



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@ahempa.org](mailto:dophq@ahempa.org)

## The Daughters of Penelope Applauds Congresswoman Tsongas for Joining the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus

### *October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

**WASHINGTON (October 11, 2011)**—The Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a leading international women's organization, welcomed news that U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-5-MA) joined the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus on Friday, October 7, 2011, announced Grand President Nicky Stamoulis.

"We sincerely thank Congresswoman Tsongas for joining the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus," said Stamoulis. "She has been a tremendous voice for victims in the Congress, and we look forward to working with her on issues of importance to the caucus, including assistance to victims of domestic violence. October is an especially important month because it is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and our aim is to have additional members of Congress join the caucus."

Most recently, Congresswoman Tsongas authored legislation that serves to better prevent and respond to incidents of sexual assault in the military. [It passed the House of Representatives in May.](#)

The Victims' Rights Caucus currently stands at 69 members with the addition of Congresswoman Tsongas.

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).

- If you would like to help to grow the Victims' Rights Caucus, please contact DOP Headquarters, [dophq@ahempa.org](mailto:dophq@ahempa.org).



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Congresswoman Tsongas represents the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts which is made up of twenty-nine cities and towns including the old industrial cities of Haverhill, Methuen, Lawrence and Lowell in the Merrimack Valley, as well as the Boston suburbs of Concord, Acton, Wayland and Sudbury. A resident of Lowell now serving her third term in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Tsongas was elected to Congress in a Special Election in 2007. She is the widow of former Democratic Presidential Candidate and Senator Paul Tsongas.

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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