FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Daughters of Penelope Present
2026 Salute to Women Award to Journalist Dody Tsiantar

PHILADELPHIA, PA (July 30, 2026) The Daughters of Penelope (DOP) presented the prestigious 2026 Salute to Women award to Dody Tsiantar, Journalist, Professor, Author, and Photographer. The award was presented during the Daughters of Penelope Supreme Convention at the Sheraton Philadelphia Hotel, in conjunction with the ongoing 250th Celebration of the United States in Philadelphia.

Dody Tsiantar, a Greek American born in Fort Lauderdale, FL, exemplifies this truth with a remarkable 30-year career spanning journalism, teaching, publishing entrepreneurship, and, most recently, photography.

After earning her Master's degree from Columbia University and her Bachelor's from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Ms. Tsiantar began her full-time journalism career in 1981. Over the years, she wrote for prestigious publications such as *The Washington Post, Newsweek, Money, Fortune, In Style, and Time, and took on leadership roles managing editorial sections at Newsweek, Money, In Style, and Time*.

In 2006, she transitioned to academia, teaching graduate students at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at City University of New York. Over the years, Ms. Tsiantar has inspired and mentored aspiring journalists, helping them master the craft of ethical storytelling. Former students continue to reach out for her advice and guidance.

Throughout her teaching career, she also freelanced for top-tier outlets including Time, Fortune, Al Jazeera America, CNBC, Los Angeles Times, CNN Money, Buzzfeed, and Quartz. Notably, in 2015, she covered the Greek financial crisis for multiple publications, drawing on her deep connection to Greece.

After retiring from teaching, Ms. Tsiantar embraced a new passion—photography—focusing on doors, which symbolize opportunities and new beginnings. What started as an Instagram hobby evolved into a professional pursuit. Her photographic series, Glimpses of Greece: Door Portraits, has been exhibited at the Embassy of Greece in Washington, D.C. (May 2023) and the Chalkos Gallery in Thessaloniki (June 2025). She is preparing for her next exhibition featuring photos of doors in Larnaca, scheduled for this summer.

As she often reflects, English poet William Blake said, *"In the universe there are things that are known, and things that are unknown—and in between, there are doors."* Dody Tsiantar's life is a testament to opening those doors and embracing the opportunities they offer to grow, explore, and inspire.

Photo Left to Right: DOP Past Grand President Georgette Boulegeris, DOP Past Grand President Karen Stamatiades, DOP Past Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf, 2026 Salute to Women Honoree Dody Tsiantar, DOP Grand President Antoinette Marousis Zachariades, Maids of Athena Past Grand President Pam Stamm, and DOP Past Grand President Margaret Dritsas.

History of the Salute to Women

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.

Distinguished Honorees

1970 Senator Margaret Chase Smith, U.S. Rep (1940–1949) U.S. Senator (1949–1973) Maine
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 Shirley Temple Black, Child Actress and Ambassador to Ghana
1982 The Honorable Olympia Snowe, Maine, Congresswoman
1984 Betty White, Actress and TV Personality
1984 Matina Horner, President, Radcliff College
1986 Helen Boosalis, First Female Mayor in Lincoln, NE
1986 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, Assistant Secretary of the Navy
1994 Elaine K. Schocas
1996 Dr. Zoe Papadopoulos Couloumbis
1998 Kathryn Calogrides Coumanis, PhD, Founder of Penelope House
1998 Julia K. Terzis, MD, FRCS, PhD, Renowned Physician in Restorative Microsurgery
2000 Thalia Assuras, CBS News Anchor
2002 Dr. Christine Warnke, Governmental Affairs Advisor and Talk Show Host
2004 Maria Pappas, Treasurer, Cook County, IL
2006 The Honorable Dora Bakoyannis, Mayor of Athens and Foreign Minister of Greece
2008 The Honorable Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Foreign Minister of Cyprus
2010 The Honorable Eleni Bakopanos, PC, Member of the Canadian House of Commons
2012 US Representatives Shelley Berkley and Dina Titus of Nevada
2014 Cat Cora, World Renowned Chef, 1st Female Iron Chef, Author, and Television Host
2016 Shannon Miller, Olympic Gold Medalist
2018 Distributing Dignity, Non-Profit Enhancing the Dignity of Women in Need
2022 Janet E. Petro, Deputy Center Director, Kennedy Space Center
2023 Yanna Darilis, TV Host, Producer, Director, Peace and Health Advocate
2026 Dody Tsiantar, Journalist, Professor, Author, and Photographer

About the Daughters of Penelope

Founded in San Francisco in 1929, the Daughters of Penelope (DOP) is the first women's organization of its kind established in the United States. It is an affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA).

The mission of the DOP is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.

For more information about the DOP, or any of its programs or projects, please visit www.daughtersofpenelope.org.

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