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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Daughters of Penelope Applauds Reps. Maloney, McMahon Joining the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus

WASHINGTON (May 7, 2010)—The Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a premier international women's organization, welcomed news today that U.S. Reps. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) and Michael E. McMahon (D-NY) have joined the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, announced Grand President Elaine M. Sampanis.

"We sincerely thank Congresswoman Maloney and Congressman McMahon for joining the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus," said Sampanis. "We believe they will be tremendous assets to the caucus, and we look forward to working with them. We also hope more of their colleagues will follow their leads and join the caucus."

She added, "The Victims' Rights Caucus is an important 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."

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. Please visit www.ahepa.org/dop for more information about the DOP or any of its programs or projects.

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