

Eulogy for Demosthenes C. Stathis  
1923 - 2014

Our Father, who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name

OUR FATHER, hallowed be thy name on Earth: Stathis.

...Thy Name...stretching back to some long forgotten ancient past – deeply rooted in depths of the distant Greek culture....Stathoyianopoulos, a name and meaning gathered from the culture of what it meant to be Greek.

Stathoyianopoulos, brought to the new world and born here, born in you, oh my father, as Stathis, you arose in that name, beginning to be conscious of it, and forging what meaning it would have.

That what it means to be a “Stathis” means this:

A formulation of definition from its surrounding vocabulary of both Greek and American culture, around you as a boy: this would then be tested, be formulated in definition given as you emerged into young man-hood – tested at a time none other than in the world’s test:...could goodness surmount the vast evil sweeping Europe and the World.

When you put on that uniform of the American Soldier, the Stathis name as an American got meaning-

What it meant to be a Stathis, unquestionably answered when the General lined-up the Division Medics with a choice to stay behind in the medical camps or move with the fighting troops through the Front – because you were a Stathis, you stepped forward;

You gave definition to what it meant to be Stathis when the wounded soldier lay on the battlefield and you emerged from safety at your own peril to go to him ...a Purple Heart earned at the blast of death's attack...

Your name to you, compelled you when all were surrounded by the enemy – you snuck out through the lines to get water for the wounded men ...to bring water to a man in need, you considered your most important act in the war...

And then upon American soil once again, “Stathis” became, meant, a different kind of courage, a different duty, that of: to Go forth, be fruitful, and multiply.

Your hand, your heart, your intelligence working now for wife, your beloved, your beautiful bride, Maria, and for protecting and providing a place for her nurture of your child, another Stathis in this world, then another child, and another child, then another child, ...I could go on, Stathis multiplied and meaning given to each, by example, of your work to provide for them.

To be Greek, to be American, to be Father, to do what is right, to do what is good, to have honor, to be helpful, to be selfless when a loved one or friend was in need – you gave meaning to the name “Stathis” in a long life lived in the sight of God, and you gave attention upon God’s Presence through the church of your fathers.....Unto many-a-person, in advice and help given, fulfilling God’s greatest commandant, to love thy neighbor as thyself...and this was your example....

Unto the Ten – the name Stathis...

Unto the Grandchildren, the name or blood of Stathis...

Unto the great grandchildren and most of all ever and anon unto the Stathis blood lines yet unborn, you have succeeded, Oh my Father, in giving honorable meaning to the Name, to the lineage,....that we now carry....

Stathoyianopoulos, when we hear the name, an ancient memory of a Greek Presence is awakened in us; ... Stathis, when we hear the name, the presence of your person is awakened within us, [“Stathis” sounds like “selfless”] and we go on, forward, -with the promise- to live- the meaning to the name you’ve given us, and in thinking of you, in feeling your Presence near us, we hope to be worthy to add further definition to its meaning (that you would be proud of).