

78th Annual Convention

Sirata Beach Resort
St. Petersburg, FL
August 7 - 9, 2026

Hosted by
Albanian American
National Organization

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AND GREAT FOOD.

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BANQUET *Program*

6 pm - 7 pm

Cocktail Reception

7 pm

Dinner Program

Anthems

- Star Spangled Banner sung by Altea Ali
- Hymni I Flamurit
- O Canada

Invocation

Introduction

- National Officers, Past Presidents & Past AANO Queens

Speakers

- National President - Jana Foundos
- National Queen- Allonja Wilson

Scholarship Award Presentations

- Christina Foundos

Honoree Award Presentations

- Lifetime Achievement - Besnika Zelka
- Community Service - Bekim Murati

After Dinner - Midnight

Dance to music & entertainment by:
DJ Albus, Flamu Bicaku and Gerta Tafa

Midnight - 2 am

After-Hours at Rum Runners
5848 Cape Harbour Dr, Cape Coral, FL

National PRESIDENTS

1946 - 1947	Vincent L. Theodos
1947 - 1949	Thomas Detskas
1949 - 1950	Dr. Augustus Valauri
1950 - 1951	Castor Notskas
1951 - 1953	Piro Spiro
1953 - 1954	Thomas Detskas
1954 - 1955	Castor Notskas
1955 - 1956	George Vasil
1956 - 1957	Peter Mallios
1957 - 1958	Piro Spiro
1958 - 1959	Peter Borzuku
1959 - 1961	Peter Theodos
1961 - 1964	Demetri Plasari
1964 - 1966	R. Norman Peters
1966 - 1968	James Lukes
1968 - 1969	Paul Costa
1969 - 1971	Louis (Ilia) Foundos
1971 - 1974	Constantine Pillary
1974 - 1977	Louis Pero
1977 - 1978	Nicholas Leacu
1978 - 1981	Paul Apostol
1981 - 1983	John Anas
1983 - 1986	Richard Rafail
1986 - 1989	Luan Banka
1989 -1994	Andrew Tanacea
1994 - 1995	Irene V. Lepi
1995 -1997	Jonathan Michael
1997 - 1998	Mary Anastas Tona
1998 -2000	Julia Black
2000 - 2004	Philip Christo
2004 -2006	Julia Black
2006 -2008	John Lulgjuraj
2008 -2010	Harry Merty
2010 - 2013	Ferit Nazarko
2013 -2015	John Lulgjuraj
2015 - 2017	Julia Black
2017 -2021	John Lulgjuraj
2021 - 2022	Lea Bitta
2022-2026	Johanna Foundos

National President's MESSAGE



Welcome to the 78th National Convention as we proudly celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Albanian American National Organization (AANO)!

For eight decades, AANO has been dedicated to preserving our Albanian heritage, promoting education, strengthening our communities, and inspiring future generations. As we honor this historic milestone, we also celebrate those who exemplify our mission.

This year, we proudly present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Besnike Zelka for her extraordinary dedication to preserving Albania's rich cultural heritage through authentic folk costumes. We also honor Bekim Murati with the Community Service Award for his unwavering commitment to teaching Albanian traditional dance to our youth.

Additionally, the AANO is proud to have awarded 13 scholarships this year, investing in the future of our community.

Thank you to our sponsors, members, volunteers, and donors for your continued support. I invite you to become involved, support our Scholarship Fund, and help ensure AANO's legacy continues for generations to come.

Together, let us celebrate our past, embrace our present, and build an even brighter future.

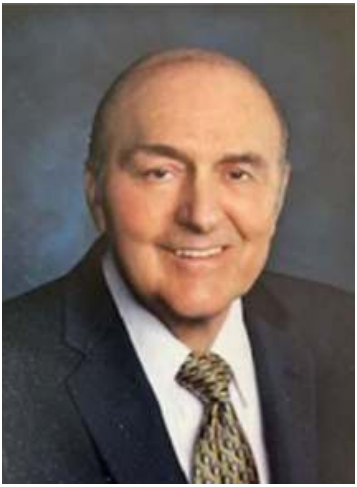
With gratitude and Albanian pride,

Johanna Foundos
prezaano@gmail.com

In Loving Memory

Perry R. Pero

July 1, 1939- May 19, 2022



To a successful

78th AANO Annual National Convention

St. Petersburg, Florida

The Pero Family

Diane Pero

Oak Brook, Illinois

Arthur, Lauren, Ava, and Mila Pero

Oak Park, Illinois

Alexis Pero and Austin Burroughs, Audrey Burroughs

Raleigh, North Carolina



Lifetime Achievement AWARD

BESNIKE ZELKA

A Lifetime Devoted to Authentic Albanian Folk Costumes

Since the early 1980s, Besnike has passionately traveled across Albania, seeking out hidden treasures of cultural heritage. Her relentless pursuit has led to the creation of a stunning collection of authentic folk costumes and relics that truly celebrate the spirit of Albanian tradition.

Today, her spectacular collection not only captivates the hearts of Albanians at home but also dazzles those living abroad, igniting a deep pride in their rich heritage.





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Ndihmojmë Korçarët

Global Albanians Foundation
Korçarët Ndihmojmë Korçarët
The First Community Foundation in Albania

germin

Germin
OriginAL Program
Albanian Diaspora Youth Finding Their Roots

ORIGINAL
FIND YOUR ROOTS

Community Service AWARD



Bekim Murati

Bekim Murati is a dedicated educator and passionate advocate for preserving and promoting Albanian cultural heritage. He graduated from Liceu Artistik i Arteve in 1983 and later earned a Master's Degree in Political Science in 2016. From 1987 to 1994, he served as a professor at Liceu Artistik i Arteve, where he inspired and mentored countless students through his commitment to education and the arts. He also served in public administration as the General Director of Local Government from 2014 to 2020, contributing to the development of local communities through effective leadership and public service.

Beyond his professional career, Bekim has remained deeply committed to preserving Albanian traditions, particularly through valle (traditional Albanian folk dance). He enjoys teaching both children and adults, believing that cultural traditions help strengthen community, identity, and pride across generations. For nearly two years, he has volunteered his time every Saturday to lead folk dance classes, creating a welcoming environment where participants can learn, connect, and celebrate their heritage. His dedication continues today, reflecting his lifelong passion for education, culture, and community engagement. Through his leadership and enthusiasm, Bekim inspires others to embrace and preserve Albanian traditions for future generations.

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We salute the AANO for its dedicated effort
to serve the Albanian American community!!
Our hopes are that our youth, our future,
holds on to our heritage and takes pride in it.



The AANO has provided our family
with many years of good fellowship,
wonderful memories and lifelong friends.

The Foundos Family

Lou, Linda, Steve and Lauren

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Congratulations to the Honorees and Scholarship winners!

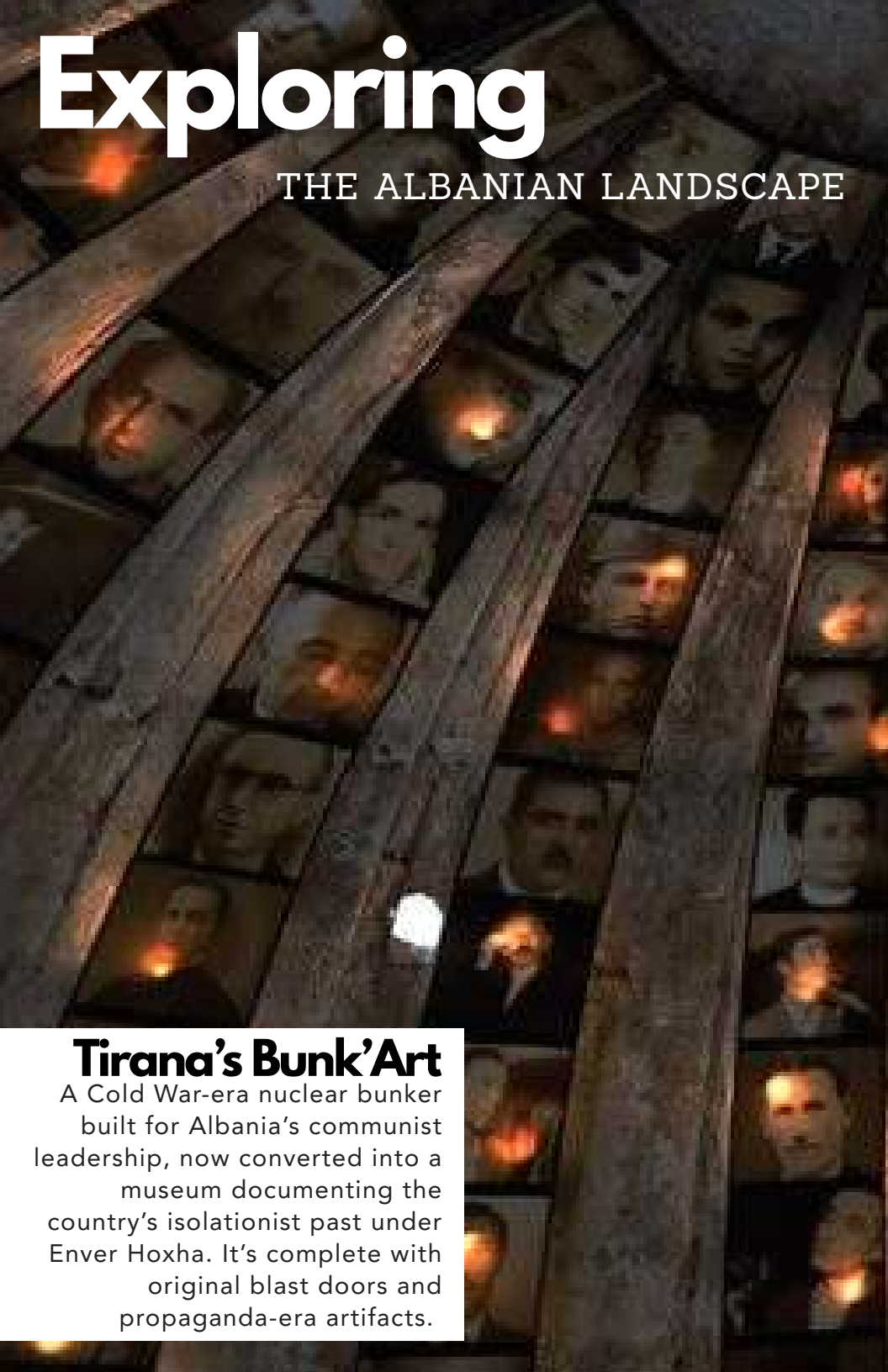


THE FOUNDOS FAMILY

Phil, Jana, Christina, Andrew, Nicholas

Exploring

THE ALBANIAN LANDSCAPE



Tirana's Bunk'Art

A Cold War-era nuclear bunker built for Albania's communist leadership, now converted into a museum documenting the country's isolationist past under Enver Hoxha. It's complete with original blast doors and propaganda-era artifacts.

ALBANIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK *Chapter*

EST. 1946 | COMMUNITY • CULTURE • HERITAGE • PROGRESS



BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY.
EMPOWERING FUTURE GENERATIONS.

PROUD OF OUR HERITAGE.
COMMITTED TO OUR FUTURE.

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United by our values and driven by our mission, our Executive Board is dedicated to serving the Albanian American community in New York and beyond.

ALBANIAN-AMERICAN STUDENT SUMMIT

THE FLAGSHIP EVENT OF OUR CHAPTER

EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS | EDUCATION & MENTORSHIP | NETWORKING & COLLABORATION | LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION

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Bringing together students, professionals, and leaders for a day of inspiration, education, and networking.



NEXT GENERATION. BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2026

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NEW YORK, NY

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aano_usa
New York Albanian American National Organization

HONORING OUR PAST.
BUILDING OUR FUTURE.
For the Community. For the Next Generation.

Congratulations

TO THE **AANO** ON ITS

78TH ANNUAL CONVENTION!



Congratulations TO

MIA & KEVIN

ON THEIR ENGAGEMENT

Për shumë vjet!

The Orlow Family

In loving memory of Gus and Alfreda Gorguze,
We are proud of our Albanian heritage and cherish our fond A.A.N.O. memories!



Congratulations AANO National on the 78th AANO Convention!

William and Gayle Orlow and Family
Tom and DiAnn Gorguze and Family
Amy Gorguze da Silva and Family

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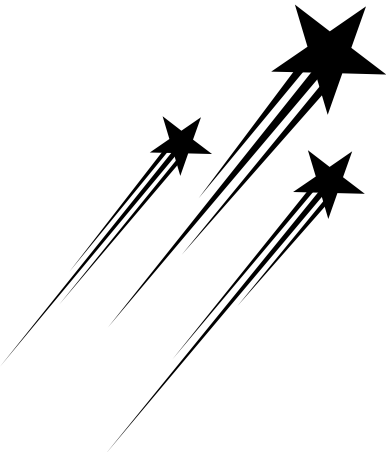
aanoscholarship@gmail.com

OASIS HUMIDIFICATION

Gezuar to AANO National
on the 78th annual convention!!



Congratulations to
the Honorees
on the well-
deserved
recognition!

Donna Fundo-Oswald
Jim Oswald

Christine Fundo-Beno
Tomi Beno

Best wishes as you celebrate your 78th Convention!

Per shume vjet gëzuar!



Everett Harris & Co.
Investment Counsel
mfoundos@everettharris.com
(858) 914-4100 San Diego, CA

The Foundos Family
Mark, Amy, James and Evan
San Diego, California

The Albanian Orthodox Mission of Central Florida congratulates the AANO on a successful 78th Annual National Convention!



Urimet më të mira për suksese të vazhdueshme!

In Loving Memory of Nicholas Adams



Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, and Korean War Veteran.

With love,

Wife
Marion Adams

Children
Matthew & Susan Adams
Christopher & Debbie Adams
Johanna & Phillip Foundos

Great Grand Daughter
Sophia Adams

Grandchildren
Matthew Adams
Brooke (Tharpe) Adams
Brooke Adams
Nicholas Adams
Christian Adams
Andrew Foundos
Nicholas Foundos

In Loving Memory of
Albert & Joan Foundos



We're looking forward to celebrating another amazing year with the AANO!

With much love,

Kim Villa,
Dan and Alex Oswald

Matt, Christina, Andrew,
and Nicholas Foundos

James and Daniela Beno

May God continue to bless the good works of the AANO for many years, especially in your efforts assisting students to further their education and embracing the Albanian community.

Urime to the Honorees and the Scholarship Recipients.
Kudos to AANO National for hosting a beautiful event.



St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
Fr. Nicholas Skhulukhia, Pastor

181-14 Midland Parkway
Jamaica Estates, NY 11432

AANO History

The Albanian American National Organization (A.A.N.O.) was founded to unite and empower Albanian-Americans through community, culture, and education. Its origins trace back to December 15, 1946, when 27 Albanian-American youth from nine cities met at St. Nicholas Church Hall in New York City. Their goal was to foster unity, preserve Albanian heritage, and promote cultural, social, and educational advancement.

In 1947, the first official convention was held in Philadelphia, where the organization (then called the American-Albanian Youth Organization) adopted its constitution. Over time, annual conventions expanded to cities across the U.S. and grew in attendance and importance.

A major milestone was the establishment of the A.A.N.O. Scholarship Fund in 1950, under the guiding principle:
"*Sa më tepër Shqiptar të edukuar jemi, sa më tepër Shqiptar jemi ne.*"
(The more educated Albanians we are, the more Albanian we become.)

Scholarships helped Albanian youth advance into professional fields like medicine, law, science, and government. The first awards were given in 1955.

The A.A.N.O. has thrived due to the tireless efforts of volunteers, from national leaders to local chapter members. Events such as conventions, tournaments, queen pageants, cultural weekends, and scholarship initiatives have kept the organization vibrant.

The Annual Convention is the organization's centerpiece—an event that brings together members from across North America. Highlights include the 50th Convention in Cape Cod and the 60th Convention in Tirana, Albania, attended by over 400 people tracing their roots and celebrating their heritage.

The A.A.N.O., chartered in New York in 1951, has had chapters in cities such as Albany, Boston, Bridgeport, Chicago, Detroit, New York, Toronto, and Worcester. Former chapters included Jamestown, Southbridge, Washington, and others.

In the 1990s, with the opening of Albania's borders, new immigrants joined the A.A.N.O., received support, and contributed to its mission. The organization remains committed to welcoming new generations and sustaining Albanian identity in North America.

The A.A.N.O. stands as a symbol of unity, heritage, and progress for Albanian-Americans. As it looks toward its 100th anniversary, it remains dedicated to its founding values of education, cultural preservation, and community service.

Best Wishes to everyone at the 78th AANO Convention!

In Loving Memory of our Beloved Husband, Father, & Grandfather

LOUIS R. PERO

(1945-2020)



Lou was a lifetime member of the AANO, holding many positions in the local Worcester chapter and at the national level, serving as the National President from 1974 to 1977, and awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. He was truly dedicated to the organization to foster and preserve Albanian friendships, culture, and scholarship.

Barbara Pero
Steven Pero and Heather Panagiotou
Michelle, Charlie and Sophia Vasil
John, Stephanie, David and Matthew Fournier

Worcester, Massachusetts

Since 1946, the Albanian-American National Organization (AANO) has been perpetuating the Albanian ethnic identity in the United States and Canada. With no religious or political affiliation, the objectives of the AANO are to maintain Albanian traditions and language and to engage in cultural, educational, and social activities.

OUR *Mission*

- Perpetuate our ethnic identity in America and Canada.
- Provide scholarships to students of Albanian descent.
- Educate people about Albanian history and literature.
- Maintain Albanian traditions.
- Preserve the Albanian language.
- Establish fellowship.
- Develop friendships.
- Instill pride in our roots.

TRUMBETA *Shqiptare*

The Trumbeta Shqiptare is the official AANO publication mailed to all AANO members. Through it, members exchange news and events from chapter to chapter. The Trumbeta also includes ethnic songs, recipes, historical and educational articles regarding language and literature and much more.

SCHOLARSHIP *Fund*

Our youth is our future. The education of our youth is of the greatest importance. For this purpose, the AANO Scholarship Fund was founded in 1950 to support the educational pursuits of students of Albanian descent.

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Congratulations to the National on hosting the 2026 AANO Convention



With Love,

Richard Rafail
Samantha and BJ Gobena Quinn
Damien and Jordan
Stephanie and William Angarano
Valentina and Giavella

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Congratulations

to AANO National on the 78th Annual Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida on August 7, 8 and 9, 2026.

In Loving Memory of and to Honor Our Family

Louis (Xheka) Apostol 1902 - 1992
Born in Vithkuq, Korce
Lifetime AANO Member

Elnor (Engwer) Apostol 1919 - 1994
Primary founder of the AANO Albany Chapter
Lifetime AANO Member

Dhimitra (Xheka) Kita 1928 - 2016

Janet (Apostol) Baloglou 1939 - 2020

Alexandra (Apostol) Lemoine 1944 - 2022

Louise (Apostol) Mabin 1947 - 2022

Paul Apostol 1946 - Present
Lifetime AANO Member
Past National President & Treasurer

Angelica (Apostol) Trestick 1990- Present

Congratulations
to the Amazing Octogenarian
Albanian American National Organization Inc.
on the 78th Annual Convention
in St. Petersburg, Florida on
August 7, 8, and 9, 2026.

With much love from your Brothers and Sisters
in The Albany Chapter as we celebrate
our 60th year of membership
in the AANO, Inc. We were inducted at
the 1967 Washington, D.C. convention, which
was also hosted by our amazing
National Organization.



RROFTE AANO!

The Albany Chapter
Albanian American National Organization

National Queen's MESSAGE



Welcome to the 78th Convention!

I am filled with excitement to join you in celebrating AANO's 78th convention. I am so proud to be part of an organization that has achieved 78 years of continued existence and success in bringing Albanians together to celebrate their common culture and friendships. Being able to do this for 78 years is a testament to the unwavering dedication and vision of the countless individuals who have selflessly worked towards empowering our community, while fostering a legacy of excellence in preserving our culture and supporting so many scholarships for Albanian youth. Tonight is an occasion that not only recognizes the rich history and accomplishments of Albanians, but also signifies a future filled with greatness.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support and guidance that AANO has provided me throughout my time as AANO Queen. I cherish the memories I am making and the experiences I am having, and the people I am meeting and I will always treasure these memories. It is an honor to represent AANO, and I thank you for the opportunity.

I wish you all a fun-filled celebration of our 78th anniversary and a future filled with continued success, many scholarships for deserving students, and inspiring accomplishments. Please enjoy the sun, fun, friendships (old and new), and the dancing, all while embracing our shared Albanian heritage!

Rroftë Shqípërl and rroftë AANO!

Allonja Wilson

AANO National
QUEENS

2023	**Allonja Wilson**	Detroit, MI
2019	**Klea Gjonaj**	Chicago, IL
2017	**Georgya Borova**	Chicago, IL
2013	**Anxhela Mile**	New York, NY
2010	**Blerina (Vila) Lumaj**	Detroit, MI
2007	**Zamira Aliko**	Detroit, MI
2004	**Gabriella Aquilino**	New York, NY
2001	**Alexandra Liolin**	New York, NY
1998	**Lirika Mestani**	Ontario Canada
1995	**Alexandra Ahmet**	Ontario Canada
1992	**Michelle (Pero) Vasil**	Worcester, MA
1989	**Laura Giantris**	Worcester, MA
1986	**Alexandra (Bendo) Fiss**	Aston, PA
1982	**Lisa V. Tasi**	Easton, CT
1980	**Sandra (Dimitri) Bisceglia**	Worcester, MA
1979	**Marlene (Koltse) Catanese**	Niles, IL
1977	**Barbara (Kelapire) Filis**	East Williston, NY
1975	**Cindy (Nicholas) Marcinkowski**	Mt. Prospect, IL
1973	**Cynthia (Vangel) Bradbury**	Worcester, MA
1969	**Cathy (Nicholas) Balinski**	Mt. Prospect, IL
1966	**Chrys Slider**	Stamford, CT
1963	**Nancy (Peters) Dhoku**	Burlington, MA
1961	**Pamela (Stavrou) Dove**	Frederick, MD
1957	**Barbara (Steffon) Clayton**	Manasquan, NJ
1951	**Dolores (Vishnja) Obert**	Akron, OH
1949	**C. Gloria (Lambert) Kesler**	Worcester, MA

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National CONVENTIONS

1947 Philadelphia, PA
1948 New York, NY
1949 Worcester, MA
1950 Bridgeport, CT
1951 Jamestown, NY
1952 Philadelphia, PA
1953 New York, NY
1954 Boston, MA
1955 Bridgeport, CT
1956 Hartford, CT
1957 Rochester, NY
1958 Philadelphia, PA
1959 New York, NY
1960 Boston, MA
1961 Cleveland, OH
1962 Rochester, NY
1963 Philadelphia, PA
1964 Chicago, IL
1965 Boston, MA
1966 New York, NY
1967 Washington D.C.
1968 Albany, NY
1969 New Haven, CT
1970 Hyannis, MA
1971 Boston, MA
1972 Chicago, IL
1973 New York, NY
1974 Toronto, Ontario
1975 Albany, NY
1976 Philadelphia, PA
1977 Sturbridge, MA
1978 Boston, MA
1979 Chicago, IL
1980 Detroit, MI
1981 White Plains, NY
1982 Worcester, MA
1983 Toronto, Ontario
1984 Albany, NY
1985 Cherry Hill, NJ
1986 Boston, MA
1987 Toronto, Ontario
1988 Rye Brook, NY
1989 Clearwater, FL
1990 Cape Cod, MA
1991 Stamford, CT
1992 Detroit, MI
1993 Washington D.C.
1994 Chicago, IL
1995 Cambridge, MA
1996 Cape Cod, MA
1997 Tamiment, PA
1998 Chicago, IL
1999 Rye Brook, NY
2000 Dearborn, MI
2001 White Plains, NY
2002 Boston, MA
2003 White Plains, NY
2004 Clearwater, FL
2005 Schaumburg, IL
2006 Tirana, Albania
2007 Las Vegas, NV
2008 Philadelphia, PA
2009 Worcester, MA
2010 Washington D.C.
2011 Detroit, MI
2012 Oak Brook Hills, IL
2013 New York, NY
2014 Naples, FL
2015 Boston, MA
2016 Tirana, Albania
2017 Dallas, TX
2018 Washington, D.C.
2019 Rosemont, IL
2020 None (COVID-19)
2021 None (COVID-19)
2022 Philadelphia, PA
2023 Detroit, MI
2024 Naples, FL
2025 Jersey City, NJ
2026 St. Petersburg, FL

Exploring

THE ALBANIAN LANDSCAPE



Blue Eye (Syri i Kalër)

A natural spring near Saranda where water bubbles up from an unmeasured depth, glowing a surreal, saturated blue-turquoise.

Scholarship Chairperson's MESSAGE



Each year, our organization proudly awards scholarships to deserving students who not only excel academically but also embody the values and resilience of the Albanian community. This year, we are proud to announce that we awarded scholarships to 13 applicants, totaling nearly $29,000. These recipients were selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants, each demonstrating exceptional academic achievements, leadership skills, and a commitment to community service. Their diverse fields of study range from medicine and engineering, to the arts and humanities, showcasing the incredible potential within our community.

As the Scholarship Chair, I have the privilege of reviewing their stories, both challenges and triumphs. I know they appreciate the support. By donating to the AANO Scholarship Fund, you are investing in the future leaders of our community. Your generous contributions enable us to continue this important work and support even more students.

Every donation makes an impact. Together, we can help more students achieve their educational goals and build a brighter future for the Albanian American community.

Thank you for your donations and enjoy your evening!

Christina Foundos

aanoscholarship@gmail.com

2026 Scholarship WINNERS

Fatjona Cekici
Hometown: Garfield, NJ
Cornell University

Altea Ali
Hometown: Clearwater, FL
Boston College

Blerta Shuaipaj
Hometown: Homer Glen, IL
Harvard University

Dea Krliu
Hometown: Staten Island, NY
Baruch College

Besalb Dema
Hometown: Jericho, NY
Fordham University

Sarah Shehu
Hometown: Jenkintown, PA
University of Maryland
College Park

PLEASE *Donate*

Zelle
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Scan the QR Code

Help us support Albanian American students in their academic success!

2026 Scholarship WINNERS

Edona Vuli
Hometown: Brighton, MI
Michigan State University

David Kadiu
Hometown: Sterling Heights, MI
University of Michigan

Halil Ahmetaj
Hometown: Greenvale
Cornell University

Emma Regjaj
Hometown: New York, NY
New York University

Lisa Cela
Hometown: Brownstown, MI
Michigan State University

Daniela Ibrahimi
Hometown: Stratford, NJ
Rutgers New Brunswick

Ajla Mahmutaj
Hometown: Bridgeport, CT
Yale University

PLEASE *Donate*

Zelle
aanonychapter@gmail.com

Scan the QR Code

Help us support Albanian American students in their academic success!

CONGRATULATIONS ON CELEBRATING THE 78TH ANNUAL AANO CONVENTION!



Urime to the Scholarship Recipients
and this year's Honorees!

Best Wishes,

The Washington DC Chapter

Albanian American National Organization

Albanian American WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

AAWO "Motrat Qiriazi"

Congratulations to AANO on 78 years of excellence!

Florida Chapter proudly extends our heartfelt congratulations!

We Honor AANOs commitment to preserving Albanian Heritage, strengthening our Community and inspiring future generations through decades of dedicated service.

Albanian American Women's Organization
MOTRAT QIRIAZI

Florida Chapter

With Warmest Congratulations
AAWO "Motrat Qiriazi"
Florida Chapter team:

Dr Anna Kohen
Founder and President

Imelda Pojani
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Dr Eriola Balliu
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2004 Convention















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PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ALBANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

AANO 78TH | ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNITED TODAY. STRONGER TOMORROW.

Best Wishes



to AANO National

for a Successful

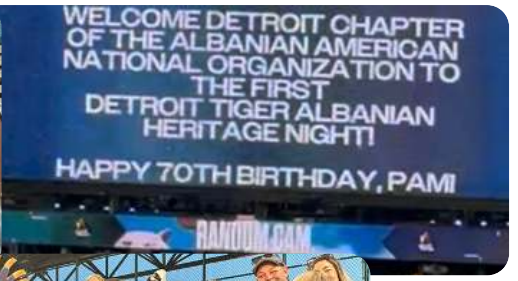
78th Convention!

With love,

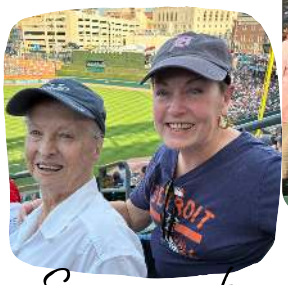
Olga and Victoria Titos

The Detroit Chapter of the AANO wishes Tampa and the National organization much success with this year's annual convention!











So many of us are here bringing Detroit Albanian spirit!







RROFTE SHQIPERI!



Exploring

THE ALBANIAN LANDSCAPE



Valbona Valley

Located in the Albanian Alps, Valbona Valley is a national park with dense pine forests, wildflower meadows, and the Valbona river running turquoise through the valley floor.

We thank AANO National for hosting a joyful, "sunny" 78th AANO Annual Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida!



It has only become even more essential that we remain a tight, strong, proud community in this ever-changing world, especially for our youth.

Our enthusiasm and Albanian/American spirit remain strong. We have much for which to be proud.

Congratulations to the 2026 Scholarship Recipients and our Honorees.

The New York Chapter

Albanian American National Organization

Exploring
THE ALBANIAN LANDSCAPE



KRUJA CASTLE

In North-central Albania, and overlooking the Ishem Valley is the Kruja Castle. Home to a well-preserved fortress and the National Skanderbeg Museum, plus an atmospheric Ottoman-era bazaar just below the castle walls.



Gezuar & Faleminderit

to the

National Board



For hosting our 78th Annual
AANO Convention!

We look forward to seeing our community come together to celebrate shared traditions.

Our congratulations to the 2026 Honorees and Scholarship Recipients.

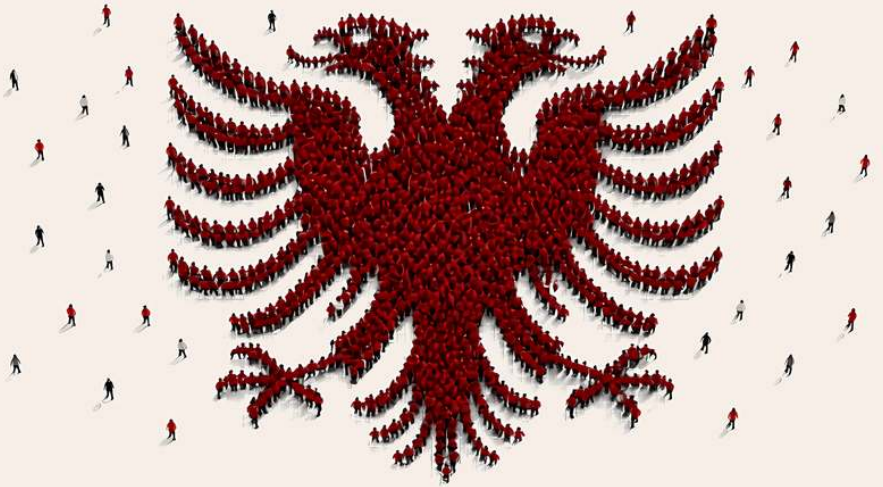


The Naples Chapter

Albanian American National Organization

OUR COMMUNITY.
OUR FUTURE. OUR VOICE.

The first community-led count of Albanians
in the United States.
Together, we build visibility. Together, we build power.



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STRONGER TOGETHER.
Our count.
Our future.

BE SEEN. BE HEARD.
Help shape the future for generations to come.

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St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church



Shrine Of The Virgin Mary

Cordially Invites You To The

40th Anniversary Commemoration

Of The

Miraculous Weeping Icon Of The Holy Virgin Mary

Sunday, August 16th, 2026

Presided By

His Grace Bishop Theophan Of Philomelion

Albanian Orthodox Diocese Of The Americas

At

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
Shrine of the Virgin Mary
2701 N. Narragansett Ave.
Chicago IL 60639

Matins 9:00 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Followed By
Patriarchal Designation Of The Church As A Shrine
Blessing Ceremony of Commemorative Anniversary Plaque

Fellowship Luncheon Following In The Church Hall
Any Donations Will Be Greatly Appreciated And Recognized

RSVP no later than August 8th, 2026

For Reservations, Call:
773-889-4282

Congratulations to National for hosting the AANO 78th Convention!

Best wishes for a successful event!

Per Shume Vjet!



Spiro and Eleni Bitta attended these wonderful conventions.

We thank you for the many memories.

Bitta & Nicholas Families

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TUNE IN TO RED LINE TALK SHOW

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Albanian American Women's Organization

Congratulations AANO on 78 years of serving our community! You are an inspiration to all!

"Motrat Qiriazi" is happy to celebrate with you and continue our collaboration!





Greetings from AAWO "Motrat Qiriazi"

Eva Milo Burnazi - President
Albana Konci - Secretary
Keti Dervishi-Treasurer
Dr Anna Kohen - Director

Dr Pajtesa Kukaj - Director
Brittney Allteni- Director
Eda Derhemi, Esq- Director

Albanian American National Organization

Congratulations to the AANO on its 78th Annual Convention and the milestone celebration of 80 years since its founding.

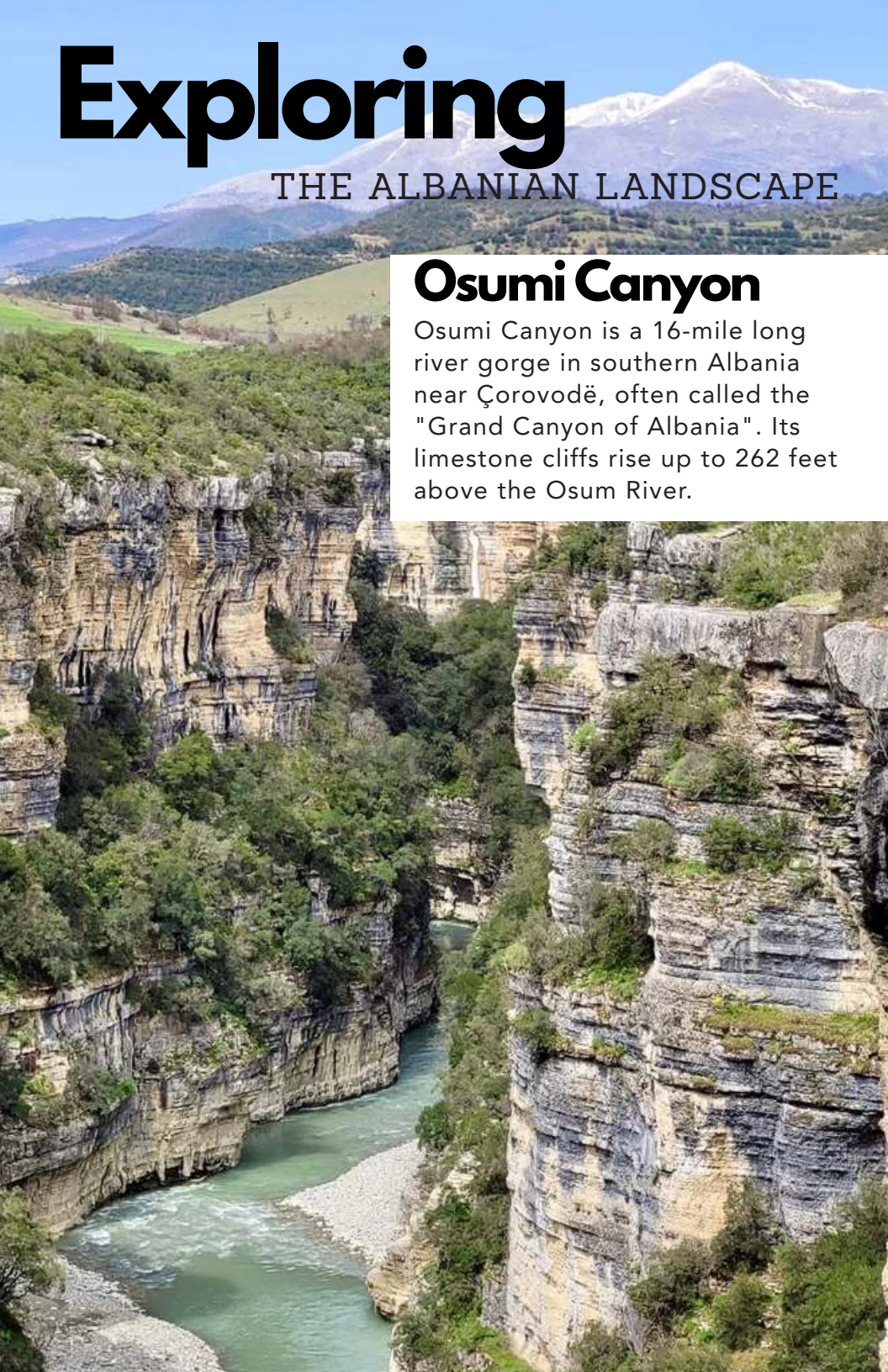
For eight decades, AANO has been a pillar of unity, culture, education, and community service for Albanian American across the nation. The AANO Chicago Chapter is proud to celebrate this historic achievement and wishes continued success for generations to come.

Greetings from the 2026 AANO Chicago Chapter Members

Lea Bitta	Diane Pero	Nikoleta Poni
Olga Titos	Alexis Pero	Etleva Teli
Ariana Jaupi	Arthur Pero	Llambi Teli
Elvis Borova	Lauren Pero	David Sosnowski
Georgya Borova	Anjeza Kamenica	Jimmy Poni
Merita Gjata	Helena Kamenica	Erla Teli
Camilla Nameti	Thea Pommier	George Teli
Austen Burroughs	Sandra Wasinski	Spiro Haxhi
Rudina Shkëmbi	Luiza Peshtani	Liljana Haxhi
Daniel Shkëmbi	Oni Hoda	Albana Romacka

Exploring

THE ALBANIAN LANDSCAPE



Osumi Canyon

Osumi Canyon is a 16-mile long river gorge in southern Albania near Çorovodë, often called the "Grand Canyon of Albania". Its limestone cliffs rise up to 262 feet above the Osum River.

CONGRATULATIONS

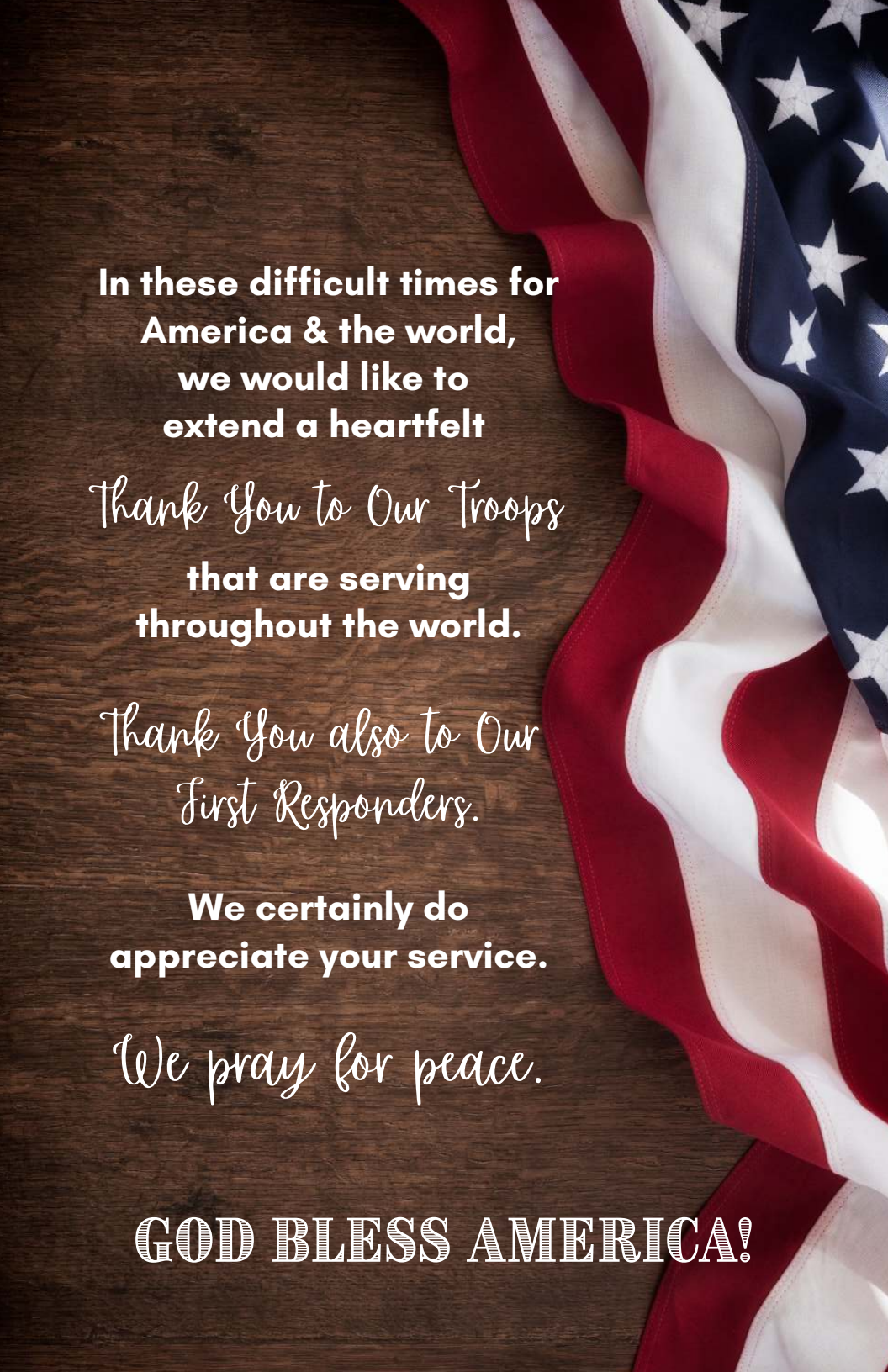
to the AANO on its
78th Anniversary!

In loving memory of my parents

Steve and Eleni S. Pero



Shirley A. Pero
Worcester, MA


In these difficult times for America & the world, we would like to extend a heartfelt
Thank You to Our Troops
that are serving throughout the world.
Thank You also to Our First Responders.
We certainly do appreciate your service.
We pray for peace.
GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Exploring

THE ALBANIAN LANDSCAPE



Berat

Known as the "City of a Thousand Windows," this Ottoman-era town has whitewashed houses stacked up on a hillside, all overlooking the Osum River.

Greetings from the City of Brotherly Love!

The AANO Philadelphia Chapter extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to AANO National for organizing a truly outstanding 78th Annual Convention. Your dedication to bringing our community together through culture, tradition, and celebration is evident in every detail.

It is inspiring to witness unity, energy, and pride throughout the weekend. From warm hospitality to thoughtfully planned events, your efforts are creating lasting memories for all of us attending.

Thank you once again for your commitment to preserving and promoting our Albanian heritage.

With sincere appreciation,
Philadelphia Board of Governors



Tampa Bay Chapter congratulates AANO
on 80 years of bringing
Albanians together.







Welcome to the Sunshine State!







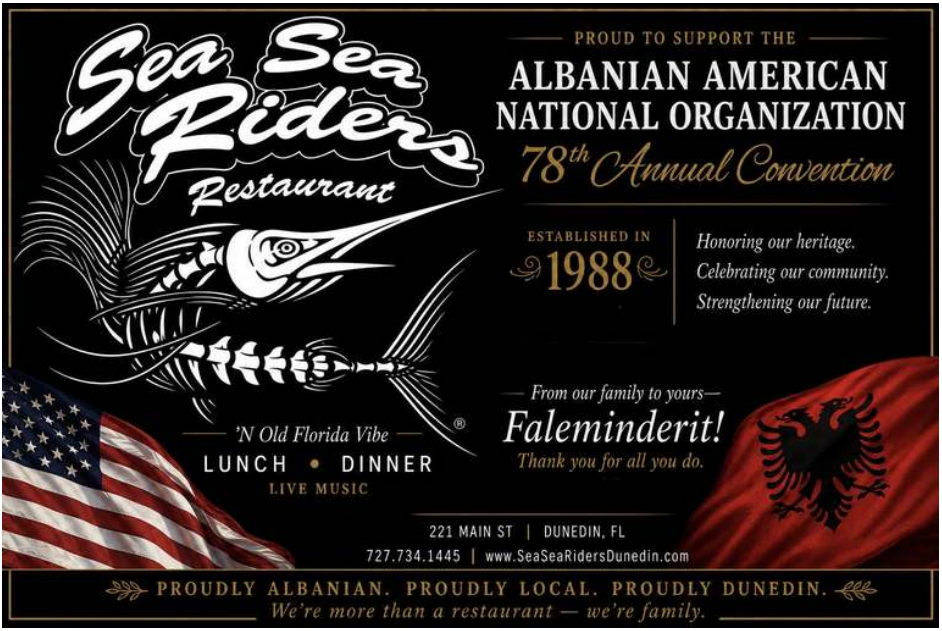








Rroftë Shqipëria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'N Old Florida Vibe
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LIVE MUSIC
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National Anthems



THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say can you see
By the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming.
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched
Were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets' red glare
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star spangled
banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free, and the
home of the brave.



HYMNI I FLAMURIT

Rreth flamurit të përbashkuar
Me një dëshir' e një qëllim,
Të gjith' atij duke iu betuar
Të lidhim besën për shpëtim.
Prej lufte veç ai largohet
Që është lindur tradhëtar,
Kush është burrë nuk frikësohet,
Po vdes, po vdes si një dëshmor!
Prej lufte veç ai largohet
Që është lindur tradhëtar,
Kush është burrë nuk frikësohet,
Po vdes, po vdes si një dëshmor!



O Canada

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

CONVENTION *team*

Faleminderit shume to our convention team. We sincerely appreciate all the time and effort of the following individuals. Thanks to them we enjoyed a successful, fun-filled, beautiful weekend of friendship. They did it all for the love of our people!

Andrea Shella
Christina Foundos
Dodona Roboci
Ervin Toro
Jana Foundos
Linda Foundos
Lou Foundos
Mikel Murati
Mia Orlow
Nalvi Duro
Nilda Salavaci
Rich Rafail
Phil Foundos



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And their trustees Fotini Allteni,
Kristi Allteni and Britney Allteni

Continuing the legacy of the Kosloski Family Foundations is not just an honor; it's a profound commitment for Me, Britney and Kristi.
We are determined to carry forward this vital mission.