



University of Haifa

Prodromos Christou Papavassiliou

Carmel Award of Merit

Prodromos Christou Papavassiliou

Born (1919) in the village of Limnia near Famagusta, Cyprus. After completing a commercial high school in the latter, he acquired an economic education from the Pelman Institute of

London by cor-respondence while working for an import/export agency. He was among the founders of the Famagusta Trade Unions (1938) and was elected a Municipal Councillor (1943).

In 1943, he joined the British Army as a volunteer and in the course of his service befriended Jewish soldiers. This friendship led to a close and brave cooperation on the part of the shipping and tourism firm he founded in 1946, Famagusta General Agency, with the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency in assisting Jewish illegal immigrants incarcerated in Cyprus detention camps by the British. After the establishment of the State of Israel, his ships brought displaced persons to these shores, and he aided Israel on matters that remain clandestine to this day.

In 1951, Prodromos Papavassiliou co-founded Shoham (Cyprus) Ltd., which became the first shipping agency abroad to represent Israel's national carrier, Zim-Israel Navigation Co., and served as its chairman. In 1972, he set up Kyprotours Ltd., which represented El Al Israel Airlines. He is a long-time chairman of the Cyprus-Israel Association.

Mr. Papavassiliou served as Deputy Mayor (1967-1977) and then as Mayor (1978-1987) of Famagusta. He has been a key personality in the economic life of the island, among others serving as chairman of the Cyprus Shipping Association. With Famagusta's incorporation into the Turkish-held part of the island (1974), he moved to Limassol, where he became active in aiding the Greek refugees in the area. His manifold humanitarian and commercial activities have been given the recognition and honor they deserve both in his native country and in Israel.

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The Carmel Award of Merit

is hereby presented to

Prodromos Christou Papavassiliou

in recognition of his courageous, long-standing friendship with the Jewish people and the State of Israel and his humanitarian activity on behalf of Jewish and Greek refugees; in token of his contribution to developing commercial, shipping, and aviation ties between Cyprus and Israel; and in appreciation of his loyal association with the City of Haifa and the University of Haifa.

Bestowed at Haifa this day, 8 Sivan 5755/June 6, 1995

Prof. Yehuda Hayuth
President