



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens  
—EST. 1837—

**Ceremony of awarding the title  
of doctor honoris causa  
of the Department of Political Science  
and Public Administration, N.K.U.A.,  
to U.S. Senator Robert Menendez**

**Athens, August 26, 2022  
Address by the Rector, Professor M.-A. Dimopoulos**

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It is with great honor and joy, given the stature and significant work of our special guest—and always in keeping with a long-standing tradition of our Institution to celebrate those who have contributed the most to Science and Society—, that we confer today, in this historic Ceremonial Hall, the highest honor of our University, the title of **doctor honoris causa, awarded by the Department of Political Science and Public Administration of**

**the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens to the U.S. Senator, Mr. Robert Menendez.**

**The conferment of this title to Mr. Menendez is a homage to a distinguished American Citizen with world renown, who is respected and esteemed by people from all sides of the political and social spectrum of his Country, a great Philhellene with extensive knowledge of the Greek issues, who supported—and continues to support—our Country time and again and in critical moments.**

**The personal history of Senator Robert Menendez is the quintessence of the American Dream:**

The son of Cuban immigrants, he graduated from a public high school in New Jersey and went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Peter's College in Jersey City and his Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers University. At the present time, living in Bergen County, New Jersey, with his wife, Nadine, and being the father of two children, Alicia and Robert Jr., and the proud grandfather of Evangelina, Ofelia, and Olivia, he is one of 100 Senators of the United States of America, serving as Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, one of the Chamber's oldest and most respectable committees, in an era of constantly emerging issues with global—sometimes dramatic—implications for the economy and beyond.

Internationally acclaimed for his leadership and overall presence in the Congress, Senator Menendez has well-deservedly earned a reputation as a champion of New Jersey families—and families nationwide—by putting their economic security as a top priority over powerful special interests.

He was elected to Congress in 1992 and rose to leadership positions by participating in all policy issues, including war and peace, employment and the Economy, education, health care, veterans' issues, international affairs, transportation, and housing.

**Senator Menendez's guiding principle has always been to protect the powerless from the powerful and ensure fairness for every American.**

As Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, he has eventually established himself as a foreign policy leader, one who is always supporting the most vulnerable under the Law.

He is a figure of international standing who calls indefatigably—especially under the current circumstances—for full respect for International Law and the prevalence of world peace. Right from the beginning of his political career he has been fighting for the faithful observance of Treaties as well as the broadest possible accession of sovereign states to them. **Throughout his tenure, Senator Menendez has been at the forefront of America's international human rights campaign.**

In April 2021, Chairman Menendez successfully concluded a decade-long effort for the U.S. government to officially recognize the Ottoman Empire's Genocide against the Armenian people.

Senator Menendez advocates the strategic use of diplomacy in combination with economic statecraft, arguing that a close relationship between economic issues and foreign affairs is the *sine qua non* of our global economy if it is to prosper.

For his work and contribution to the deepening of Greece-U.S. relations and the promotion of peace and cooperation in our wider region, he was decorated by Her Excellency the President of the Hellenic Republic, Ms. **Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honor, in a ceremony held at the Presidential Residence in Athens.

Ladies and gentlemen,

With the utmost honor and joy, we welcome **Senator Mr. Robert Menendez** as a select member, a doctor honoris causa of the **Department of Political Science and Public Administration** of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

We welcome him today, the **26<sup>th</sup> of August**, a landmark date for humankind, as it was on this very same day back in **1789** that the representatives of the French National Assembly approved the final text of the ***Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*** [*Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen*],

which, in its iconic Article 1, states that: '**human beings are born and remain free and equal in rights**'.

We honor today Senator Menendez, the man who dedicated his life to safeguarding Human Rights **under International Law and thus stands out as a firm and uncompromising pillar of opposition against all revisionist tendencies, which keep emerging in our region and worldwide.**

**We thank him for his contribution to the Greek issues and wish *him* continued success in advancing the just demands of the nations for prosperity and fairness!**

Thank You, Everyone.