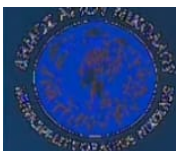


World Council of Cretans: “A Street - Cretans’ Abroad Street - and an Olive Tree Connect Crete with Its Children Around the World”



The World Council of Cretans (WCC), with great emotion and pride, participated in the unveiling ceremony of the first “Cretans’ Abroad Street” in Crete, which took place on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, in Agios Nikolaos, Lasithi. This initiative of the Municipality of Agios Nikolaos represents a historic act of recognition of the multifaceted contribution of Cretans abroad and their enduring bond with their homeland.

The naming of the “Cretans’ Abroad Street” marks a historic moment for Crete and the global Cretan family. It is not merely the naming of a road, but a permanent symbol of recognition for all those who were compelled or chose to leave the island, building new lives in distant lands while never severing their connection to their roots. This initiative highlights the unbreakable bond between Crete and the Cretans of the Diaspora.



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The World Council of Cretans expresses its sincere gratitude to the Municipality of

Agios Nikolaos, Mayor Mr. Manolis Menegakis, the Municipal Council, and all those who contributed to the realization of this important initiative. This decision is a tangible recognition of the role that Cretans abroad have played—and continue to play—in preserving and promoting Cretan cultural heritage, strengthening Crete’s international presence, and building strong bridges of cooperation with their homeland.

Particularly symbolic was the planting of an olive tree, which accompanied the dedication of the road and conveyed a deeper message of enduring connection. The olive tree, an eternal symbol of Crete, represents continuity, peace, strength, and the deep roots that unite Cretans wherever they may be. Just as the roots of the olive tree remain firmly connected to the soil of Crete, so too do Cretans abroad remain connected to their place of origin.



“The ‘Cretans’ Abroad Street’ is a tribute to all generations of Cretans who left the island, yet never left it behind in their hearts,” stated the President of the World Council of Cretans, Mr. Nickos Kastrinakis. “The Cretan Diaspora is an integral part of Crete’s modern identity. Cretans around the world serve as ambassadors of our culture, our history, and our values.” He also noted that the idea for the creation of the “Street of Cretan Expatriates” was born three years ago, immediately following the conclusion of the 6th World Convention of Cretans, which was hosted in Agios Nikolaos.

Among those attending the event were Mayor of Agios Nikolaos Mr. Manolis

Menegakis, President of the Regional Council of Crete Ms. Sofia Malandraki, President of the World Council of Cretans Mr. Nickos Kastrinakis, former President of the World Council of Cretans Mr. Nikos Markogiannakis, representatives of Cretan Federations and organizations from around the world, as well as representatives of local government and the local community.



Special recognition was given to Mr. Socrates Tsourdalakis, who was honored by the Municipality of Agios Nikolaos for his longstanding and invaluable contribution to the organized Cretan Diaspora. His dedication to strengthening the ties between Crete and the Greek diaspora, as well as his many years of service to Cretans abroad, serve as an example of commitment and inspiration for future generations.

This important event carries even greater significance as it took place only days after the successful conclusion of the 7th World Convention of Cretans in Chania, held under the central theme “Crete and the Cretans of Today and Tomorrow,” where the crucial role of the Diaspora as a force for culture, development, innovation, and cooperation was highlighted.



The World Council of Cretans believes that initiatives such as the dedication of the “Cretan’s Abroad Street” create lasting landmarks for future generations and remind us of the remarkable historical journey of Cretans beyond the borders of Greece. At the same time, they strengthen the vision of a united, active, and vibrant global Cretan family.

The World Council of Cretans congratulates the Municipality of Agios Nikolaos on this highly symbolic initiative and remains committed to strengthening the bonds between Crete and Cretans throughout the world.







