

AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

# CIGAR NIGHT

15th ANNUAL

GARDEN STATE CHAPTER #517  
HOLMDEL, NEW JERSEY

May 6, 2026



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for all the years of support*

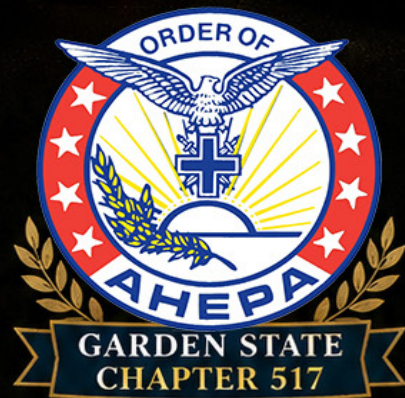
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SAVE  
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DATE

3RD ANNUAL  
CASINO  
*Night*

★ FUND RAISER ★

HOSTED BY  
AHEPA GARDEN STATE  
CHAPTER 517



★ JANUARY 2027 ★

♥ ♣ EXACT DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED ♠ ♦

*More details to follow!*





Dear Brothers and Friends of AHEPA,

We are proud to celebrate AHEPA's Garden State Chapter #517 event and are truly delighted to have you join us for this long-awaited occasion. Your presence makes this evening especially meaningful, and we warmly welcome you.

Your generous support has been instrumental in advancing AHEPA's national initiative, the Service Dogs for Warriors program. First introduced at the 2016 National Convention, this initiative was met with deep emotion and pride. It continues to raise vital funds to provide service dogs for wounded veterans coping with PTSD, helping them regain independence and improve their quality of life.

In addition, your contributions enable us to support a range of philanthropic organizations, including the Ronald McDonald House, the AHEPA District 5 Cancer Research Foundation, and Fulfill of Monmouth and Ocean Counties Food Bank, among others. We are also proud to award educational scholarships to deserving students, helping to support their academic goals, Hellenistic ideals and invest in the future of our community.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors who generously supported this event by placing ads in our journal. Their contributions play a vital role in helping our chapter fulfill its mission, and we encourage you to support them with your patronage in return.

Special thanks to the Grand Marquis for hosting this event and for providing exceptional food and service, contributing to an unforgettable evening.

We would also like to recognize the brothers of Chapter #517 for their dedication, generosity, and hard work in organizing this memorable event.

On behalf of AHEPA Garden State Chapter #517, thank you for joining us, for your continued support, and for helping make this evening a resounding success.

Respectfully,

*Bill Parlamis* – Co – Chairman

*Kostas Koufidis* – Co-Chairman

*George Scoullas* – Co-Chairman

*Dimitri Dimitriadis* – Co-Chairman

*Demetri Orfanitopoulos* – Co-Chairman

*Paul Belitsis* – Co-Chairman



## AHEPA GARDEN STATE 517 FOUNDATION

May 6, 2026

Dear Friends, Guests and Supporters,

On behalf of our AHEPA Chapter 517, it is my pleasure and honor to warmly welcome you to our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Cigar Night and Networking Event, which is our Chapter's most anticipated event of the year. This evening is about more than just enjoying a fine cigar—it is about fellowship, tradition, and the strengthening of the bonds that unite us as members and friends of AHEPA. Whether you are a longtime supporter or joining us for the first time, we are truly glad to have you here.

Tonight offers an opportunity to relax, connect, and share in good conversation among a community built on the values of Hellenism, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and brotherhood. We hope you enjoy the atmosphere, the camaraderie, and the spirit of the evening along with the amazing food and drinks, entertainment and prize raffles.

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who helped organize this event and to all of you for your continued support of Chapter 517. Your presence helps sustain and grow the mission we are proud to carry forward. Your charitable contributions to this event and throughout the year make it possible for us to support our various charities and help meet our philanthropic goals. Some of the wonderful charities that we support with your help include AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors, The Ronald McDonald House, St. Basil Academy, Fulfill Food Bank of Monmouth County, The AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, St. Michael's Senior Home, The Cyprus Children's Fund, Journey to Greece and various local community causes.

None of what we do is possible without the hard work, time and dedication of our chapter's members and I would be remiss to not acknowledge their service. I would like to thank and acknowledge the rest of our board members, the chairmen of this event and all the brothers who have volunteered and donated their time and efforts to make our Cigar Night the great success it has been for the past 14 years!

Now sit back, grab a bite, have a drink, smoke a cigar and enjoy the evening and make it a memorable one.

With warm regards,

*Steve Anastasatos*

Steve Anastasatos  
President – AHEPA Chapter #517

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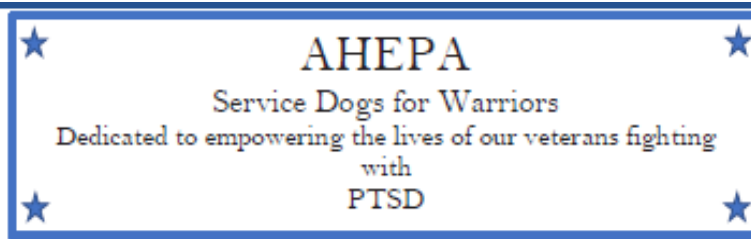
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Even though November 11th is officially Veterans Day, honoring our veterans shouldn't be limited to just one day. We should show gratitude every day to those who have kept us safe and defended the country we cherish. To me, every day is Veterans Day—when you see a veteran, take a moment to thank them.

The service dog program within AHEPA became a reality through **AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors (ASDW) (<https://ahepa-servicedogs.org/>)**. We are affiliated with the nation's oldest Hellenic organization, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) (<https://ahepa.org>).

In 2016, ASDW was established under the leadership of Chairman and veteran George Karatzia. With the support of board members and trustees, the organization has raised over \$1.8 million dollars, funding more than 250 service dogs for veterans living with PTSD. The success of ASDW is made possible by the generous sponsors and donors across the country who continue to support its mission. It is both an honor and a responsibility to serve those who have served us, and that commitment must continue.

ASDW focuses on assisting veterans with PTSD by providing highly trained service dogs sourced through America's VetDogs. We work closely to ensure each veteran is thoughtfully matched with the right service dog, forming a life-changing partnership. Sponsors and donors are able to follow each dog's journey through updates and photos as they progress in training. Our website, currently a work in progress, highlights these stories and milestones. Through the AHEPA Service Dogs website ([ahepa-servicedogs.org](https://ahepa-servicedogs.org)), individuals can complete a sponsorship or donation form online or print one to share. Donors who fully sponsor a dog have the special opportunity to name it—whether in honor of someone or simply a meaningful name of their choosing. The full process, from funding to placement with a veteran, typically takes between 18 months and two years.

Many of our nation's heroes return home physically, but mentally remain on the battlefield, burdened by invisible wounds. Too often, this struggle leads to devastating outcomes, with an estimated 22 veterans per day lost to suicide. Service dogs offer hope, healing, and companionship—providing veterans with renewed purpose and a trusted partner on their path forward.

As American patriots, we are deeply grateful for the dedication and sacrifice shown by our veterans every day. Through meaningful actions—not just words—we strive to make every day a day of recognition by pairing heroes facing PTSD with life-changing service dogs.



# **GARDEN STATE - CHAPTER # 517 - FOUNDED - APRIL 15, 1995**

## **CHAPTER PRESIDENTS**

1995 – 1997	<i>Paul Stamoulis</i>
1997 – 1999	<i>Zack Moros</i>
1999 – 2000	<i>Dimitri Geaneas</i>
2000 – 2002	<i>George Karatzia</i>
2002 – 2004	<i>Bill Parlamis</i>
2004 – 2005	<i>Theo Hadjitheodosiou</i>
2005 – 2007	<i>Jim Nikitopoulos</i>
2007 – 2009	<i>George Katsingris</i>
2009 – 2011	<i>Gregory Ploussas</i>
2011 – 2015	<i>Robert Fourniadis</i>
2015 – 2021	<i>Demetri Orfanitopoulos</i>
2021– 2023	<i>Dimitri Dimitriades</i>
2023– 2025	<i>Paul Zafiriou</i>
2025– current	<i>Steve Anastasatos</i>

## **AHEPAN OF THE YEAR**

2001	<i>Paul Stamoulis</i>
2002	<i>Father James Chakalos</i>
2003	<i>Gregory Ploussas</i>
2004	<i>Bill Parlamis</i>
2005	<i>Theo Hadjitheodosiou</i>
2007	<i>George Karatzia</i>
2008	<i>Jim Nikitopoulos</i>
2009	<i>George Katsingris</i>
2010	<i>Steve Bontales</i>
2012	<i>Robert Fourniadis</i>
2014	<i>Demetri Orfanitopoulos</i>
2015	<i>Artie Wassif</i>
2016	<i>Florio Petrou</i>
2017	<i>George Karatzia</i>
2018	<i>Nick Plakoudas</i>
2019	<i>Michael Simon, MD</i>
2021	<i>Loucas Sofocli</i>
2022	<i>Luke Loucopoulos</i>
2023	<i>Tom Protentis</i>
2024	<i>Dimitri Dimitriadis</i>
2025	<i>Paul Zafiru</i>



## **AHEPA Garden State Chapter 517 Deceased Brothers**



*Richard Bolton*

*Robert Bucco*

*Father Jim Chakalos*

*John Colligas*

*Ted Countouroudas*

*Alex Fourniadis*

*Nick Frangos*

*Socrates Gavalas*

*Charles Gavaris*

*Peter Homatopoulos*

*Vasillios Kalomiris*

*George Katsingris*

*John Mookas*

*Danny Pappas*

*Costas Phillipou*

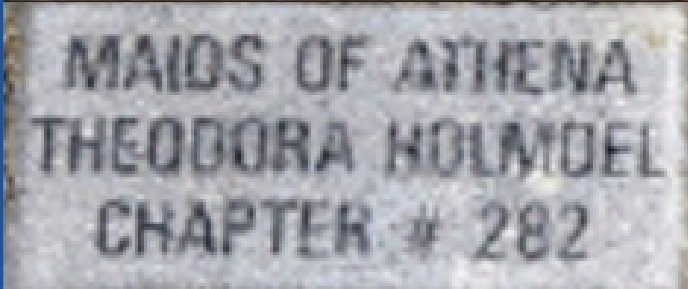
*John Sanoudis*

*Hercules Stamoulis*

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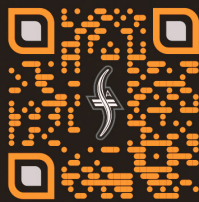
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**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Cigar Night**



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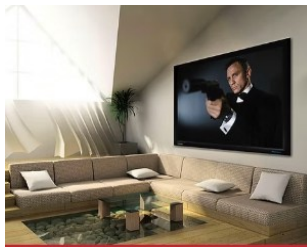
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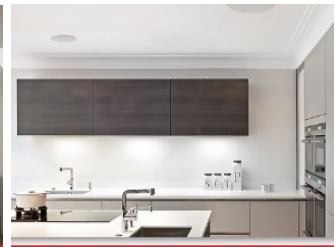
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*For more information, please contact:*

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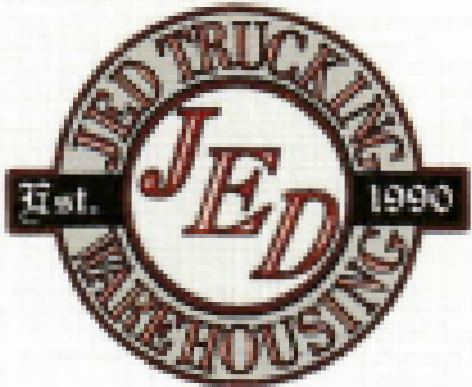
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Garden State - Holmdel, NJ

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**A warm Thanks to our Brothers in our chapter # 517 who have contributed to the success of our Chapter's Cigar Night !**

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