

VASSILIS PAPAGEORGOPOULOS

A native of Thessaloniki, Vassilis Papageorgopoulos attended the city's 5th Gymnasium (Junior High School) and 1st Lyceum (Senior High School).

He then went on to study dentistry at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, graduating with the degree of Dental Surgeon.

He work as a dentist until 1981, when he was elected to the Greek Parliament as a representative of Thessaloniki.

His military duty was served as a reserve officer in the Sanitary Corps.

An athlete with the «AETOS» Educational Sports Club in Thessaloniki, Vassilis Papageorgopoulos took part in international track meets for a number of years, equalling the European record for 100 meters and winning, *inter alia*, three medals at the European Games. He took part in the Munich and Montreal Olympics, where he was the standard-bearer for the Greek team.

In 1980 he was elected President of the Association of Greek Sporting and Athletic Organizations of Thessaloniki.

His public affairs career began in 1978, when his name headed the list of Municipal Councilors elected that year. First elected to Parliament in 1981, he has been returned as a member for Thessaloniki at every election since.

Vassilis Papageorgopoulos is a member of the Parliamentary Cultural Affairs Committee, the Parliamentary Anti-Drugs Committee, and the Parliamentary Helleno-Scandinavian Friendship Committee.

His term as Deputy Minister of Culture in charge of Sports was marked by extensive activity in the construction of new athletic facilities.

On October 18, 1998 Vassilis Papageorgopoulos was elected Mayor of Thessaloniki voted by the 52% of the citizens of Thessaloniki. He also elected President of the Local Union of Municipalities and Communities in Thessaloniki county for the period 1999-2002.

For his contribution to the sports and the development of Thessaloniki he has been nominated honorary PhD of TEFAA (Sports Faculty of the University of Thessaloniki), of the University of Sheffield (UK) and the University of Kingston (UK).

On October 13, 2002 he was reelected Mayor of Thessaloniki voted of the 54,2% of the citizens of Thessaloniki. He also reelected President of the Local Union of Municipalities and Communities in Thessaloniki county for the period 2003-2006.