

NANCY G. BRINKER

PROMISE FUND OF FLORIDA CO-FOUNDER HONORED



Nancy G. Brinker

Promise Fund of Florida Co-Founder Nancy G. Brinker was recently honored as a 2022 *Ellis Island Medals of Honor* recipient. The 35th annual event was held on Ellis Island to recognize Americans who selflessly work towards the betterment of the United States and its citizens.

“While some would say public service is a responsibility, I would say it is a privilege,” said Brinker, who was one of the selected honorees to provide remarks at the event. “Ellis Island is a reminder that not everyone enjoys the same privileges we do, and it is our duty to ensure that future generations remember the past and answer the call to serve our country — not just out of a sense of duty, but out of a sense of enormous gratitude.”

Brinker noted that her family immigrated as European Jews in the 19th Century due to persecution. She then expressed appreciation for living in a country where citizens can speak about issues they care about like she has while working to cure breast cancer in honor of her sister **Susan G. Komen**.

Brinker promised her sister two things while she was dying at the age of 36 — first, to cure breast cancer, and second, to ensure that all women had equal access to life-saving testing and treatment. After achieving great success with **Susan G. Komen for the Cure**, Brinker created the **Promise Fund** to eliminate deaths from cervical and breast cancers by improving access to early detection screenings, especially for uninsured or underinsured women. Thanks to a transformative gift from Hologic, recent funding from the State of Florida and other donations, the health equity initiative has recently been propelled two years in advance of its goals.

“This award feels full circle for me,” said Brinker. “My family immigrated in pursuit of hope and opportunity. My current work is to provide women, often immigrants, that same hope and opportunity concerning life-saving screenings and treatments.”

With a mission that can be summed up in a single phrase,

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“immigration works for America,” the **Ellis Island Honors Society** (EIHS) honors the importance of immigration to America’s prosperity and celebrates the contributions immigrants and their progeny have made to the United States. The *Medals of Honor* program was founded in 1986 and presented annually to those who have shown an outstanding commitment to serving our nation either

professionally, culturally or civically, among other criteria. Past Medalists include seven U.S. Presidents; several Nobel Laureates; and countless leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government. All honorees have made freedom, liberty and compassion a part of their life’s work. Brinker was nominated by EIHS Board member, past Medalist and former Apple CEO **John Sculley**.

For a complete list of 2022 *Ellis Island Medals of Honor* honorees, visit eihonors.org. For more information on the Promise Fund visit promisefundofflorida.org.