

# Awards Dinner

## HELLENIC HERITAGE NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

### Eleni D. Bousis

#### *Philanthropist*

*For her faithful service to the vulnerable and marginalized across the globe.*



**Eleni D. Bousis** came to the United States as a little girl. She has often said that when she immigrated as a child, her family instilled more than just pride in her Greek heritage; they also fostered an abiding sense of duty to help those in need. Those Hellenic values from childhood have provided a template for an extraordinary life of service to others.

The wife of entrepreneur Dimitri (Jimmy) Bousis, Eleni is the mother of four children, Michael, Victoria, Evangelo and George. After focusing on her family, Eleni went back to school to earn her degree in child psychology, an expertise that has helped guide her philanthropic endeavors.

Under the direction of the late Archbishop Christodoulos of Greece, Eleni was a founding member of Frontida, an organization dedicated to providing resources and healing for abused children and families. She is also a founding member of The Dimitri and Eleni Bousis Orphanage in Kakamega, Kenya. Eleni is a contributing board member of the Little City Foundation, in Palatine, Illinois which serves children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities through housing, education and training.

In addition to her work for children and families, Eleni has been active in other human services philanthropy, even teaming up with former President Ronald Reagan to support research for Alzheimer's disease. Her work to save the Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Center (GARCC) is legendary in her hometown of Chicago, where she single-handedly revitalized the institution and worked with members of the community to erase deficits and build awareness. In 2015, Eleni established, and is Chairman of the Board, of the Hippocratic Cancer Research Foundation for the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern

University. She currently serves the Governor of Illinois as Human Rights Commissioner for the State of Illinois and is an active leader for Leadership 100.

Eleni is also a recipient of the Ellis Island Award and Hellenic American Academy Heritage Award for Hellenism, education and culture. Eleni has received the Hellenic Bar Association, Hellene of the Year Award for exemplifying the Hellenic ideals of democracy and culture, the Honorary Humanitarian Award by the Pansalinian Society, for her work in securing the existence of the Panagia Monastery in Ellasona, Greece, and the Olive Tree Branch Award as Woman of the Year in Athens, Greece, after assisting Governor Giannopoulos to raise funds for parks in Arkadia, Greece. In addition, she has been recognized by the Pan-Arcadian Federation as Woman of the Year. Eleni received the prestigious Hellene Abroad Award for her global philanthropic work at the Niarchos Foundation event in Greece during the summer of 2018. She has also been honored with the Sidney L. Port Legacy of Distinction award and the Woman of the 21st Century Award.

Eleni credits her soulmate, Jimmy, for fostering a sense of zeal and determination for her work. Through their mutual successes they developed a deep compassion and empathy that has touched thousands of children and adults around the world. Their love of God provides them the strength and wisdom to continue their good works.

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*In recognition of her compassionate response to suffering around the world, and life-long service to our nation and community, we present Eleni D. Bousis with the Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award this ninth day of March, 2019, at our Forty-fourth Anniversary Dinner.*