously published under the title *The Coal War* in 1976.

In 1918 the UMWA erected the Ludlow Monument at the site of the tent city. The site was designated as a U.S. National Historical Landmark in 2009. On June 23, 2018, in Trinidad, Colorado, a statue of Louis Tikas commissioned by the Foundation of Hellenism in America was unveiled at the Trinidad Coal Miners Memorial Park. Each year coal miners from across the United States gather in Ludlow.

If you are interested in learning more about the role of Greek Americans in the early labor movement of the United States, HAP recommends *Greek-American Radicalism: The Twentieth Century* by Dan Georgakas and *Red America: Greek Immigrants and the Vision of a New World 1900–1950* by Kostis Karpozilos.

GREEKS
500
IN AMERICA





Λούης Τίκας 1886 - 1914	Louis Tikas 1886 - 1914
Ο ΠΡΩΤΟΠΟΡΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΙΚΑΛΙΣΤΗΣ	THE PIONEER TRADE UNIONIST
<p>Ο Λούης Τίκας ή Ηλίας Σπανιδάκης με καταγωγή από την Κρήτη. Αποτέλεσε ηγετική μορφή των εργατών στα ανθρακωρυχεία του Κολοράντο των ΗΠΑ, Δολοφονήθηκε το 1914 στη λεγόμενη «Σφαγή του Λάντλου», κατά τη διάρκεια μιας μεγάλης εργατικής απεργίας στα ορυχεία. Η μνήμη του είναι ακόμα ζωντανή στα αμερικανικά συνδικάτα. Παραμένει γνωστός ως ο «Βρυλικός «Λίος ο Κρητικός» ή «Λούης ο Έλληνας».</p> <p>Με πρωτοβουλία του ιδρύματος Ελληνισμού Αμερικής και χαρηγίες της ομογένειας, τοποθετήθηκε το 2018 ανδριάντας του, στην πόλη Τρίνιτας του Κολοράντο. Κάθε χρόνο προς τιμήν του, συγκεντρώνονται στο Λάντλου οι εκπρόσωποι των ανθρακωρυχείων από όλες τις ΗΠΑ.</p>	<p>Luis Tikas or Elias Spanidakis, from Crete. He was the leading figure of the workers at the Colorado coal mines in the US. He was murdered in 1914 in the so-called "Ludlow Massacre" during a long labor strike. His memory is still alive in the American trade unions. To this day he is known as the legendary "Leo the Cretan" or "Louis the Greek". On the initiative of the Hellenic American Foundation and sponsors of the Greek diaspora a statue was erected in 2018 in the city of Trinidad, Colorado. In his honor, each and every year coal miners' representatives from across the United States gather in Ludlow.</p>

100 YEARS SINCE THE EMERGENCY IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1921

Immigration is an indisputable and integral part of the United States. What changes are the narrative and the legislation that surround immigration. For example, the fact that in the 1600s [early] colonists were classified as surplus population by Britain does not fit in with the dominant narrative of the inspired and industrious founders of American exceptionalism, resulting in its omission. Similarly, what is often overlooked in contemporary headlines about immigration is the long road that brings us to the present. One of the stops along that road is immigration exclusion.

2021 marks 100 years since the Emergency Immigration Act of 1921, legislation that paved the way for the Immigration Act of 1924 (The Johnson–Reed Act). The course of events started much earlier with the Chinese Exclusion Act. The Chinese Exclusion Act was signed into law on May 6, 1882, the first significant law restricting immigration to the United States. At the time the Chinese comprised .002 percent of the nation’s population. It suspended Chinese immigration for ten years and declared Chinese immigrants ineligible for naturalization.

The Immigration Act of 1917 was passed by the 64th United States Congress on February 5, 1917. For the first time, an immigration law of the United States affected European immigration. In summary, the act required literacy tests for immigrants over 16 years old; increased the “head” tax paid by immigrants upon arrival to \$8 per person; excluded entry to anyone born in the “Asiatic Barred Zone”; gave immigration officers more discretion in deciding whom to exclude. The act made a provision for temporary labor, allowing laborers to obtain temporary permits including Mexican agricultural and railroad workers.

Four years later, the Emergency Immigration Act of 1921 was signed into law on May 19, 1921. The act added two new features to immigration law: setting numerical limits on immigration and the use of a quota system for determining those limits. The Emergency Immigration Act of 1921 restricted the number of immigrants admitted [from any country] annually to 3% of the number of residents from that country living in the United States according to the

1910 Census. Professionals were exempt; they were to be admitted regardless their country of origin. Also, no limits were set on immigration from Latin America.

What [else] was occurring in American society? Over the course of the 1920s both federal and local government struggled to enforce Prohibition across the nation. Prohibition was the outcome of several social forces, not the least of which was the Protestant code of morality. Many individuals within the prohibition movement associated the crime and morally corrupt behavior of American cities with their large, immigrant populations. In addition to focusing suspicion toward immigrants, Prohibition widened the schism between the social classes. Firstly, many of the upper classes, including elected officials, stockpiled alcohol for home consumption after Prohibition began while the working class did not have private caches. Secondly, the high price of bootleg alcohol was affordable to the upper classes. As the trade became more lucrative, the quality of bootleg alcohol declined. On average, 1000 Americans died each year during the Prohibition from tainted liquor. Thirdly, Prohibition led to the elimination of thousands of jobs, from the entertainment and hospitality industries to truckers, barrel makers, and bottle makers, leaving the working classes destitute. There is little doubt that the Prohibition was a public health and economic failure.

By 1924 it was determined that the Emergency Immigration Act of 1921 was not restrictive enough and it was revised by the Immigration Act of 1924. The act set nationality quotas of 2% of the foreign-born individuals of that nationality in the 1890 census with a minimum quota of 100. Immigration from Asian countries continued to be barred and the Japanese were formally included in the restriction. Both the 1921 and the 1924 act profoundly affected Greek immigration to the United States. Congress revised the act in 1952 with the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (McCarran–Walter Act). The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 was replaced by the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, also known as the Hart-Celler Act. The system of immigration quotas was abolished and *de facto* discrimination against Asians, Southern and Eastern Europeans, as well as other non-Northwestern European ethnic groups was removed from America’s immigration policy. As we know, discrimination is an ugly word and it does not exist in a vacuum. If you are interested in learning more, read the November 2020 Issue, available [here](#).

ARTS & CULTURE

As part of HAP's ongoing efforts to present the Greek American community, Arts & Culture features Greek American artists, writers, and poets.

Petros P. Tatanis was born in the town of Amaliada in Elis, Greece, on July 20, 1885. After living in Egypt, he arrived to New York City in 1905. Tatanis worked as a coffee merchant and was active in the Panhellenic Union (PHU). The PHU was founded in 1907 to serve as a federation of Greek communities and societies that focused on the promotion of a unified, nationalist ideology rather than the proliferation of localism. In the Rallis and the Vlastos factions of the community, the PHU was aligned with the Rallis faction.

As the National Schism was unfolding in Greece from 1910, it was also taking root in the Greek American community. The Venizelists supported Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos and the Allies. The Royalists supported King Constantine I and the Central Powers. The *Atlantis* (1894–1973) Greek-language newspaper supported the Royalists in Greece and Republicans in America and was already in place during the polarization. On April 2, 1915, Tatanis having accumulated \$100,000 launched the Greek-language newspaper *Ethnikos Kyrix*, it supported the Venizelists in Greece and Democrats in America. Tatanis was the publisher of the *Ethnikos Kyrix* until 1933. Today, *Ethnikos Kyrix* is the only Greek-language newspaper based in New York City. In 1997, it added sister newspaper *The National Herald*, an English-language weekly newspaper, and in 2004 added a website.

Tatanis died on December 27, 1959. His burial site was unknown for many years, however, that changed in 2012 thanks to initiative taken by Anthony Papadopoulos. In a meeting with Professor Nicholas Alexiou, Anthony talked about the process and shared photographs from memorial services held for Tatanis and his research article to be featured in the *Hellenic American Project Newsletter*.



Photos courtesy of Anthony Papadopoulos

GREEK AMERICANS OF ELIAN DESCENT

Research By: Anthony Papadopoulos

Petros P. Tatanis

Πέτρος Π. Τατάνης



MR. PETROS P. TATANIS, EDITOR
OF THE NATIONAL HERALD

Petros P. Tatanis (ΠΙΕΤΡΟΣ Π. ΤΑΤΑΝΗΣ a.k.a. Petros Panagos Tatanis), was born in Amalias (Amaliada), Prefecture of Elias in Greece. His exact date of birth is questionable. According to his Petition for US Passport Application dated 6/30/1924, his date of birth is listed as August 20, 1885. His World War I and World War II Draft Registration Cards on the other hand, list his date of birth as July 20, 1885.

Despite being a very important figure in Greek-American history, very little material exists on Tatanis.

He arrived in the United States in July 1905, from Marseilles, France, disembarking in New York City where he lived the rest of his life.

Soon thereafter, he began making his fortune as an agent in New York City for the Caracanda Brothers of Alexandria, Egypt, (coffee merchants), dealing with the Import-Export of coffee and other goods. In 1906, the office was located at 102 Wall Street, New York, New York.

Aside from working in New York City for the Caracanda Brothers, Tatanis was very active in the Greek Cause, as one of the founding members, and also serving as General Secretary, of the Pan-Hellenic Union (the first national Greek organization in America, established in 1907 and lasting until sometime during World War I). Although the research conducted, until the date this article was written, did not disclose when, and for how long he was General Secretary, articles from New York newspapers show that he was General Secretary in at least the years 1914, 1915 and 1916.

During that period, Greek politics was a topic of great importance among the Greeks in America. Greece, along with the Greeks living in the United States, was divided into two camps, the first being supporters of Prime Minister Eleutherios Venizelos (Venizelists), and the second being supporters of King Constantine of Greece (Royalists). The Royalist faction backed the king and wanted Greece to remain neutral, while the Venizelists backed Venizelos and wanted Greece to enter World War I on the side of the Allies.

Two big supporters of King Constantine, and active Royalists, were the brothers Solon J. and Demetrius J. Vlasto, who founded the *Atlantis* newspaper in 1894. The *Atlantis* was a Greek language newspaper, which became a daily in 1903 and was used as an organ of the Royalist party. The *Atlantis* stopped printing in 1973.

Tatanis on the other hand, was an immense supporter of Venizelos in the United States. Not only did he organize many functions in New York City in support of Venizelos, he also sent his written opinions about Venizelos, and other topics of Greek interests, to New York newspapers such as *The New York Times* and *The New York Herald*, to be published.

The passionate support by the Vlasto Brothers and Tatanis, for their respective beliefs, caused them to clash on numerous occasions, and even end up in court due to libel lawsuits.

By April 1915, Tatanis' support for Venizelos was taken one step further when he accumulated \$100,000.00 (\$2,170,089.11 in 2011 value), to launch the *Ethnikos Kyriks* (a.k.a. *Ethnikos Kyrix* / *Εθνικός Κήρυξ*), in Manhattan, as an alternative to the popular Royalist newspaper *Atlantis*. The paper began its publication on April 2, 1915. According to an article written by Angelike Contis titled "*The Front Page*", the very first front page of the *Ethnikos Kyrix* was titled "*Venizelos Interview with Ethnikos Kyriks: He Would Have Made Greece Equal to Italy.*" The article discussed the newspaper's backing of Venizelos, who had been forced to resign as Prime Minister of Greece. Furthermore, the paper's name, logo, and font were borrowed from Venizelos' own newspaper in Hania, Crete, "*The Kyrix*".

Aside from the daily newspaper, Tatanis organized "*The Enossis Publishing Company Inc.*" through which he published "*Panathenaea*", a literary magazine, and the newspaper's magazine, "*The National Herald Monthly*".

In addition, through *Enossis*, he published the "*English-Greek, Greek-English pocket dictionary of the National Herald*" in 1917; The Greek edition of the first three *Fu-Manchu* books by Rohmer (Sax) [pseudonym of Arthur Sarsfield Ward] in 1920 with the titles *The Insidious Dr. Fu-Manchu*, *The Return of Dr. Fu-Manchu* and *The Hand of*

Fu-Manchu; the Greek edition of Sax Rohmer's *Egyptian Mysteries - Tales of Secret Egypt*; *The Yellow Claw*; and many other works which were translated to Greek.

Tatanis helped promote United States citizenship among Greek immigrants, through guidebooks published by *The National Herald* and through the newspaper's magazine, *The National Herald Monthly*.

Among the honors Tatanis received, according to an article in the February 15, 1919 edition of *The New York Herald*, the Greek government bestowed upon Tatanis, the decorations of the "Order of the Redeemer" and the "Golden Cross of the Order of St. George" for his services to the cause of Greece and the Allies during WWI.

By 1929, and as a result of the stock market crash, Tatanis lost his fortune. According to the *Ethnikos Kyrix* – 96th Anniversary article, by 1933 Tatanis was in a state of bankruptcy where not only was he forced to sell the *Ethnikos Kyrix*, but he was also evicted from his apartment in Manhattan.

Despite selling the *Ethnikos Kyrix* to Euripides Kehagias in 1933, Tatanis continued to direct its affairs until 1939. Even after 1939, Tatanis continued to consider himself as a part of the *Ethnikos Kyrix*. More specifically, he lists as "Employer's name and address – Greek Herald 140 West 26 Street, NY, NY" in his US World War II Draft Card dated 4/26/1942.

He passed away on 12/27/1959 of a heart attack at the age of 75, while at his home located on 20 East Thirty-Fifth Street, NY. He was survived by his two brothers, Nicholas and Dr. George Tatanis of Athens, and two sisters, the Misses Theodora and Angeliki Tatanis.

His funeral service was held at the church he helped found "Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity" located at 319 East 74th Street, Manhattan, New York.

Along with this research on Tatanis' life, which began in 2011, members of the Paneliakos Society of NY (including Constantinos Lycoyannis), searched various sources and discovered that Tatanis' grave site is located at the Cedar Grove Cemetery 130-04 Horace Harding Expressway Flushing, NY 11367, Block: LIN - Lot: 110 - Grave: 2B. Upon Mr. Lycoyannis visit to the grave site, it was discovered that there was neither a headstone, nor any marker whatsoever designating Tatanis' burial site.

Led by the efforts of Mr. Lycoyannis, and through donations by the Paneliakos Society of New York and its members, the *Ethnikos Kyrix* and other individuals and entities, a headstone was constructed and erected for Tatanis in late 2012.

On December 02, 2012, a "Mnimosino" was held for Tatanis at Holy Cross in Whitestone. That was followed by a "Trisagion" at Tatanis' grave in Cedar Grove Cemetery, which was led by Fr. Ierotheos Markopoulos. In attendance were members of the Panelian Federation of USA & Canada including its President Anthony Papadopoulos; members of the Paneliakos Society of NY including its President Sotirios Konstantakopoulos; and others. The new headstone was blessed and officially revealed on that day. At last, there was to be a fitting headstone for a prominent Greek American.

On April 02, 2015, the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the *Ethnikos Kyrix*, a "Trisagion" took place at the grave of Petros Tatanis led by Fr. Nektarios Papazafiropoulos. In attendance were the Consuls Generals of Greece and Cyprus, Ambassadors George Iliopoulos and Vasilios Philippou; Manos Koumbarakis, the Greek Consul; members of the Panelian Federation of USA & Canada including its President Anthony Papadopoulos; members of the Paneliakos Society of NY including its President Sotirios Konstantakopoulos; the editor of the *Ethnikos Kyrix* Antonis Diamantaris, and others.

On May 22, 2015 the Mayor of Ilida Christos Christodouloupoulos, while in New York City in order to attend the 100th Anniversary Gala of the *Ethnikos Kyrix* at the Grand Central Library in Manhattan, paid his respects at Tatanis' grave. That "Trisagion" was led by the V. Rev. Archimandrite Ierotheos Zacharis. As a symbolic gesture, the Mayor brought soil from the gravesite of Tatanis' parents in Amaliada, and scattered it on Tatanis' grave. Among those in attendance were members of the Panelian Federation of USA & Canada including its President Anthony Papadopoulos; members of the Paneliakos Society of NY including its President Sotirios Konstantakopoulos; Sophia Varouxis from the *Patris Pyrgou* newspaper; and others.

AN AMERICAN PHILHELLENE: DANIEL WEBSTER

In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Greek War of Independence (1821–2021), HAP is featuring American Philhellenes and their contributions.

Daniel Webster (January 18, 1782 – October 24, 1852) was an American lawyer and statesman who served as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, United States Senator, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, and 14th and 19th United States Secretary of State. Webster was born in Salisbury, New Hampshire to Ebenezer and Abigail Webster. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy and Dartmouth College. He graduated Dartmouth in 1801 and apprenticed under lawyer Thomas W. Thompson. In 1805 he was admitted to the bar and set up a legal practice in New Hampshire.

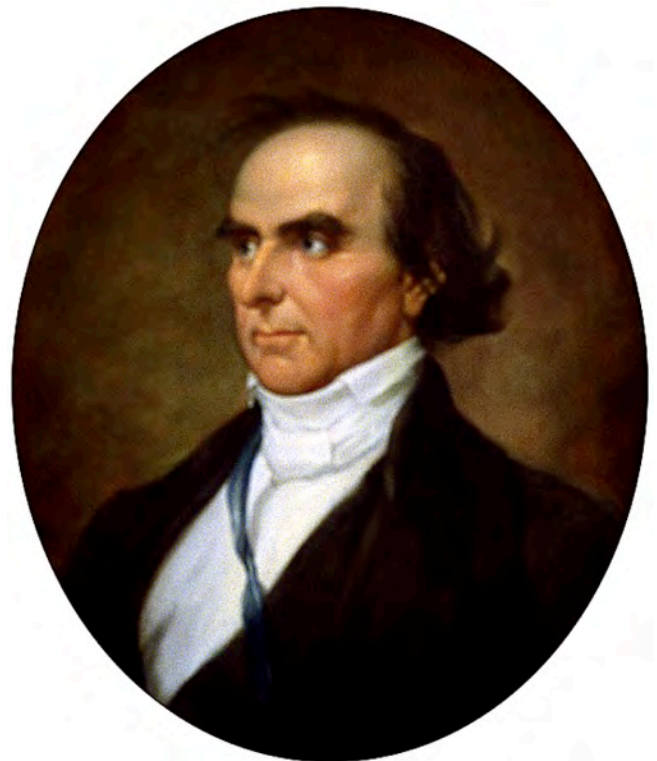
Already a leading lawyer and a talented orator, on December 8, 1823 during the 1823-1824 18th Congress, 1st Session, U.S. Representative Daniel Webster of Massachusetts introduced a Resolution in the House of Representatives to support Greece's struggle for independence: "That provision ought to be made, by law, for defraying the expense incident to the appointment of an agent, or commissioner, to Greece, whenever the President shall deem it expedient to make such an appointment."

Six weeks later, on January 19, 1824, Webster gave his first deliberate speech in Congress in six years. He gave a resonating speech in defense of his proposal. Stressing both national interests that were in jeopardy if the United States gave in to threats from the Holy Alliance and humanitarian concerns especially relating to the Chios Massacre (April 1822). The response was mixed, as Weber anticipated. After nearly a week of debating, the resolution was lost without coming to a vote.

All the while, Webster corresponded about the Greek cause with friend and fellow Philhellene Edward Everett. He was a constant reader of Everett's articles on Greece that appeared in the *North American Review*.

While Webster's resolution did not come to pass, his speech, like the speeches of other statesmen, garnered public support for the Greek cause. This cannot be underestimated as relief committees were organized in major cities across the United States.

Webster died at his Mansfield estate on October 24, 1852 due to cirrhosis of the liver and a subdural hematoma. Webster, a town in Monroe County, New York, was named for him, a statue of Webster stands at 72nd Street in Central Park, New York City, and there are other namesakes in several states.



Daniel Webster by Adrian S. Lamb
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An excerpt from WHAT WORK IS

We stand in the rain in a long line
 waiting at Ford Highland Park. For work.
 You know what work is—if you're
 old enough to read this you know what
 work is, although you may not do it.
 Forget you. This is about waiting,
 shifting from one foot to another.
 Feeling the light rain falling like mist
 into your hair, blurring your vision
 until you think you see your own brother
 ahead of you, maybe ten places...
 How long has it been since you told him
 you loved him, held his wide shoulders,
 opened your eyes wide and said those words,
 and maybe kissed his cheek? You've never
 done something so simple, so obvious,
 not because you're too young or too dumb,
 not because you're jealous or even mean
 or incapable of crying in
 the presence of another man, no,
 just because you don't know what work is.

Phillip Levine

ASTORIA

Astoria is
 a cut apple.

A half-sliced dream
 that simmers
 in a blackened stewpot
 ever in the voracious
 yellow sky
 with the mute smokestacks
 and the rusted ships.

And the other half
 always travels
 with bent tongues
 to sunken isles
 and broken columns.

Nicos Alexiou, *The Silver Sphinx* (2019)

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HAP NEWS

- ❖ A special thanks to Anthony Papadopoulos for sharing his materials about Petros P. Tatanis.
- ❖ Grigoris Maninakis generously donated the vinyl record *Cafe Aman Amerika* to the HAP Archive. Grigoris Maninakis is the leader of the Mikrokosmos Ensemble and has been involved with Greek music for over 30 years.
- ❖ HAP is interested in donations of artifacts that will help tell the story of Greek Americans. Objects, manuscripts, correspondence, organizational or business records, photographs, and family histories that enhance or develop the collection. If you have items that you believe would add to the collections of HAP, please email us at hap.soc@qc.cuny.edu with a full description. An attached image and/or inventory of the item(s) you wish to donate is appreciated.
- ❖ HAP is conducting Oral History interviews during COVID-19. Click [here](#) to access the interviews.
- ❖ HAP is 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization located in Queens Hall, on the Queens College, CUNY campus. All monetary donations are welcome and go towards ongoing interviews and digitization of materials to continue documenting the Greek American community. Click [here](#) to make your donation.