Former Connecticut Governor Ella T. Grasso was born on May 10, 1919, in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College with honors in 1940 and received an M.A. in sociology in 1942.

Grasso was elected to the state legislature in 1952 and again in 1954. In 1958, she was appointed Connecticut Secretary of State. She was elected to the United States House of Representatives from Connecticut's 6th District in 1970.

In 1974, Grasso made history when she was elected governor, becoming the first woman to serve that post in Connecticut and the first woman to hold a state governorship in her own right. She resigned from office on December 31, 1980, due to illness, and died on February 5, 1981.

On October 9, 1981, she was posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom from President Ronald Reagan. In 1993, Grasso was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York.

To see, to recognize, to understand – that is the spirit of humanism. It will teach you how to live and how to bring life to the world about you.

Ella T. Grasso
It is not enough to profess faith in the democratic process; we must do something about it.

Ella T. Grasso

Nomination Deadline
Thursday, March 8, 2018

Announcing the Seventh Annual
Ella T. Grasso
Distinguished Service Award & Awards Ceremony