



THE MNIMI FOUNDATION FOR HELLENIC HISTORY AND CULTURE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

British Ambassador Hosts CSUS Faculty Film "The 11th Day"

Athens, Greece – July 1, 2009: British Ambassador to Greece, Dr. David Landsman, hosted a special screening of the groundbreaking documentary film *The 11th Day*—a film by CSUS Philosophy professor Michael Epperson and his brother Christos Epperson that chronicles The Battle of Crete and the heroic resistance by the Cretan people against Hitler's occupation forces in World War II. Special guests included members of the Greek Parliament and Armed Forces, South African Ambassador M.D. Marasha, and Tasos Filippakos, Director of the Hellenic Aerospace Administration. A reception followed in the Embassy garden.

In his remarks, Ambassador Landsman stressed the common struggle of the Greek civilians and the thousands of British, New Zealander, and Australian soldiers as they battled against the elite airborne forces of the German Army and Luftwaffe. As the only documentary film of its kind, with its wealth of first-hand interviews, Ambassador Landsman stressed the historical importance of this film and thanked Professor Epperson and his brother, director Christos Epperson for having undertaken such a difficult and important project.



He offered further praise to the Eppersons' Hellenic historical foundation, The Mnimi Foundation (www.mnimi.org), for its efforts in recording and documenting the authentic testimonials of both civilian and military participants of this crucial moment of modern Hellenic history.



**British Embassy, Athens
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The 11th Day chronicles the story of the men, women, and children of the Cretan civilian resistance movement and their relentless battle against Nazi occupation forces from 1941-1945—a battle which inspired Churchill to proclaim, "Until now, we knew that Greeks were fighting like heroes; from now on we shall say that the heroes fight like Greeks." Their stories are told first hand, and on-location, through exclusive interviews with the resistance fighters themselves. Some were just child recruits at the time, boys and girls; others were seasoned veterans, and still others were the Allied soldiers and British intelligence operatives who fought alongside them. Together, they would inflict upon Germany its first

major defeat of the war, decimating half of Hitler's 8,000 invading elite airborne assault troops in just a matter of days. Later, a mere handful of Cretan fighters would kidnap the commander in chief of German forces on Crete—the famous abduction of General Kreipe, masterminded and led by British Special Operations officer Patrick Leigh Fermor. It was the only successful kidnapping of a German general throughout the war.

Fermor's participation in the film marks his first on-camera interview in over 50 years—just one reason why so many World War II historians and enthusiasts, including Ambassador Landsman, have rallied to celebrate the film.

The evening's honored guest was George Pagomenos, a veteran of Greece's famous 'Sparta Battalion' of the Korean Conflict, whose heroism inspired the Eppersons' latest documentary project, *Outpost Harry*. The film recounts the little-known story of how 150 Greek and U.S. soldiers stationed in a remote outpost behind enemy lines defeated over 3000 Chinese infantrymen in one of the most brutal sieges of the Korean War. Like a modern day Battle of Thermopylae, they were ordered to 'hold at all costs' against an enemy that vastly outnumbered them—an enemy that flooded into the tiny outpost night after night for over a week.

Additional screenings are being planned for Washington D.C., London, and South Korea. For more information, contact Michael Epperson, 916-217-2275.

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