

Past Supreme President William G. Chirgotis



Past Supreme President William G. Chirgotis passed away on Friday, July 26, 2002. He was 93.

Born in Piraeus, Greece, Brother Chirgotis immigrated to the United States with his family in 1919. He attended Newark College of Engineering and graduated from Pratt Institute School of Architecture in 1940. He quickly distinguished himself as an architect becoming the first in the country to design a house that included all gas appliances. Later, after establishing himself as an internationally renowned architect, he became the founder and publisher of *National Home Planning Magazine*, one of the largest architectural home plan book services in the country. In addition, Brother Chirgotis was a contributing architect to the monthly Associated Press news feature "House of the Week."

Brother Chirgotis, a member of Eureka Chapter No. 52, Newark, N.J., served as Supreme President for two terms (1974 - 1976). He was the Editor of the official publication of District No. 5, the "AHEPA Voice." Brother Chirgotis established the first AHEPA Athletic Award, given annually to an outstanding Hellenic Collegiate Athlete. He designed the AHEPA Harry S. Truman Plaza and statue that was erected in Athens, Greece, in 1963 as a sign of America's dedicated commitment to Greece following World War II. In 1980, he was elected Chairman of the Board of the Harry S. Truman Foundation. Moreover, his skills came in handy in the design of the AHEPA Hall for Boys at St. Basil Academy. Brother Chirgotis also served on the AHEPA Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Committee.

Brother Bill was active in his community, serving as President of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Building Committee of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Community, Newark, N.J. He was dedicated to the Greek Orthodox Church, making contributions to over a half dozen churches, including

Sts. Constantine and Helen in Honolulu, Hawaii. He received numerous accolades for his humanitarian and philanthropic endeavors. Brother Chirgotis was an Archon "Maestro" of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle and a member of Leadership 100 and the Archdiocesan Council. Brother Chirgotis received the Silver Cross of the Phoenix from the Greek government and was named an Honorary Citizen of Athens.

He was the beloved husband of Jean (former Kapsimalis), loving father and father-in-law to three daughters: Wilma and Larry Tranquilli, Annette Zotti, Christine and Bruce Thenerkauf; devoted grandfather to nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren; and brother to his cherished sister, Carm Masters.

A private service was held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and entombment took place in the Chirgotis Family mausoleum at Fairview Cemetery, Westfield, N.J. In his memory, a William G. Chirgotis Memorial Fund has been established at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church.