



A VERY SPECIAL EXHIBIT
ON THE ATHLETE, THE CHAMPION, THE HUMANITARIAN



Stylianos Kyriakides

RUNNING WITH PHEIDIPPIDES
Exhibition Foreword

by John S. Bailey,
President, The American College of Greece

I was an American adolescent living in Boston, Massachusetts, when Stylianos Kyriakides courageously won the 50th Boston Marathon, earning the acclaim of all athletes – especially of his home country, Greece, and his birthplace, Cyprus. A modern-day Pheidippides, the Greek victor might well have uttered the single word breathlessly spoken by the first Marathon runner to anxious Athenians in 490 BC – *Nenikámen!* ("We have conquered!").

With memories of 20 April 1946 still fresh, I am proud indeed to introduce this Exhibition which relates Kyriakides' triumph that moved the hearts of millions. It was a physical and truly spiritual feat in the immediate wake of years of oppressive Axis occupation of Greece, of starvation and civil war. His family had endured deprivation and hardship; and, even while training post-war for Boston, he went short of essential nourishment.

Kyriakides had a twofold purpose in making his second attempt at the Boston Marathon: to win and so to publicize Greece's fearful plight and her pressing needs. On both counts he decisively succeeded.

As chance would have it, the father of my wife Irene – Yannis Korres – was a close friend and fellow athlete of Kyriakides. This bond led to Kyriakides becoming Irene's godfather. Irene, who is Director of Cultural Affairs, is the prime mover in bringing this Exhibition to Greece and to the College – an American institution enjoying many ties with Boston.

It is an honor for The American College of Greece to welcome each one of you to this Exhibit which celebrates an historic victory.