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August 9, 2016

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Chief Executive Officer
NBC Universal

Dear Mr. Burke:

On behalf of the nationwide membership of the American Hellenic Institute, I am writing you to correct the record on NBC's coverage of the Opening Ceremonies of the Games of the XXXI Olympiad on Friday, August 5, 2016.

The evening's commentators – Matt Lauer, Hoda Kotb and Meredith Vieira – incorrectly linked Philip II of Macedon and Alexander the Great to the nation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) during the evening's broadcast. This is a historical fallacy; Alexander the Great and Philip II were from the ancient city-state of Macedonia which was Hellenic, a historical truth supported by highly-regarded classicists and historians. Furthermore, despite the IOC referring to the country by the acronym used internationally – FYROM – NBC chose to refer to FYROM as "Macedonia," inadvertently bringing up a very geopolitically sensitive topic and stoking tension with Greece and the Greek American community.

The essence of the Olympic Spirit is for countries to come together in a peaceful environment devoid of political tension. Yet last Friday evening, NBC, a neutral third party, stirred existing hostilities by ignoring the IOC's proper recognition of FYROM thereby evoking a sensitive issue with, of all nations, Greece, which founded the Olympic Games. This only serves to embolden FYROM which continues to act with impunity, claiming portions of Greek territory and usurping components of Greek identity and culture with no regard for norms of international law.

Mr. Burke, NBC conveyed historical inaccuracies which has caused significant uproar. Therefore, we respectfully request NBC to take appropriate action and issue an on-air retraction during the Closing Ceremony of the Rio Games. We expect NBC to take the correct course of action. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nick Larigakis
President

cc: Matt Bond, Chairman, Content Distribution
Ted Harbert, Chairman, NBC Broadcasting
Mark Lazarus, Chairman, NBC Sports Group