Zoe Cavalaris Outstanding Female Athlete Award

The Daughters of Penelope Zoe Cavalaris Outstanding Female Athlete Award, established by Past Grand President Zoe Lucas Cavalaris (1918-1985), honors an amateur Hellenic young woman who has achieved highest athletic accomplishments in high school or college and maintained a high sense of scholarship, community and civic involvement. To view the application, click here.

2022 Athletic Awards Luncheon

One of our many highlights at the AHEPA Family Supreme Convention is the Athletic Awards Luncheon.

The Daughters of Penelope is proud to announce Georgia Chrysi Polydoros of Houston, TX, as the 2022 Zoe Cavalaris Outstanding Female Athletic Award recipient and Team USA Paralympian Eliana Marie Mason of Beaverton, OR as the 2022 Hall of Fame Athlete.

Photo L to R: Daughters of Penelope Athletics Chair Katina Tassopoulos, 2021-2022 Grand President Kathy Bizoukas, 2022 Zoe Cavalaris Honoree Georgia Polydoros, and Brother Harry Cavalaris. Photo Credit: Daughters of Penelope Executive Director Elena Saviolakis
Daughters of Penelope 2022 Zoe Cavalaris Awardee

The Daughters of Penelope is proud to announce Georgia Chrysi Polydoros, of Houston, TX, as the 2022 Zoe Cavalaris Outstanding Female Athletic Award recipient.

Georgia attends Lamar High School in Houston, Texas, where she is a 3.878 GPA on a 4-point scale honors student. Athletically, she excels as a left-handed centerfielder and pitcher on the Lamar Texans 6A Varsity Softball Team. She is a three-year varsity starter and was named 1st Team All-District in both the 2021 and 2022 seasons. She was also nominated to the Texas Sports Nation Girls High School Athlete of the Week on April 11, 2022, for her exemplary play in a key district playoff game when she went 4 for 5 at the plate with a home run, three RBIs and three runs scored. She also pitched all five innings and struck out seven batters. Her performance helped her team finish 2nd.

Although Georgia will be a senior at Lamar High School this fall, her 5 years of club experience in tournament play throughout the country attracted college coaches recruiting for their teams. Thus, it was no surprise that she was emailed at 12:01 am, September 1, 2021, with an offer to play for the California Baptist University Lancers Division I Softball Team. Congratulations to Georgia, as she has verbally committed to CBU, in Riverside, CA, to begin in fall of 2023.

In July 2021 in Westminster, Colorado, Georgia played for “Team Greece” Junior National Softball Team in an inaugural TCS (Triple Crown Fastpitch) International Challenge of 23 teams representing 18 countries. As the result of her stellar performance on “Team Greece”, she was named team MVP and represented “Team Greece” on a World Team exhibition game against Team USA. Georgia was selected this summer to continue playing for “Team Greece”; and with her recently approved dual citizenship in Greece, she is hoping to one day be able to represent Greece in the Olympics.

Georgia is an active member of Maids of Athena, Rodanthi Chapter 41. Her softball achievements, academic record, leadership qualities, and volunteer activities in her Greek Orthodox Church personifies the Zoe Cavalaris Outstanding Female Athlete.
Daughters of Penelope 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame Awardee

Eliana Marie Mason, Beaverton, Oregon, has brought a whole new meaning to the Hall of Fame Athletic Award. Eliana was born with congenital glaucoma and cataracts and today has no vision in her left eye and limited vision in her right eye. In 2008 at the age of 13, she discovered a sport where being blind was not a hinderance, but an intentional part of the game: Goalball. She fell in love with the game and went on to become a Paralympian Athlete. Her love of this empowering game was heightened at her 1st national tournament in 2011 and her 1st international tournament in Finland in 2013. Today, Eliana lives in Fort Wayne, IN, at the U.S. Women’s Goalball Campus where she trains everyday with her other 5 US Women’s teammates. She trains 23 hours a week on strengthening & conditioning, on-court training, plyometrics, yoga & flexibility; all giving her US Team an advantage when competing in world and paralympic competitions, as proven in the Olympics Paralympic Games in Rio 2016 to win bronze and in Tokyo 2020(2021) to win silver medals.

Being a Paralympian, has given Eliana the confidence and drive to achieve her goals, to help her reframe her identity, to see the world and to meet people through her travels, already in ten different countries. She has excelled as a tough competitor and leader. Recently Eliana was named a Goalball Sport Ambassador by the USABA (Assoc. of Blind Athletes) to promote the Goalball sport and raise critical funds to change the lives of other American Athletes with visual impairments. This leadership works hand in hand with her current masters program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Eliana has exceeded many of her goals in a short period of time as a young adult. She has learned that her “pathway to goalball was the path she was meant to take; through all the struggle, hard work, dedication, and determination to become a part of the US Women’s Team; all leading her to where she is today.” Congratulations to our inspirational Hall of Fame Athlete, Eliana Marie Mason.