

In Loving Memory



Angeline Lampas Papadakis

December 26, 1925

November 9, 2017

The Trisagion and Funeral Services
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
Trisagion November 19th: 5:00 p.m.
Funeral November 20th: 10:30 a.m.

The Trisagion & Funeral Celebrants
Reverend Father Michael Courey
Father Deacon Cary Constantine

Eulogies
Grandchildren

Pallbearers
Simon Ford Evan Papadakis
Anthony Papadakis Petros Papadakis
Demetri Papadakis Taso Papadakis
Michael Robles

*The Family invites everyone to the memorial luncheon
in the Community Center immediately following the service.*

Private Internment
Green Hills Memorial Park, Rancho Palos Verdes

In lieu of flowers
Donations in Memory of Angie may be made to
Saint Katherine's Building Fund

ANGELINE "ANGIE" PAPADAKIS

Angeline "Angie" Lampas was born to Greek immigrant parents, John and Alexandra, on December 26th, 1925, in Enid, Oklahoma, where her parents had settled in the early twentieth century. They moved to Los Angeles in 1930,



and most of Angie's early years were spent growing up in the Leimert Park area of Los Angeles.

Angie was an excellent student at Dorsey High School and was able to complete her studies in 2 ½ years. She was admitted to the Epehebian Honor Society and became valedictorian of her class. Although she had admissions from USC, UCLA, Occidental and Stanford Universities, she had the misfortune of being a girl and in a traditional Greek

family. During that period Angie needed her parents' blessings in order to accept any of the offers. The principal of Dorsey High even came to Angie's home to try and persuade her parents, but to no avail. They both listened attentively and then her mother stated emphatically, "She is a girl. If she was a boy okay, but she is a girl. She needs to get married and have boys." Having three girls, her parents were fearful of having to provide dowries for each of them, as was the Greek custom. Their mother had the greater fear of her daughters becoming old maids!

An accomplished violinist, Angie, as a young girl, was cast in the Shirley Temple classic, *Little Miss Broadway*. Playing the violin as a member of the orchestra, she also had the opportunity to speak one line. As Shirley Temple tries to escape from the orphanage, it is young Angie, looking out the window, who exclaims, "But what'll I tell the matron?"

After graduation, instead of going on to college, Angie went to work for the U.S. Office of Price Administration (OPA) as a secretary and ended up running the organization during her boss's long absences.

Many have heard the story of Angie's arranged marriage to Ernest "Tom" Papadakis on September 7, 1946. She was 20 when a planned engagement party at her future in-laws home in San Pedro, California, turned into a wedding ceremony. When asked if she had a choice to marry Tom, her answer was, "Choice, what choice? You either married a Greek or you became a nun." Because her sister Kay had married the year before, John Lampas wasn't prepared to pay for a second wedding so soon, so Nick Papadakis, Tom's father, offered to pay for the wedding. No dowry was required!



Tom and Angie settled in San Pedro. They raised three sons, Nick, John and Tom and as they grew Angie became active in the PTA, the Salvation Army, and the Friday Morning Club. She was also the consummate Greek wife and mother for all her activities needed to be planned so she could be home by 5:00 p.m. to feed her family. Angie and Tom's marriage lasted 58 years until Tom's passing in 2005. They hardly knew each other when they married. Even so, they had a wonderful married life.

While Angie's first priority was taking care of her family's needs, she developed a career outside her household duties to satisfy her creative spirit. For over three decades her one-liners were printed in numerous publications, including the *Daily Breeze*. She was also an award-winning humorist, writing scripts for cartoonists, featured in such well-known publications as *Cosmopolitan*, *Playboy* and *Reader's Digest*. For television Angie provided gags for Phyllis Diller, Johnny Carson, Bob Hope and Groucho Marx.

Angie's community service began in earnest in 1963 when she became the director and secretary of the Los Angeles County Lung Association Board. She is the one who came up with the famous logo, "It's a matter of life and breath." After her sons were adults and flew the nest, Angie came into her own. She became a professional public speaker, addressing clubs, organizations and business conventions as a keynote speaker, speaking throughout the State of California and all the Western states. She always took her mother along as "chaperone." Angie definitely overcame being "only a girl!"

As education had always been one of her priorities, when she was given the opportunity, Angie devoted countless hours ensuring that students – regardless of race, gender, religion, or creed – received a quality education. She accomplished this by serving four terms on the Los Angeles County Board of Education beginning in 1978. She served both as vice-president and president, before being appointed to the California State Board of Education in 1983 for one term only. Angie did not shy away from controversy and she felt strongly that children should be taught in English, as she was as a child, who entered school not speaking a word of English. This was not a popular stance, and she was not reappointed for a second term. She was, however, reappointed to the LA County Board of Education from 2002 to 2010.

Her civic minded persona had her appointed to many boards and commissions throughout the years. Some of her appointments included the: Los Angeles Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Executive Board, 1978; Los Angeles Citizens Advisory Commission, 1979; Los Angeles County Board of Education, 1978-1982, 2002-2010; Director of United Way, Inc.; Chairman of the Harbor Round Table Against Youth Violence; Commissioner with the Department of Public Social Service – LA County; California State Little Hoover Commission, 1989-2000. She was also the founder and director of the Los Angeles Harbor Area Gang Alternative Program (GAP).

Angie Papadakis has been awarded numerous honors and commendations. Some included: Woman of the Year, 2007 by the LA County Commission; Woman of the Year for the 51st Assembly District; Salvation Army Sage of the Year; Boy Scouts Citizen of the Year; Long Beach City College Senior Citizen of the Year; and the “Amicus Collegii” Award from Los Angeles Harbor College.

Angie Papadakis is one of those rare people who was loved and admired by all. Her life will inevitably be measured by the powerful impact she had on the lives of others. It is a life well-lived. May her memory be eternal.



Angie's many Board and Commission appointments include:

Assistance League Advisory Board
L. A. Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America Executive Board, 1978
Los Angeles Citizens Advisory Commission, 1979
Los Angeles County Board of Education, 1978 – 1982, 2002 – 2010
California Board of Education, 1983 – 1988
Education Committee of the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce
Director of the United Way, Inc.
Director Archdiocese of Los Angeles Education Foundation
Director of Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation Board
Chairman of the Harbor Round Table Against Youth Violence
Commissioner with the Department of Public Social Service – L. A. County
Vice Chairman of the L.A. Harbor Improvement Commission
Salvation Army Board
Little Hoover Commission, 1989 – 2000

**Angie has been awarded numerous honors and commendations
for her hard work and dedication throughout her life.**

Her many honors include:

Silver Beaver Award from the Los Angeles Area Boy Scouts of America
Women of the Year 2007 by the Los Angeles County Commission
Women of the Year for the 51st Assembly District
Sage of the Year San Pedro Salvation Army
South Bay Woman of the Year
Switzer Center Woman of the Year
Citizen of the Year, Boy Scouts of America, Harbor Division
Citizen of the Year, San Pedro Lion's Club
Long Beach City College's Senior Citizen of the Year
"Amicus Collegii" award from Los Angeles Harbor College
2007 recipient of the Community Service and Education Award

For those who never had the good fortune to see the resume Angie created for herself, the following few lines are an excerpt displaying her innate comedic ability.



Before Marriage

After Marriage

NAME: Angie Papadakis .. *but my husband calls me "halfwoman, half wit", my sons call me "The Greek Tragedy", and my mother calls me every morning.*

ADDRESS: Rancho Palos Verdes ... *that's where everyone has an acre of land, a swimming pool and a horse ... we call it "the mink and manure set."*

MARRIED: To Ernest Papadakis ... *my parents gave me two choices ... I could either marry a Greek or become a nun.*

CHILDREN: 3

GRANDCHILDREN: I could tell you how grand, but I'm taking modesty lessons

RACE: No, *just joggers run in my family.*

HEIGHT: No problem

WEIGHT: Watching

HAIR: Yes

COLOR: Every 3 or 4 weeks

AGE: Don't we all?

EDUCATION: Formal ... *wore shoes and a bra to school*

DEGREE: MRS (*Married, Raised Sons*)

TRACKING A THIEF

Al Z. Heimers is his name. There are no other distinguishable qualities about him - a disease with no face, no features, no physical presence, just his name, an invisible man able to inhabit a mind without cause and without cure. He specializes in random acts of home invasion, slowly emptying desks and drawers, lifting jewelry from a box and old letters from a shelf, stripping the contents of cabinets that store, preserve and protect a lifetime. He will even take your car away never to be retrieved, never to drive again on that independent road.

Methodically he peels away your memory, working from the most recent to your oldest and most treasured private places in your past that define you. He invades your identity. He seeks to strip you of your dignity. When discovered by his victim, it may be possible to slow down the purging process. Still his gluttonous nature relentlessly forges through the daily dosages of medication leaving you with only traces of what your life used to be. He fills the void that he has created in you and dominates your life.

As time passes, he will steal your ability to speak, to eat, to smile. He takes everything with one exception. He cannot take or touch or diminish your soul. No human disease can yet claim that which belongs to God. It is yours to deliver when he has finished his pillaging. It is the soul, God-like, eternal, magnificent that lives forever.

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Angie has had a powerful, positive impact on all she has come in contact with and we will miss her dearly.