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.

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 Papadopoulos Couloumbis  
1998  Kathryn Calogrides Coumanis, PhD  
1998  Julia K. Terzis, MD, FRCS, PhD  
2000  Thalia Assurias, 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

2022 Salute to Women

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The Daughters of Penelope is proud to announce Dr. Janet E. Petro, Director of NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Center, as the 2022 Salute to Women Honoree.

Photo L to R: Salute to Women Committee Member/Past Grand President Demi Thomas, Executive Director Elena Saviolakis, 2021-2022 Grand President Kathy Bizoukas, Elizabeth Petro, Salute to Women Honoree Dr. Janet E. Petro, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophorus of
America, Salute to Women Chairman/Past Grand President Joanne Booras, Her Excellency Alexandra Papadopoulou, Ambassador of Greece to the USA, and Salute to Women Committee Member/Past Grand President Celia Kachmarski. Photo Credit: Amar Dewal of BNB Photography NY

Photo L to R: Past Grand President Celia Kachmarski, Past Grand President Joanne Booras, Elizabeth Petro, 2022 Salute to Women Honoree Dr. Janet E. Petro, Space Donald, Executive Director Elena Saviolakis, Past Grand President Demi Thomas, and Newly Elected Grand President Georgette Boulegeris. Photo Credit: Amar Dewal of BNB Photography NY