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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Daughters of Penelope Applauds Passage of Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013**

**WASHINGTON (March 1, 2013)**—The Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a leading international women’s organization, applauds the passage of S.47, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, in the U.S. House of Representatives, announced Grand President Joanne Saltas. The legislation received bipartisan support, passing by a vote of 286-138 on February 28, 2013.

“We sincerely thank the U.S. House of Representatives for passing this important bill,” said Grand President Saltas. “The legislation provides important protections and services to victims of domestic violence and abuse. We look forward to seeing it signed into law by the president.”

S.47 passed the U.S. Senate also with bipartisan support, 78-22, on February 12, 2013.

Saltas added, “We also thank the many Daughters of Penelope members who took the time to outreach to their U.S. senators and U.S. representatives to educate them about the importance of the bill whether it was via emails, faxes, or phone calls.”

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 Family Violence Center](http://www.penelopehouse.org), 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. Moreover, the Daughters of Penelope has as one of its National Projects, [WIN Hellas](http://www.winhellas.org), which is an NGO based in Athens, Greece that is active in the prevention of violence against women.

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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