



National Albanian American Council
The Albanian American Voice in Washington D.C.

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August 1, 2008

Dear Friend,

You are cordially invited to the **12th Annual Awards Dinner** of the National Albanian American Council (NAAC), which will be held on **Friday, September 19, 2008** (6:00PM) at the prestigious Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City.



This year NAAC honors **Ambassador Frank G. Wisner**, Special Envoy of the US Secretary of State to the Kosovo Status Talks, with 'Hands of Hope Award' – for his historic and unbiased position leading to Kosovo's Independence. The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to **Congressman Eliot L. Engel** – for his superior advocacy and legislative work in support of Albanian causes at the US House of Representatives and broader international community.



Ambassador Wisner and Congressman Engel join a reputable list of previous NAAC honorees, which includes President Bill Clinton, Secretaries of State James Baker and Madeleine Albright, Senator Bob Dole, Assistant Secretary of State James Rubin, Head of UNMIK Soren Jessen Petersen and U.S. Army General Wesley K. Clark.

The gala program will feature a special presentation celebrating the legacy of the renowned Albanian, Archbishop Fan S. Noli – an esteemed churchman, poet, composer, author and scholar whose achievements spanned two continents. This year marks the **100th Anniversary of the Albanian Orthodox Church founded by Fan S. Noli** in 1908. Noli also served as Albania's Foreign Minister and Premier in 1924. Moreover, Fan S. Noli represented Albania at the League of Nations, securing international recognition in support of the fledgling state for the first time in the 20th century.

During 2008 Albanian history moved to a new era as Kosovo became the world's newest independent state; and Albania became an official member of NATO. These tremendous accomplishments provide us unique opportunities to expand our activities, while also continuing to support Albanians in Macedonia and Montenegro achieving equal economic, political and social opportunities.

With your support, **WE** can build on these milestones to ensure sustainable peace and prosperity in the Balkans; hence we invite you to join us in **embracing the positive integration of Albanians into the global community**. Enclosed you may find the registration form for the gala and the accompanying ad souvenir journal; kindly **RSVP by September 8, 2008**. Thank you for your continued generosity and partnership.

Warm regards,

Martin Shkreli
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Avni Mustafaj
Executive Director

Al Foundos & Nino Pjetri
Gala Chairmen

Harry Bajraktari, Lou Foundos, Richard Lukaj, Halil Mula
Gala Co-Chairs