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Pan Cretan Association Honors Patriarch Theodoros II



The Pan Cretan Association of America honored His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa at a dinner in New York Sunday evening.

Patriarch Theodoros, who was born in Crete, was enthusiastically welcomed by the Association's leadership, who shared that the purpose of their organization was to encourage and promote the continuation of Cretan culture and traditions.

His Beatitude was accompanied by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Their Eminences Metropolitans George of Guinea and Nikodimos of Memphis, and Sub-Deacon Moses Kariuki Maina, the Patriarch's sister Argyro Mahlas and nephew Michael Mahlas, and the Chancellor of the Archdiocese V. Rev. Fr. Nektarios Papazafiroopoulos,

Speakers included the Association's President Iakovos Boutzoukas and Past President Ioannis Manos. Congressman Gus Bilirakis and Consul General at the Consulate of Panama Georgia Athanasopoulou also each offered welcome remarks.

Afterward, Archbishop Elpidophoros and Patriarch Theodoros addressed the gathering. His Eminence remarked that many of the great hierarchs of the Church hail from Crete including Patriarch Meletios Metaxakis, who also established the Archdiocese of America.

His Beatitude expressed his thanks to all those who came to see him, a fellow Cretan. He remembered, with fondness, his childhood years on the island.

Following the presentation of remarks, a men's singing group performed traditional Cretan songs, while two children's dance troupes performed Cretan dances in traditional dress attire.

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