

missions. It is a day none of us will ever forget.

Our response to the attacks of September 11, 2001 will define the meaning of that terrible day, and it will define us as a country. While we remain focused on preserving America's security, we must be equally resolute in our commitment to protect the values and character that define America.

The legacy of September 11, 2001 will not be destruction, but instead a spirit of service that will strengthen our nation for generations to come. For this reason, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 718, which calls on all Americans to observe September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of those who were injured or lost their lives and in tribute to those who came to the aid of those in need. This resolution also challenges all Americans to continue to live with the same spirit of unity, service, and compassion that was exhibited following the attacks.

As we continue to mourn the victims of that awful tragedy eight years ago, I encourage all Americans to volunteer to serve their communities today and throughout the year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY ANTI-TRUST ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2009. Both the House and Senate today have introduced identical language to reduce insurance prices for consumers. I want to thank my friend Senator LEAHY for his leadership on the bill and for working with the House on this joint introduction.

I am joined in my efforts on the House side by the honorable Chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy, Representative HANK JOHNSON of Georgia, and Representative DIANA DEGETTE of Colorado.

The purpose of this bill is to extend antitrust enforcement over health insurers and medical malpractice insurance issuers, which currently enjoy broad antitrust immunity under the McCarran-Ferguson Act. This immunity can serve as a shield for activities that might otherwise violate federal law.

This bill would specifically prohibit price fixing, bid rigging, and market allocation, pernicious practices that are detrimental to competition and result in higher prices for consumers.

The House Judiciary Committee held extensive hearings on the effects of the insurance industry's antitrust exemption throughout the 1980s and early 1990s. It became clear that policyholders and the economy in general would benefit from eliminating this exemption.

The bill I introduce today is intended to root out unlawful activity in an industry grown placid by decades of protection from antitrust oversight. In doing so, we aim to make health insurance more affordable to more Americans.

SHEPHERDSTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Shepherdstown Fire Department, for over 200 years of service by trained volunteers.

As the oldest fire department in Jefferson County, West Virginia, Shepherdstown Fire Department has been a staple of the area for over two centuries. As early as 1793, when Shepherdstown was known as Mecklenburg, the town passed a tax levy to secure money with the purpose of purchasing a fire engine. In 1804, a year after the engine was purchased, the department's first fire house was built. Devoted firefighters have selflessly given their services to the community and have been shown tremendous support in return from their neighbors.

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, Shepherdstown Fire Department held a day long celebration for the public to enjoy. The department hosted several events commemorating this milestone. The events included the final placement of the department's original 1894 fire bell and a rededication of the fire department.

It is an honor to recognize the Shepherdstown Fire Department. Reaching the 200-year mark is an impressive accomplishment. It says wonderful things about West Virginia to have people like these volunteer firefighters.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Chair, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3221, and to express my gratitude to Chairman MILLER for including in this bill a very important section to close gaps in college degree attainment and completion.

Section 783 of the bill, which provides for innovation in college access and completion national activities, authorizes the Secretary of Education to award grants to innovative programs that improve student outcomes for college bound students.

In 2007, only 27.8 percent of college freshmen, or roughly one-fourth, went on to complete their degrees. In the highly competitive 21st century, America can little afford to fall behind in the technology curve; today, China graduates eight times as many engineering students as us, and India five times more.

We have an abundance of bright students in this country, and by increasing the number of individuals with postsecondary degrees, any expenditure we make towards that end will be returned many times over as these graduates enter the work force and start contributing to

what is already the world's largest and most advanced economy.

In June, I introduced H.R. 3259, to establish grants for college success and completion. My bill, coauthored with Representative REICHERT, would encourage and help students from low-income and disadvantaged families attend college. This group of Americans represents the last great untapped source of American brainpower, as only 6 percent of them are expected to earn a bachelor's degree by age 24—seven and a half times smaller than the expected graduation rates of students from wealthy backgrounds.

I urge passage of H.R. 3221, and encourage my colleagues to continue investing in America's future by cosponsoring H.R. 3259.

RECOGNIZING FORTY & EIGHT, HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Forty & Eight organization. Throughout our Nation's history, we have turned time and again to our men and women in uniform; calling on them to preserve our freedom and uphold our democratic values. Time and again they have heeded the call and protected our Nation with honor and valor.

More than a million of our brave men and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Joining the ranks of these heroes are the thousands who have been held as prisoners of war or whose fate has never been resolved. This loss was all the more difficult for their loved ones because it has never been determined whether they perished or survived.

However, their loved ones can take solace in knowing that their sacrifice was for a purpose, one that they were prepared to make. As President Reagan said on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, "You all knew that . . . one's country is worth dying for, and democracy is worth dying for . . . all of you loved liberty. All of you were willing to fight tyranny, and you knew the people of your countries were behind you".

Military families are the first line of support for our service men and women. They provide them the courage they need to march on in battle; and they fight for their legacy long after the battle has been won.

Organizations like Forty & Eight are part of the military family. Since 1920 they have worked tirelessly to insure that the legacies of our service members endure alongside the freedom that they fought so selflessly to defend.

On September 19th, Forty & Eight will come together in Citrus County to award a scholarship to the dependent of a known and verified POW or MIA. The scholarship is named in memory of Lance Corporal John Dewey Killen III, USMC. Lance Corporal Killen was declared missing in action while serving with the Third Reconnaissance Battalion in South Vietnam.

This scholarship is just one example of Forty & Eight's commitment to our veterans, both those who are still with us, those who have gone before us and those whose fate is still yet unknown.