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| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Megan Taylor |
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**Heller Reflects on September 11th, 2001 Terror Attacks**

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today reflected on the September 11th, 2001 terror attacks.

“On the 16th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks, we once again reflect on the thousands of lives lost, the immeasurable bravery of our first responders, and what makes each of us fortunate to call ourselves Americans: our flag and our values,” **said Heller.** “The enemies of freedom who attacked our nation were met with an even stronger America and a new generation of soldiers who selflessly and readily answered the call to serve. Today, we’re reminded not only of what we felt on that brisk September day, but also that more unites us than divides us.”

Recently, the President signed into law the [Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act,](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=B52ED3F8-1093-4AA1-BCAF-7D0D4B45B5F9) sweeping, bipartisan legislation that Heller cosponsored to improve education benefits and enhance the post-9/11 G.I. Bill. The historic proposal, which includes three provisions authored by Heller, makes much-needed updates for reservists, Purple Heart recipients, and veterans who face school closures while enrolled and surviving family members. The legislation also provides increased resources and authority for educational assistance to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, computer programming, and career technical training.

**Heller added,** “It’s important that we continue to work to do everything we can to take care of those who were called into action because of the events on 9/11. I was proud to help pass legislation, which was signed into law by the President, to strengthen the post-9/11 G.I. Bill to improve veterans’ benefits. As a senior member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I’ll continue to stand up for the brave men and women who confronted our enemies and reminded the world of America’s resilience.”

**On Background**:

The following Heller provisions were included in the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act:

         Heller’s *Guard and Reservists Education Improvement Act*: This legislation adjusts the G.I. bill tier structure to increase the benefit payable percentage for Guardsmen and Reservists who served less than 12months. In many cases, time spent on initial training does not count toward active-duty time.

         *VET TEC Act*:This provision would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct a pilot program allowing veterans to access non-traditional technology education programs, including in the areas of computer programming, computer software, media application, and information sciences.

         *Veterans Education Relief and Reinstatement Act (VERRA)*: VERRA would expand the VA’s authority to restore the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits of veterans who are affected by the permanent closure of ITT Tech or other institutions. Currently, the VA cannot fully restore a veterans’ benefits if a school they attend permanently closes.

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