

In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of Dan Georgakas, a colleague, a friend and an intellectual figure of the Greek American community.

Those of us who had the privilege to know and work with Dan will always remember his kind and engaging personality, his contributions to American society and to the Greek American community. Dan was an advocate for Hellenism and Hellenic culture. He was an educator, an activist, a poet, an historian and an advocate of social justice. I met Dan in Greek American gatherings where we found common ground not only in his Detroit background, but also in his engagement and experience in the American labor movement. His study *Detroit-I do not mind dying* remains a classic on the labor struggles in Detroit in the 70's.

Dan was a talented individual. Some have described him as an "anarchist poet". But he was more than that. He was one of the founders of the New York Greek Film Festival. He was a major contributor to the study of the American labor movement. He produced documentaries on social issues. He was an academic with strong interests in the Greek American community. He also taught in various universities. Most recently, he served as Director of The Greek American Studies Project of the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY. His interest in the Greek American community was evidenced in his regular presentations on the Future of Hellenism in America conferences sponsored by the American Hellenic Institute Foundation across the United States. In addition, Dan was editor of the *Journal of Modern Hellenism* and of the *American Journal of Contemporary Hellenic Issues*. His work was carried by the History Channel, the Voice of America, Greek Radio and TV in Athens, and by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. His work was also honored at the Greek Film Festival in New York. In 2011, Dan was honored by the Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award presented to him by the American Hellenic Institute. His passing on November 23, 2021, left a major void in the Greek American community.

We celebrate Dan's life, his contributions and achievements, and dedicate this volume of the *American Journal of Contemporary Hellenic Issues* to his memory.

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