



*Office of the Supreme President*

Date: March 23, 2016

To: AHEPA Supreme Governors  
AHEPA District Governors

Brother Governors,

During World War I Private George Dilboy, an American soldier whose Greek parents hailed from Asia Minor was serving in France. His extraordinary heroism during one intense ground battle cost him his life and earned him the Medal of Honor. Private Dilboy is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Every Memorial Day since 1949, members of Washington Area AHEPA Chapters and Hellenic organizations visit his gravesite along with 550 other gravesites of Greek Americans to lay a commemorative wreath, offer a brief prayer and pay special tribute to their sacrifice for our country.

This event was discussed during a recent visitation in Washington along with the discovery that there are a total of 147 National Cemeteries spread throughout the country. I am confident that many of the soldiers, sailors and airmen buried in these sites are of Hellenic origin, who deserve similar recognition and tribute. As Americans, we can spearhead an effort to honor them by initiating Memorial Day wreath laying for Greek Americans at all of our National Cemeteries.

We are asking each District Governor to work with our Supreme Governors to identify National Cemeteries in their District, ask his Chapters to adopt a cemetery, identify the gravesites of Greek Americans interred therein and organize Wreath Laying on Memorial Day. A Listing of the National Cemeteries is attached along with a recommended Procedural Checklist and a Briefing packet used by the Washington Area Chapters.

We are working with the AHEPA Veteran Committee to coordinate efforts to achieve this goal. This is a very worthy project and one which requires your immediate attention.

Points of Contact for this project are:

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***WE HONOR THOSE WHO DEFENDED OUR COUNTRY.***

Fraternally,

John W. Galanis  
Supreme President

*AHEPA is the largest and oldest Greek American organization with more than 500 chartered chapters across the United States, Canada, Greece, and Cyprus; and with sister chapters in Australia and New Zealand. Founded in 1922 to protect Greek-Americans from the evils of bigotry, its mission is to promote the ideals of Hellenism, philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence.*