

The Statue of Liberty-
Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.

ELLIS ISLAND

November 21, 1988

John L. Gianakopulos
2200 Cullom Avenue
Chicago, IL 60618

Dear Friend:

On behalf of The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. I am proud to present you with the Official Certificate of Registration in The American Immigrant Wall of Honor for:

LEONIDES GIANAKOPULOS from GREECE

All names registered will soon appear on public display at Ellis Island as a testament to the heroism and triumphs your family experienced in coming to America for the first time.

The many thousands of visitors who will come to Ellis Island each year will recognize and respect your family's role in fulfilling the American dream of hope, freedom and opportunity for all.

I also would like to thank you for the $100.00 contribution you sent to help us finish our restoration work on Ellis Island.

Since the Statue's completion, many Americans don't realize that we still have a long way to go before the buildings are restored and the museum can be opened to the public. Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

Ellis Island holds a very special place in my heart and I can tell it does for you, too. Thanks again for all your help.

Sincerely,

Lee Iacocca

OBJECT ID	2011.6.162b
OBJECT NAME	Letter
MATERIAL	Paper
OBJECT ENTITIES	Karalis, Elena (is related to) Gianakopulos, Leonides (is related to) Iacocca, Lee (is related to) Gianakopulos, John (is related to)
ACCESS POINTS	American Immigrant Wall of Honor

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

A letter to John L. Gianakopulos from Lee Iacocca of The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.. It is a letter to present the Certificate of Registration in the American Immigrant Wall of Honor for Leonides Gianakopulos. The letter also thanks him for the $100 contribution that John Gianakopulos sent to help finish the resotration work on Ellis Island.

ORIGIN

The donors grandfather, Gus Gianakopulos, came to America with 200 youths from the Sparta area around the time of 1881. Mr.Chaconas was in charge of the trip and when they arrived in Chicago all 200 of them were put in one room together and bought each one of them a push wagon. The group of people would sell one product a day using their push wagons. In 1893 the Gus became a US citizen and was working in the fruit and vegetable wholesale business. He later went back to Greece to visit but called the US his country. In 1900 a few men went back to Greece to get married and on their way back they brought the donors grandmother, Georgia, to Chicago, where her father and brother were. Gus and Georgia got married in December 1901 at the Holy Trinity Church and they invited all Greeks and the story is that there were 98 carriages that attended the reception. They had several children, first a boy then a girl named dasiy, then the donor's mother Pauline, next were two sisters, Virgina and Eleanor, and last was John. The Spartans in the area started a church in a building on South Water Street, but the priest had decided to go back to Greece. In 1908-1909 they built what is now the Annunciation Cathedral on LaSalle Street and in 1910 the church was completed. This church is where the whole family was baptized, married, and

burried. The family lived on the north side of Chicago so any Greek schools were too far away for them to attend so a greek teacher came in Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for 25 years. The donors mother, Pauline went to Forest Academy to studied dress design and not much after that she met her husband and moved to Minneapolis in 1929. The two worked and helped out the church they were members of quite a bit. They traveled a lot and often went to Greece but in 1970 he passed away. They had two children, George and Elena and after her husband passed away Pauline and Elena went on many different trips around the world.

CITATION

Letter, *National Hellenic Museum*, https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/. Accessed 11/10/26.