

Salute to Women History and Honorees



The Salute to Women was founded by Past Grand President Honorable Betty Athanasakos and Past Grand President Joanna Panagopoulos Merakos. The idea was conceived in 1965 to promote the Daughters of Penelope as a major National and International Woman's Philanthropic Organization.

Since the Daughters of Penelope had proven to be a dynamic force in their local communities and was making a stir throughout the U.S., Canada, and Greece, Past Grand President Athanasakos recommended the Daughters of Penelope recognize an outstanding woman outside of the organization. Four years later, Grand President Merakos adopted the idea to honor a woman who represented and possessed the goals and ideals of the Daughters of Penelope and the "SALUTE" became a reality.

The first Salute to Women event was held at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington, DC. The Salute to Women is awarded biennially and is presented at a reception held during the AHEPA Family Supreme Convention.

2023 Salute to Women

The Daughters of Penelope is proud to announce **Yanna Darilis**, New Greek TV President and Wellness Expert, as the 2023 Salute to Women Honoree.



Photo Left to Right: Past Grand President Anna-Helene Grossomanides, Past Grand President Jan Spanos, Past Grand President Celia Kachmarski, Past Grand President & 2023 Salute to Women Chair Christine Constantine, 2023 Salute to Women Honoree Yanna Darilis, Grand President Georgette Boulegeris, Past Grand President Joanne Booras, Past Grand President Demi Thomas, and Past Grand President Evellyn Tsiadis.



Photo Left to Right: DOP Executive Director Elena Saviolakis, AHEPA Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas, Past Grand President & 2023 Salute to Women Chair Christine Constantine, Ambassador of the United States to Greece George J. Tsunis, 2023 Salute to Women Recipient Yanna Darilis, Grand President Georgette Boulegeris, Maids of Athena Grand President Maria Ana Pantelous, and Past Grand President Jan Spanos.



YANNA DARILIS

MEDIA EXECUTIVE, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, CONTENT CREATOR, ON CAMERA TALENT, WRITER, DIRECTOR

Yanna Darilis’s career in the broadcast industry spans over 25 years, having worked on major Greek and American television channels as an on-camera talent, producer, writer, and director. Yanna’s specialty is in live broadcasts, having worked on daily live morning shows for over 15 consecutive years, and hosting live reporting and broadcasts on parade commentating. She holds a B.S in Film & Television from Empire State University/New York College and was the Assistant Director of Film & Media Studies for New York College, Athens, Greece. Yanna also has earned a MS and is a PhD candidate finishing her dissertation.

Yanna served as the President & CEO of the 40-year Greek American Television Channel, New Greek Television, on Spectrum-Time Warner, RCN & Bell Fibe, Canada for over a decade. Her extensive career includes media business development, content acquisition, studio development, distribution, content creation, producing, directing, writing. Yanna has developed and produced multiple TV shows, live broadcasts, news, and documentary features. Yanna has written and directed over 100 English language travel, lifestyle, and cooking features on Greece, for Hellenic Broadcast (ERT World), on her show “Hellenic Weekly”, the first English language show for Greece, America’s PBS and OTE History Greece on her show “Mediterranean Blue”, as well as destination Greece on New Greek TV. Yanna also has conducted the acquisition of licensing of Greek Television channels for the US & Canada. Yanna’s recent licensing of ERT World brought ERT World back to the United States after a decade of absence on USA platforms.

Yanna worked for the International Olympics Committee (IOC), for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games as a Stadium Director, Voice Talent, and on-air talent-as the Master of Ceremonies for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Athens, 2004 Olympic Games.

Yanna shared her travel experience as a contributor of the huffingtonpost.com, and health, beauty, and fitness articles on thriveglobal.com, rise.com, cyprusmail.com and newgreektv.com.

Yanna also organizes and moderates’ panels for the United Nations, Staff Recreational Council, Salus Club, on Environmental, Health and Peace Topics. She is an advocate of the Sustainable Developmental Goals. She recently moderated a panel on international co-productions with Greece at the SIFCA film festival with Debra Wooton of Pinewood Studios and Liza Papatzimas of Sonar-Halycon Studios. Yanna’s love and passion for the arts, culture and history extends to curating various art exhibits promoting Hellenic Culture.

Yanna is currently developing international Film and Television projects as an executive and creative producer with her New York based production company, Dorian Productions. She is an accredited member of the Press of the New York State Police Department, a member of the Foreign Press Association (FPA) and former FPA Board Member, she is also recognized by Who’s Who International and Who’s Who Greece for her excellence as a Woman in Media.

"The Daughters of Penelope have been serving humanity for over 90 years, and I am so humbled and so honored to accept this award. I do so with humility and the utmost appreciation for the recognition, and believe this is the greatest honor, a Greek-American woman can ever receive. I would like to take this opportunity to prompt the new generation to continue this legacy. Whether our kindness is leading us to helping people here in America, in Greece, or any other country, we must always remember to honor those who came before us, and to mentor the leaders of the next generation," said Darilis.

Salute to Women Distinguished Honorees

- 1970 Senator Margaret Chase Smith
- 1972 Dr. Sarah E. Smith
- 1974 Brigadier General Elizabeth Hoisington
- 1974 Brigadier General Ann Mae Hays
- 1976 Former First Lady Betty Ford
- 1978 The Honorable Lindy Boggs, Louisiana Congresswoman

1980 Ambassador Shirley Temple Black
1982 The Honorable Olympia Snowe, Maine Congresswoman
1984 Betty White, Actress & TV Personality
1984 Matina Horner, President, Radcliff College
1986 Helen Boosalis, NE Mayor & Sandra Day O'Connor, Supreme Court Justice
1988 Helen Thomas, White House Correspondent
1990 Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics Founder
1992 The Honorable Barbara Spryridon Pope
1994 Elaine K. Schocas
1986 Dr. Zoe Papadopoulou Couloumbis
1998 Kathryn Calogrides Coumanis, PhD
1998 Julia K. Terzis, MD, FRCS, PhD
2000 Thalia Assuras, CBS News Anchor
2002 Dr. Christine Warnke, Political Figure & Talk Show Host
2004 Maria Pappas
2006 The Honorable Dora Bakoyannis
2008 The Honorable Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis
2010 The Honorable Eleni Bakopanos, PC
2012 US Representatives Shelley Berkley & Dina Titus
2014 Cat Cora, World Renown Chef
2016 Shannon Miller, Olympic Gold Medalist
2018 Distributing Dignity
2022 Janet E. Petro, Deputy Center Director, Kennedy Space Center
2023 Yanna Darilis, New Greek TV President & Wellness Expert