



Daughters of Penelope
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Daughters of Penelope Salute to Women a Success!

July 16, 1010, Montreal, Ontario, Canada: Eleni Bakopanos, PC was honored by the Daughters of Penelope at their bi-annual Salute to Women at the 78th AHEPA Family National Convention in Montreal, Canada. She is the 23rd to have received this coveted honor. The honoree was selected for her contribution to women in politics, as well as, for her impact on society. She is the first Greek-born woman elected to the House of Commons, and served from 1993 to 2004. While serving in the House, Ms. Bakopanos was instrumental in Canada's adoption of a Commemorative Stamp to honor AHEPA Canada's 75th Anniversary.

The Salute was filled to capacity with AHEPA family members and friends. A reception line was held prior to the event and attendees were pleased to meet, greet and thank Ms. Bakopanos for her contribution and her acceptance of the award.

The hall was elegantly transformed for guests who were greeted by candle lit café tables and two magnificent panels of Penelope in profile, designed by Past Grand President (PGP), Demi Kapolis and Past Canadian President, Despina Chrisohou. The panels were proudly donated to the Daughters of Penelope Headquarters by the 2010 Salute to Women Committee for use at future Daughters events.

Ms. Demi Kapolis, Chairman of the event, introduced Ms. Bakopanos to the audience, stating, "You are truly an extraordinary woman, and we are honored and pleased to have you accept our invitation to be our 2010 recipient." As part of her remarks, Ms. Kapolis informed the recipient of their unique connection, sharing that one of her most valued treasures, from her travels as Grand President, was a framed copy of the Canadian stamp, which is proudly displayed in her home library.



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The Salute to Women, now in its 40th year, was founded by two Past Grand Presidents, Ms. Betty Athanasakos and Ms. Joanna Panagopoulos-Merakos. The two women were honored at this year's event for their foresighted inception of the Salute to Women which was developed to be a vehicle to showcase the Daughters of Penelope, as well as, the women that were being honored for their contribution. The first recipient was Senator Margaret Chase Smith.

Introductions by Honorary Chair, Barbara Stavis-Wolf informed the group that Ms. Athanasakos, was unfortunately unable to attend the event due to work responsibilities, and although missed today, that her legacy would continue on as does her dedication to the Order. Ms. Merakos, who was able to attend, was obviously overwhelmed with the gratitude exhibited by the crowd, and proudly displayed a gift from her husband which had been presented to her at the first Salute. Joanna's unselfish dedication to the Daughters of Penelope, to this day, continues as an example to all, and it is hoped that she continues to be active for many, many more years to come.

After an introduction of the 2010 Recipient by Chairman Kapolis, Ms. Bakopanos' remarks were received with enthusiasm by the entire audience. Ms. Bakopanos shared her experiences in politics and the need to "choose a path less traveled by." She described many of the obstacles placed in the path of women, and sacrifices which often must be made to meet the challenges of a public career. She found that although the road was difficult that it had been worth the effort, as it had opened doors for the next generation of young women to follow. She acknowledged the youth in the audience and encouraged them to follow in her foot prints.

"I want to thank Ms. Kapolis, Honorary Chairman, Past Grand President, Barbara Stavis-Wolf, as well as the other members of the "Salute to Women" committee and the Daughters of Penelope, for the great honor bestowed on me."



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“You have all been so, thoughtful and friendly in every possible way. I truly enjoyed myself and meeting with such wonderful “trailblazers” who have also chosen the path less traveled such as Joanna and yourselves. I thank you all again for honoring my accomplishments and most importantly for your respect and friendship. I admire the work and respect all the women involved with the Daughters of Penelope and wish you all continued success.”

The Salute to Women was a resounding success and it is assured that the event will continue for the next 40 years.

Photo 1: Committee:



Front row: Connie Banis, PGP, Co-Chair, our recipient, Joanna Panagopoulos-Merakos, PGP, Founder of the Salute to Women, Elaine Sampanis, GP, Demi Kapolis, PGP, Event Chair; Barbara Stavis Wolf, PGP, Hon. Chairman

Top row: Elena Kerasiotis, PDG, Committee Member, Nikitoula Menounos, PDG, Committee Member, Mary Georgiafandis, PGP, Co-Chair



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Photo 2: Honorees: Eleni Bakopanos, PC and Joanna Panagopoulos-Merakos, PGP



Photo 3: Hon. Chair Barbara Stavis-Wolf, PGP, Eleni Bakopanos, PC, Demi Kapolis, PGP, Event
Chairman



Photo 4: Hon. Chair Barbara Stavis-Wolf, PGP, Event Chair Demi Kapolis, PGP, Honoree Eleni
Bakopanos, PC, Connie Banis, PGP, Co-Chair and Mary Georgiandis, PGP, Co-Chair.

