



KARYES

Lakonia



The renovated Rachi Square

Karyates Association News Bulletin

Issue Number 30

Autumn 2021

Celebrating 30 issues of the News Bulletin

It has been already 8 years since the first hesitant effort of the members of the Board to republish a local newspaper. After all, a long time had passed since the cessation of the publication of Ms. Anita Prekeze's newspaper, who with a very personal cost and passion informed all of us about the news of Karyes, while also hosting articles of social, folklore and historical content. All this when the internet did not exist.

30 issues later, with about 500 copies being sent via e-mail, by mail to Greece and around the world, this effort now seems to have been a success. At the same time, free copies are distributed in Karyes, while all issues are available online. The publication of the English version is also important as it contributes to help the expatriates of the third and fourth generation to come closer to their place of origin.



Despite the personal cost, our will is strong enough to keep us going. Every month we receive letters from several compatriots who congratulate us and we thank them. At the same time their remarks help us become better and better. (continue in page 3)



Karyes' Patron Saints St. Paraskevi and St. Panteleimon celebration

With the presence of the new priest of the village, Father Leontios who officiated at the divine services, the memory of Agia Paraskevi and Agios Panteleimon were celebrated at the Church of Agia Parskevi on July 27th and at the Church of Agios Andreas on July 28th, while the procession of their holy Pictures took place. Almost all of the village residents among with many vacationers and expatriates attended the liturgy. After the end of the service, sweets were offered by the Ecclesiastical Council while a traditional lottery was organized to reinforce the council's goals.



KARYATES ASSOCIATION WORLD LOTTERY

LET US ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMPLETION OF THE "KARYES MEMORY AND CULTURE CENTRE"

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KARYATES ASSOCIATION

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ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE CULTURAL CENTER FOR HERITAGE AND MEMORY OF KARYES, LACONIA
www.karyes.gr

DRAW: SUNDAY DECEMBER 19, 2021

Contributions to the KARYATES ASSOCIATION

The response many of all our compatriots to the calls of our Association for financial support in order to make the vision of two generations of Caryatians for the creation of the Karyes Center of Memory and Culture a reality is touching. True to our proclamation, we publish, as we always do, all their contributions.

- Leventakis Panagiota € 250-
- Koutsogiorga Demetra wid. Nikolaos € 250-
- Charaka Panagiota offered a sum of money for the completion of the Karyes Memory and Culture Center
- Skiouris Noulis offered a sum of money for the completion of the Karyes Memory and Culture Center.

Many thanks to those who give us the strength to continue our effort.

A Memorial Service for the Karyes' benefactor Kerhoulas

On Sunday, August 8, a Memorial Service for the Benefactor was held on the initiative of the Kerhoulas Association at the Saint Andrew Church



The Memorial Service was attended by Karyates Association delegation consisting by the president Mr. Repoulis, the Secretary Mr. Konstantopoulos and the Public Relations officer Ms. Latsi.

Panagiotis Kopsiaftis Award

The expatriate Karyatis deserves congratulations once again

After the end of the service, a small reception followed in the Central Square where **Mr. Panos Kopsiaftis** was awarded an honorary plaque by the Kerchoulas Trust for his new offer of US\$ 100,000 - in order to make new wells for water.



Our warm congratulations to our fellow compatriot, who always stands by the needs of his hometown proving his love for Karyes.

Besides, the Karyates Association has honored him in the past, when thanks to his and her wife Voula decisive donation a strong impetus had been given to the solution of the chronic problem of water scarcity.



Summer of 2021: Cultural events in Karyes

Without festivals due to the pandemic, but full of people Karyes on the night of July 26th and 27th

Given the Greek state's measures to stop the pandemic, it was not possible to organize our traditional festivals this year either.



However, on the night of **July 26**, the Karyates moved downhill to the renovated **square of Rachi**, in order to have dinner and enjoy listening to the traditional Greek music by the voice of **Panagiotis Ardamis**.

On the night of **July 27**, hundreds of Karyates and visitors gathered in the **main square**, in order to dine and enjoy the beautiful evening.



August's music nights

In compliance with the prescribed sanitary measures, two music nights were organized in Karyes so as all the residents and visitors to enjoy beautiful musical "voyages".

Thus, on **Saturday, August 14**, in the Central Square of Karyes, a "**Folk Music Night**" was co-organized by the **Sparta Municipality's Legal Entity of Culture and Environment** and by the **Karyes Culture Club**.

Nikos Vorilas and **Helena Founta** with their excellent performances entertained the audience who had filled all the levels of the square. Among them was the **Sparta's Mayor Mr. Petros Doukas**, who stated that he was excited by the liveliness of Karyes.



On **Wednesday, August 18**, also in the Karyes Central Square of Karyes, a musical evening took place entitled "**From Dimitris Mitropanos to Charoula Alexiou**" where **Irini Christofilaki** and **Spyros Koutsovasilis** sang many famous Greek songs of the past 50 years.



Co-organizers were the **Spartas' Municipality Legal Entity of Culture and Environment** and the **Karyes Local Council**.

Congratulations and Wishes for the 30 issues of the News Bulletin

Mr. Theodoros Mentis,
President of the **Karyatis Sports Club** and of the **Skiouris Foundation** BoD.

Congratulations for the celebration of 30 issues of the Karyates Association Newsletter.

The Bulletin has achieved its goal of acting as a communication bridge for our compatriots around the world. We hope that its successful presence of continuous information about the events of our village will serve as an example of what a voluntary effort can achieve when it is accompanied by love for the place and the organizing responsibility.

Mr. Marinos Arvanitis
Secretary of the **St. Andrew Karyes Church Council**

Congratulations for the celebration of 30 issues of the Karyates Association newspaper. Always with objectivity it has given a step to all the bodies of Karyes in order to make their work known.

Ms Konstantina Tambakis
Secretary of the **Karyes Cultural Club**

Nowadays the way of communication and information has changed significantly, with social media playing the main role. In this climate, the Karyates Association strongly maintains the tradition of publishing the Local Newspaper (newsletter) of Karyes, a great project that started 30 years ago with a protagonist and an ardent supporter, Mrs. Annita Gleka - Prekeze.

It always informed the Karyates wherever they live about the political, economic, social, and cultural events of the region with objectivity and complete transparency. From the pages of the Newspaper (newsletter) issues of history and folklore of the place are not omitted, thus contributing significantly to the digitization of the cultural reserve of Karyes, which is in danger of being forgotten.

The Karyes Cultural Club wishes you to continue your work with appetite, passion and objectivity, which is considered necessary for our place.

Celebrating August 15th in Karyes



The Karyates who came to the village to spend the weekend of the feast of the Virgin Mary were many more than other recent years.

After the traditional holy service at the chapel of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in the plane trees, everyone moved to a central square full of people.

In fact, for the first time not only during the lunch time but also at night, the taverns were full of people, pleasantly surprising the restaurants and café owners.



Celebrating the 30 issues of the News Bulletin (from page 1)

Reaffirming our principles

Unfortunately, as in all things in life, there is not always only the pleasant side. On the occasion of a recent letter, where a reader accused us of "political games", we are obliged to inform again **all our readers about the principles of the editorial team of the Bulletin again.** Principles that have not changed over time.

The basic principle is to always **publish all the announcements of the Karyes bodies in their original form.** Comments sometimes exists, but always in a separate article and as long as what is written affects the Karyates Association.

The Karyates Association unites and abstains from political games

In closing, dear compatriots, we remind you that the Karyates Association since its creation, for three generations now **has never divided, but united.**

For this reason, and **during all these years,** it is supported not by a few, but by **the vast majority of the thousands of Karyates, who morally and practically support its goals and purpose.**

Therefore, our communication and cooperation have been **excellent** with all the previous and current Municipal and Local authorities, as well as with the local bodies-Associations (Sports, Cultural, Ecclesiastical, Fire Safety, Blood Donation) of the village.

We **honor** all those who have contributed to our village and those who still contribute today, **regardless of political affiliation.**

We have never refused, whenever it was necessary or we were asked, to sit at the same table with any of the village bodies to discuss, inform and support its efforts, **relentlessly** and motivated only out of **our love for Karyes.** Thus we declare that **we are ready to respond positively to any new invitation.**

We do not want to confront anyone. Not because we are not able to, but because that is not our purpose. We promise, however, that **our presence in the Karyes public affairs will be visible and intense based on the principles of the Association, as it is required by our Statute.**

We wish you all a happy autumn and stay safe.

Harry Konstantopoulos
Secretary of the Karyates Association BoD,
Head of the Newsletter Editorial Team



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CLUB NEWS

Annual reception of the "ST ANARGIRI CLUB"



On the afternoon of Saturday, **August 14,** in the event hall of the Community store, a small reception was held by the **Club for the Support of the Holy Temples of Karyes "THE SAINTS ANARGYROI".**

The members of the Board of Directors **Ms. Eugenia Kouvari** and **Ms. Pitsa Vagena-Kyriazis** presented the work of the Club to the attending patriots with special mention mainly at the works in the Holy Temples of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Panagia) and Agioi Anargyri.

KARYES FIRE SAFETY: General Assembly and elections

On Saturday 14.08.2021 a General Assembly of Karyes Fire Safety was held at the event hall of the Karyes Community Building. An annual report preceded and elections followed.

The new composition of the Board of Directors of Karyes Fire Safety, after the elections that took place is as follows:

Sioutos Achileas	Πρόεδρος
Mantis Panagiotis	Αντιπρόεδρος
Mentis Ioannis	Γραμματέας
Meleches Stefanos	Ταμίας
Arvanitis Nikolaos	Έφορος Υλικού και Αποθήκης
Tsioulos Andreas	Υπεύθυνος Δημοσίων Σχέσεων
Kolovos Konstantinos	Μέλος

The new BoD express its strong thanks:

1. To all the members who took part at the elections,
2. To Father Leontios and the Karyes Church Council for its financial support with the amount of € 300.-.
3. To all our compatriots for the financial support with the amount of € 417.

They passed away



Chris Drakopoulos
died in Athens on August 14th

at the age of 59

and was buried on Thursday, August 19th,
at the cemetery of Agia Paraskevi in Karyes

With great sadness we said goodbye to our distinguished patriot, Christos Drakopoulos son of **George Drakopoulos** and **Toula Pitsiou**, who passed away on August 14, 2021 at the age of just 59 years.

Christos Drakopoulos was a graduate of the **Varvakeio School** and the **School of Chemical Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens** and had excellent scientific, organizational and leadership skills which made him a successful businessman and a pioneer in the field of Environmental Protection construction projects. He was a self-made man, who started at the age of 23 from a makeshift small office on the ground floor of his paternal home, to become Chairman of the Board of "ENVITEC A.E." Group of companies of which he was a co-founder from a very young age.

ENVITEC A.E. is a leading construction company having designed, built and operated a number of facilities for major environmental projects and operates both in Greece and abroad. Additionally, the Group has constructed, operates and operates Wind and Photovoltaic Parks throughout Greece.

The virtues that Christos Drakopoulos had throughout his active life, scientific knowledge, extroversion, hard work and effective effort combined with his sensitivity for the Protection of the Environment, made him President of the **Panhellenic Association of Environmental Protection Companies (PASEPPE)** from 2010 to 2018 and from this position contributed decisively to the achievement of the goals of the Association.

Karyes had always held a special place in his heart and had always been close to the village either bringing friends or offering his support, valuable knowledge and experience. He was the general claiming the money of the Kerhoulas trust. With his unique bargaining skills and with the help of the guarantee given by Panos Kopsiaftis as well as the excellent cooperation of the first Board of Directors of the Kerchoulas trust of which he was a member, the money came to the village.

At the General Assembly that took place recently in the village, we observed a minute of silence in his memory. Then spoke his wife **Olga**, who among other things said that the love of the village in the face of her husband and in her face has moved her. She also said that she will continue the bond of love and offering to the village as her husband had.

A few words for Chris Drakopoulos
by the Secretary of the Karyates Association Mr. Harris Konstantopoulos

The gap left by our compatriot is really important, not only to his family and friends but also to Karyes, that he loved so much.

We will not forget as members of the Karyates Association BoD his valuable help at the preparation of the tender for the creation of the Karyes Memory and Culture Center.

Personally, I will not forget his persuasions and advices in the many telephone communications we had afterwards. I will not forget his grief for the unpleasant developments last summer that led to the non-financing of this important project by the Kerhoulas Association.

As we will not forget the fact that even in the difficult times he went through towards the end, he proved once again in practice his interest by depositing a sum of money in the account of the Association for the implementation of the Karyes Memory and Culture Center.

On behalf of the Karyates Association BoD we express our sincere condolences to his family.

All the previous news bulletin are at your disposal
in digital form at WWW.KARYES.GR



Do you deal with the arts
(art, painting, music-song, dance, theater, photography, video, floriculture, crafts)?

The Association of Karyates invites you to contact us to present your work to our compatriots and to our village visitors in the summer either through an exhibition of your creations or through a cultural action.

Now contact us at info@karyes.gr or at 0030-6944-784563, 0030-6974-720909.

REQUEST

Those who wish to receive this news bulletin via e-mail, please inform us
by sending your e-mail address at
E-mail: info@karyes.gr

On February 19, 2021, **Konstantia Traka** suddenly passed away.

Losing someone is not just a fact.. It does not happen once but over and over again.

You lose her every time you pick up her coffee mug or listen to her favorite songs.

You miss her every night you go to bed, that you wanted to tell her different things and hear her voice answer you. And in the morning when you wake up and stretch your hand on the opposite empty covers you lose it again from the beginning.

You rested but I continue to see your face and hear your laughter and I know from my heart that one day we will die together again.

I now live only with our memories and they are immortal.

Your **Jimmy**, your partner, friend and husband



Dimitra, widow of Georgios Diamantouros, aged 102

passed away in Canada on September 8, 2021 and
was buried in the cemetery of Agios Nikolaos Karyes on September 19



She was born on March 21, 1919 in Karyes, Laconia. Known to all those who loved her as a grandmother or aunt Dimitroula, she lived her 102 years with great passion and true love for life, leaving an incredible legacy. She had 4 children: Dimos, Themis, Triantafylli and Giannis, 8 grandchildren: Dimitra, Giorgos, Dimitra, Anna, Dimitra, Leonida and Christina and 10 great-grandchildren!

Aunt Dimitroula left an impression on everyone she met. She lived a remarkable life, full of love and laughter, and experienced more than they could ever have hoped for.

She died peacefully and spent her last days in the same way she lived all her years - surrounded by her loved ones.

Instead of flowers, the family asked for donations, in her honor, to the Greek Home for the Elderly or to the Arachovite Brotherhood "AI KARYAI" Toronto.

Our heartfelt condolences to her family

Sotirios Papamichael

died in the USA, at the age of 81

He was born in Vourvoura, Arcadia and was the beloved wife of **Efi Kolovos**. He immigrated to America at a young age like so many of our fellow countrymen after the war. He was a member of a large family as he had four other brothers Dimitrios, Georgios, Maria Papastathis and Emily Montgerani.

He leaves behind three children Louis, Constantinos and Eugenia Sierrou and 6 grandchildren. His funeral took place on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrius in Illinois.

Dimitrios D. Lavatsis

died in Sparta

He leaves behind his wife Demetra and his children Diamantis, Paraskevi and George.

Stamatia Koutri, aged 51

passed away on October 10, 2021 and

was buried on October 11 in Aghia Paraskevi cemetery in Karyes.

Petros Latsis,

died on September 4, 2021 in Denver, Colorado, USA, at the age of 89

He was the brother of George Latsis, whose wife Lefki is member of Karyates Association BoD.

Vassilios Dimitriou Borovas

passed away on March 14, 2020, at the age of 55

A small article by **Annita Prekeze**

*He was the first son of **Dimitris Borovas**, a chemist from Makri, Arcadia, and **Pitsa Devekos**, a teacher and daughter of the late teacher **Georgios Devekos**.*

*Vassilis was born in Athens, studied at the **Leontios School** with his brother George, a lawyer who now lives in Tokyo with his family where he works with an excellent career. The two brothers studied in the USA and distinguished themselves as excellent students in great universities. Vassilis as a computer scientist worked in large companies where he received praise and distinctions. For the last ten years he has lived happily in Greece with his wife Susan and his daughter Athena. He was a charismatic young man, an excellent pianist, guitarist and singer. But unfortunately, his cruel and relentless fate deprived him of his life and plunged into grief his much-loved family and his inconsolable "manoula".*

Dimitra Anargyrou Loupos,

passed away in September 2021 in Kifissia, Attica and

was buried in Kokkinorachi (Tsouni) Laconia,

at the age of 86

She was the daughter of Anargyros Loupos from Vamvakou and Ismini Papastavros from Karyes and the wife of Antonis Kokolias with whom she had two children. He was born in Vamvakou and grew up in Kokkinorachi.

A great Greek, Ioannis Efstratios Kostalas, passed away at the age of 85 on Sunday, October 10, 2021 in New York

"Barba Giannis" was a great Greek of the Diaspora, an exceptional patriot, a true lover of basketball and sports.



He was born on **May 16, 1936** in **Karyes, Laconia** and was the son of **Efstratios** and **Paraskevi Kostalas**. In **1952** he immigrated with his family to the U.S.A. and specifically in **New York**, pursuing their dream of a better life. A fan of basketball since he was a child, he played in "Typhonas" before leaving for America. During his high school years he attended Taft High School, played

basketball and then at City College in New York, where he studied civil engineering.

There he played in American football, led the team to the NCAA Final 4 and was named the tournament's best defender for the **1958-59** season.

At a young age he became a partner in The Waldorf restaurant and later with his brothers opened one after another successful restaurants, such as Munchtime USA, Socrates Pizza, Huckleberry Finn Donut Shop, Arachova Coffee shop, Essex I, Essex II, Essex III, Vivia's Deli, Steve's Pizza, The Essex World and Bridge Deli.

For decades he maintained the **Essex World Coffee Shop**, opposite the Twin Towers in New York, at the **World Trade Center** in the heart of New York, which is visited by thousands of Greeks, people of culture, sports, who were welcomed by Giannis Kostalas always with an open arms. His shop was **the meeting place of the Greeks of the Diaspora**, the first place that every Greek who went to New York visited, especially if he was a basketball man. There he welcomed with a huge smile thousands of Greek athletes, coaches and even fans. Helped many to find scholarships, jobs and generally a better tomorrow.

Essex Cafe operated for years as a first aid station after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, as it was located just below the Twin Towers. That is why Giannis Kostalas was a hero for the Americans, as thousands of wounded people of that dark day received first aid in his own place.

The **Basketball Museum of YMCA in Thessaloniki (HANTH)** expressed its heartfelt condolences to the relatives of the deceased.



We remind you that the Basketball Museum had honored Giannis Kostalas in **2016** in an event in which he had given the "present" number of basketball people as well as a delegation of the Olympiacos Piraeus Basketball team. At the event, people from the sport who had met and met him up close had spoken about him.

A close friend of many basketball people in Greece, he will miss his smile, kindness and willingness to thank and help everyone. He may not have had a family of his own, but his children were all those who hosted them, fed them, helped them find their footing in the land of great opportunities, whether they went for permanent settlement or were passers-by.

Both the **Hellenic Basketball Federation (EOK)** and the **Hellenic Association of Basketball Professional Teams (ESAKE)** decided to observe a minute of silence in the next match of their championships, as a sign of respect to the deceased, the great patriot and basketball man.

His loss plunged his family and the basketball family in Greece into grief. He rested and went to find his parents, Efstratios and Paraskevi and his brothers George, Aristotle and Panagiotis.

His funeral took place on Saturday, October 16, 2021, 11:00 a.m. at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Staten Island, New York.

A small article by his nephew **Mr. Efstratios Kostalas** famous and successful European Basketball manager

*Today I lost my uncle Giannis, who was more than my uncle...
Alexander the Great said: I owe my father "zin / my life" but to my teacher "the "ef zin / the good life". I owe "ef zin" to "Barba Giannis"...
Always with a smile and always with the will to help anyone in need - many times before being asked.*

He taught me to love sports and he took me to my first "live" basketball game, AEK – Slavia Prague (European cup final 1968). He started playing basketball at Typhoon when he was very young, before moving to New Heraklion and when he went to New York with his family he played basketball at Taft High School. He studied to become a Civil Engineer with a sports scholarship (football) at CCNY. In fact, in 1959 he was the pillar of his team that reached the NCAA Final 4, where he was voted the best defender of the tournament.

From there and with his brothers he opened various restaurants culminating in the Essex Coffee Shop which was opposite the World Trade Center. There he welcomed with a huge smile thousands of Greek athletes, coaches and even fans. Helped many to find scholarships, jobs and generally a better tomorrow.

And he NEVER asked for anything in return.

I could write a book about "Barba Giannis" but I am sure that a lot will be written under it. "Kamari" rested and went to find his parents, Efstratios and Paraskevi and his brothers George, Aristotle (my father), and Panagiotis.

They wrote about Barba Yiannis

The president of the **Greek basketball Coaches Association** and a Greek Basketball legend Mr. **Panagiotis Giannakis**, bids farewell to Giannis Kostalas, with the following statement:

"The loss of Giannis Kostalas is big, huge. There was a man who gladly helped Greek basketball from New York. Whatever effort was made to find someone in the US, coach or athlete, he was always by her side and supported her with all his might. Throughout his life, he generously offered his help to everyone. He was "there" in anything that could support the Greek efforts for success, doing everything with an unprecedented selflessness. She did not stop offering generous help to every sports person she asked for or needed, being in the USA. That's why his home was the home of all sports people, not just basketball.

Barba Giannis is a legend! It will never fade from our memory and the love he had for sports is something that will always be with us and will follow us forever. Rest in Peace..."

Apart from the decision for a minute of silence, the **Hellenic Basketball Federation** and its president Mr. **Evangelos Liolios** expressed their condolences with the following announcement:

"The president of EOK, Vangelis Liolios and the members of the Board. express their sincere condolences to the family of Giannis Kostalas, who passed away. The deceased was a man who showed his love for basketball by supporting the sport, athletes and coaches».

The announcement of **Hellenic Association of Basketball Professional Teams** with the condolences expressed by the Board and the president of the Association, Mr. **Evangelos Galatsopoulos**:

"The Board of Directors of E.Σ.A.K.E. and the president Mr. Evangelos Galatsopoulos express their deep sorrow for the loss of Giannis Kostalas.

The deceased opened his warm embrace for decades to welcome all the coaches, athletes and people of Greek basketball who traveled to New York and generously offered his moral support and hospitality. We express our sincere condolences to the family and relatives of Giannis Kostalas".

Giannis Kostalas - The Great Greek Man

Article by the famous Greek sport journalist Mr. Vassilis Skountis.

Barba Giannis came from Karyes and at the age of just 9, he started playing basketball in Typhonas, which was then based in Kypseli. After the end of World War II, Stratos' father returned from Germany, where he had been held captive for 1.5 years, took his wife and five children and immigrated to the US, looking for a new reference point in their lives.

During his High School years at Taft High School, he played basketball at the University, where he studied Civil Engineering, turned it into Football, and even led the team to the NCAA Final 4 and was named the best defender of the 1958-59 season.

Then, together with his brothers, he opened the first restaurant, culminating in the Essex Coffe Shop, which was located opposite the World Trade Center, near the Church of St. Nicholas. In 1967 he came to Greece for a vacation and was enchanted by the basketball team of AEK. He watched all the games in Kallimarmaro and the final with Slavia Prague, where he took with him his nephew Stratos Kostalas. Eventually those vacations lasted 6 months.

53 years have passed since then and on Sunday 10-10-2021, Barba Giannis passed away, leaving behind wonderful memories, the nostalgia of a Homeland, a lot of love, great gallantry, boundless empathy and a huge hug, in which he fit all of Greece.

Good luck in Paradise Barba Giannis. As one of your basketball kids (Christos Marmarinos) said, who learned everything, "if you do not go to Paradise, then there is no Paradise".

Kalo taxidi, may your memory is eternal!!!!!!

In memory of the great compatriot,
his family wants any money to be deposited for the completion of the
KARYES LAKONIA MEMORY AND CULTURE CENTER
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**Announcement of the Karyates Association
for the loss of Giannis Kostalas**

The Board members of the Karyates Association expresses **their heartfelt condolences** to the family of this great dear compatriot. We especially thank them for their contribution to the work of creating the Karyes Lakonia Memory and Culture Center with their decision instead of wreaths to deposit money for its creation.

At the WEB SITE WWW.KARYES.GR
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