



Daughters of Penelope  
1909 Q Street, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20009

Phone: 202.234.9741  
Fax: 202.483.6983  
Web: [www.daughtersofpenelope.org](http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org)  
E-mail: [dophq@ahpea.org](mailto:dophq@ahpea.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Daughters of Penelope Applauds Congressman Smith Joining the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus**

**WASHINGTON (July 28, 2011)**—The Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a premier international women's organization, welcomed news that U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) joined the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, announced Grand President Nicky Stamoulis.

"We sincerely thank Congressman Smith for joining the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus," said Stamoulis. "We look forward to working with him, and we hope more members will join the caucus. I thank our Daughters members who outreached to the congressman and expressed the importance of the caucus to our community."

She added, "The Victims' Rights Caucus is a meaningful one to our organization because domestic violence issues fall under its scope. Therefore, given our organization's support of domestic violence victims, it is vital to grow the caucus."

The Victims' Rights Caucus currently stands at 66 members.

For decades, the Daughters of Penelope has had a vested interest in the issue of domestic violence, supporting local shelters and the victims they house all across the country. In 1979, the DOP sponsored Penelope House, a nationally-recognized model shelter located in Mobile, Ala. It was the first of its kind in Alabama. In October 2009, the DOP opened its second nationally sponsored shelter, Penelope's Place, in Brockton, Mass.

The bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus was formed in 2005 to be an advocate and voice in Congress for victims of all types of crime, including domestic violence. It is co-chaired by its founder, U.S. Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) and U.S. Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA).

The mission of the DOP is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence through community service and volunteerism.

For more information about Penelope House, please visit [www.penelopehouse.org](http://www.penelopehouse.org). Please visit [www.daughtersofpenelope.org](http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org) for more information about the DOP or any of its programs or projects.

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