



### **Bedros Kalaydjian (1934-2005)**

Bedros Kalaydjian was born in August 1934 and graduated from the American Academy in Larnaca in 1953. Following studies in business management at Fallowfield College in Manchester, England, he joined the family business, which at the time centered on textiles and international commerce. Over the course of 35 years, he expanded the business to include property development and real estate, making the

Kalaydjian group of companies one of Cyprus' leading commercial organisations.

Before his political career began in 1995, Bedros Kalaydjian was a member of several charities and educational boards, most notably of the Cyprus chapter of the AGBU (Armenian General Benevolent Union) and of the American Academy Board of Trustees, of which he was Chairman for many years. He was also a distinguished Rotarian, and served as President of the Larnaca Rotary in 1992-1993.

He was elected to the Cyprus parliament, the House of Representatives, as the Armenian Community's representative in October 1995, following the death of the previous representative, his brother Aram Kalaydjian. He was re-elected in May 1996 and again in May 2001. During his time as community leader, Bedros Kalaydjian oversaw the creation of many new bodies whose aims were to bring the Cypriot Armenian community and the newly independent republic of Armenia closer together. To this end, he co-founded the Cyprus-Armenia Friendship Association, which led the way in cultural exchanges between Cyprus and Armenia. He was also Chairman of the Cyprus branch of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund, which made regular financial contributions to Armenia's and Nagorno-Karabakh's rebuilding efforts.

One of Bedros Kalaydjian's final requests was the erection of an "Armenian monument" next to the Larnaca Marina in honour of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, who first arrived in Cyprus through Larnaca's port. This monument is also an expression of gratitude of the Armenians of Cyprus to the Cypriot people, who welcomed them immediately after the genocide and helped them integrate into Cypriot society. This monument is currently being designed and will be completed in 2007.

Bedros Kalaydjian, together with his brother Aram, were also involved in private charity work through the Kalaydjian Foundation, which they set up in 1984 with the purpose of helping disadvantaged and needy members of society. Through their efforts, the Kalaydjian Foundation built and currently runs one of Cyprus' largest old age homes.

Bedros Kalaydjian passed away after a long illness in September 2005. He was married to Lisa Jackson and had two children, a daughter named Julia and a son named Tigran.