



## Daughters of Penelope Applauds Passage of Legislation Supporting Victims' Support Services

### FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT REAUTHORIZED PROVIDING LIFESAVING SERVICES

**WASHINGTON (December 13, 2010)**—The Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a leading international women's organization, applauds the passage of S.3817, a bill that includes the reauthorization of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) through 2015, announced Grand President Christine K. Constantine. The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives on December 8, 2010 and the U.S. Senate on December 3, 2010.

"We commend Congress for passing the bill, and we thank the congressional leadership and sponsors Senator Chris Dodd and Congresswoman Gwen Moore for their unwavering commitment to see this bill through before the end of the 111th Congress," said Constantine. "Its passage reauthorizes the federal programs that provide lifesaving services to victims of domestic violence and abuse and places particular emphasis on support services for children. Moreover, the bill clearly received widespread bipartisan support which is welcomed."

FVPSA funds crucial programs that aid domestic violence services and shelters, including: emergency shelters, hotlines, counseling, and prevention. In addition, the bill includes provisions to award grants for a National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and specialized services for abuses parents and children.

In 1979, under the direction of the local Daughters of Penelope chapter, Penelope House, the first shelter for battered women and their children in Alabama, opened its doors in Mobile. According to Constantine, Penelope House is recognized as a model shelter for other such homes. In 2009, Penelope House sheltered 422 adults and 561 children all within a multi-county radius.

S.3817 will be sent to President Barack Obama to be signed into law.

#### **Read the Grand President's Letter to the Speaker:**

[http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org/pdfs/doplet\\_S3817.pdf](http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org/pdfs/doplet_S3817.pdf)

For more information about the Daughters of Penelope, please visit [www.daughtersofpenelope.org](http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org).

For more information about Penelope House, please visit, [www.penelopehouse.org](http://www.penelopehouse.org).

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FOUNDED IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1929, THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE IS THE FIRST WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF ITS KIND ESTABLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES. IT IS AN AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION (AHEPA). THE MISSION OF THE DOP IS TO PROMOTE THE ANCIENT GREEK IDEALS OF HELLENISM, EDUCATION, PHILANTHROPY, CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY, AND FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE.