

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Daughters of Penelope Welcomes Presidential Proclamation Commemorating National Domestic Violence Month

WASHINGTON (October 3, 2013)—The Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a preeminent international women’s organization, welcomes a [Proclamation](#) issued by President Barack Obama proclaiming October 2013 as National Domestic Awareness Month, announced Grand President Joanne Saltas.

“We appreciate President Obama’s proclamation that calls attention to progress made in the reduction of domestic violence and cites the challenges that remain in halting domestic violence, including the fact that every day, three women lose their lives in the United States due to domestic violence,” Grand President Saltas said. “Therefore, I ask our chapters to rally around the Daughters of Penelope’s nationally-supported domestic violence centers and hotlines as well as the shelters within their communities to support their efforts to reduce domestic violence and to assist victims of domestic violence.”

Saltas added that due to the federal government shutdown, domestic violence centers and victim services providers will be especially challenged. The victims’ services programs that help to provide essential services in the community, for example, those provided by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) at the Department of Justice, are jeopardized.

“In addition, as we observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we are concerned about the impact the economic crisis in Greece is having on the women who live there, which includes a rise in domestic violence,” she said. “So it is imperative to continue our support for organizations such as W.I.N. Hellas, a domestic violence hotline in Athens, Greece.”

- [Click here to learn more about the effect of Greece’s economic crisis on women](#)
- [Click here to read the Presidential Proclamation](#)

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](#), 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, [W.I.N. Hellas](#), which is an NGO based in Athens, Greece that is active in the prevention of violence against women.

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.

For more information about the DOP, or any of its programs or projects, please visit www.daughtersofpenelope.org.

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