

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To designate July 11 as National Day of Remembrance for the Victims  
of the Srebrenica Genocide.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To designate July 11 as National Day of Remembrance  
for the Victims of the Srebrenica Genocide.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Srebrenica Genocide  
5       Remembrance Act of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) The United States and the European Com-  
9       munity recognized the Republic of Bosnia and  
10       Herzegovina as an independent state on April 7,

1       1992, and the United Nations admitted the Republic  
2       of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a member on May 22,  
3       1992.

4           (2) During a campaign of aggression through-  
5       out Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Bosnian  
6       War from 1992 to 1995, Bosniaks comprised the  
7       great majority of victims of systematic campaigns of  
8       war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide  
9       conducted by Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and  
10      Serb paramilitary forces with the support of the  
11      Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

12          (3) The Senate passed Senate Resolution 134  
13      in the 109th Congress expressing the sense of the  
14      Senate that, from April 1992 to November 1995,  
15      Serb forces committed aggression against the Re-  
16      public of Bosnia and Herzegovina and genocide  
17      against Bosniaks, with direct support from authori-  
18      ties in Serbia.

19          (4) A primary objective of Bosnian Serb leader-  
20      ship, supported by the Government of the Federal  
21      Republic of Yugoslavia, was to establish an eth-  
22      nically homogenous Serb state within Bosnia and  
23      Herzegovina, known as “Republika Srpska”.

24          (5) Serb forces, under the command of subse-  
25      quently convicted war criminals Ratko Mladic and

1       Radovan Karadzic, made a concerted effort to con-  
2       trol the town of Srebrenica and surrounding areas,  
3       which had strategic importance to the Serb cam-  
4       paign to create a Republika Srpska state from the  
5       inviolable territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6           (6) The exclusion of the Bosniak ethnic identity  
7       as an option for registrants in Yugoslav censuses,  
8       including the 1991 census, has complicated attempts  
9       to conduct a complete investigation of the crimes  
10      committed against Bosniak victims in Srebrenica,  
11      surrounding areas, and across Bosnia and  
12      Herzegovina.

13          (7) Beginning in 1992, the humanitarian situa-  
14      tion in Srebrenica and surrounding areas deterio-  
15      rated, with Serb forces placing embargoes on food  
16      and critical supplies, which resulted in mass starva-  
17      tion and civilian deaths.

18          (8) In 1993, the United Nations, pursuant to  
19      Security Council resolutions 819 and 824, des-  
20      ignated the towns of Srebrenica, Sarajevo, Žepa,  
21      Goražde, Tuzla, and Bihać, in Bosnia and  
22      Herzegovina, as “safe areas”, but failed to demili-  
23      tarize or protect the designated areas, including that  
24      of Srebrenica in 1995, despite the deployment of the

1 United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to  
2 Srebrenica.

3 (9) Upon entering Srebrenica in July 1995,  
4 Serb forces deported Bosniak women and girls in  
5 buses after torturing and raping many of them, fol-  
6 lowing a nearly yearlong siege and starvation of the  
7 town and surrounding areas.

8 (10) Serb forces separated military-age men  
9 and boys from other civilians in Srebrenica.

10 (11) In July 1995, more than 8,000 Bosniak  
11 men and boys were tortured and killed in and  
12 around the town of Srebrenica, including those men  
13 and boys that attempted to form a column and flee  
14 Srebrenica for safety but were attacked and killed by  
15 Serb forces.

16 (12) The United Nations Convention on the  
17 Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Geno-  
18 cide, adopted at Paris December 9, 1948, defines  
19 genocide as “any of the following acts committed  
20 with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a na-  
21 tional, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:  
22 (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing seri-  
23 ous bodily or mental harm to members of the group;  
24 (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of  
25 life calculated to bring about its physical destruction

1 in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended  
2 to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly  
3 transferring children of the group to another  
4 group”.

5 (13) The Srebrenica genocide remains the big-  
6 gest single event of mass extermination in Europe  
7 since the end of World War II.

8 (14) The bodies of executed Bosniak men and  
9 boys were dumped into mass graves, which were sub-  
10 sequently dug up by Serb forces and moved to sec-  
11 ondary or tertiary sites in an attempt to hide evi-  
12 dence of the genocide that was committed against  
13 Bosniaks.

14 (15) Remains of some of the victims of the  
15 Srebrenica genocide are still being discovered.

16 (16) In 1993, the United Nations established  
17 the International Criminal Tribunal for the former  
18 Yugoslavia through Resolution 827, succeeded by  
19 the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal  
20 Tribunals, which investigated, prosecuted, and  
21 passed judgement on international crimes committed  
22 during the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, includ-  
23 ing during the Bosnian War and the Srebrenica  
24 genocide.

1           (17) In November 1995, the peace agreement  
2           known as the “Dayton Accords” was concluded by  
3           the presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia,  
4           and Serbia to end the war in Bosnia and  
5           Herzegovina.

6           (18) The Dayton Accords resulted in the adop-  
7           tion of a new constitutional regime that created 2  
8           entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
9           and the Republika Srpska, in Bosnia and  
10          Herzegovina.

11          (19) In a 1999 report on the fall of Srebrenica,  
12          the United Nations expressly recognized that the  
13          international community must accept its share of re-  
14          sponsibility for failing to stop the Srebrenica geno-  
15          cide.

16          (20) Serbia issued an apology for crimes com-  
17          mitted by Serb forces during the breakup of the  
18          former Yugoslavia, including in Bosnia and  
19          Herzegovina and at Srebrenica and surrounding  
20          areas, but did not recognize the mass murders in  
21          Srebrenica as genocide.

22          (21) In 2004, the Government of the Republika  
23          Srpska entity issued an apology for crimes in  
24          Srebrenica and acknowledged the deaths of some,

1 but not all, victims and did not recognize the mass  
2 murders in and around Srebrenica as genocide.

3 (22) In 2015, the Russian Federation vetoed a  
4 resolution at the United Nations Security Council  
5 condemning the mass murders at Srebrenica as  
6 genocide.

7 (23) Since the Dayton Accords were concluded,  
8 political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina such as  
9 Milorad Dodik have undermined regional stability by  
10 engaging in genocide denial and spreading false in-  
11 formation about the war crimes, crimes against hu-  
12 manity, and genocide that took place during the  
13 Bosnian War.

14 (24) Some political leaders have declined to cat-  
15 egorize the mass murders at Srebrenica as genocide  
16 and continue to engage in harmful ethno-nationalist  
17 dialogue.

18 (25) In 2021, the High Representative, who  
19 oversees the civilian implementation of the Dayton  
20 Accords, outlawed genocide denial in Bosnia and  
21 Herzegovina.

22 (26) The European Union Force in Bosnia and  
23 Herzegovina (EUFOR) oversees the military imple-  
24 mentation of the Dayton Accords as a successor to  
25 the Stabilization Force, the NATO-led multinational

1 peacekeeping force that was deployed to Bosnia and  
2 Herzegovina following the Bosnian War.

3 (27) The United States and the international  
4 community have made significant efforts to uphold  
5 peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and  
6 recognize the Srebrenica genocide, including by sup-  
7 porting the work of local, national, regional, and  
8 international nonprofit and nongovernmental organi-  
9 zations that preserve the memory of the victims of  
10 the Srebrenica genocide.

11 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VIC-**  
12 **TIMS OF THE SREBRENICA GENOCIDE.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 36, United  
14 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
15 lowing:

16 **“§ 149. National Day of Remembrance for the Victims**  
17 **of the Srebrenica Genocide**

18 “(a) DESIGNATION.—July 11 is National Day of Re-  
19 membrance for the Victims of the Srebrenica Genocide.

20 “(b) RECOGNITION.—All private citizens, organiza-  
21 tions, and Federal, State, and local governmental and leg-  
22 islative entities are encouraged to recognize National Day  
23 of Remembrance for the Victims of the Srebrenica Geno-  
24 cide through proclamations, activities, and educational ef-  
25 forts to—



1           “(1) pay tribute to the families of the more  
2           than 8,000 Bosniaks who were killed in July 1995,  
3           the Bosniak communities in Bosnia and  
4           Herzegovina, and the diaspora;

5           “(2) condemn the genocide perpetrated in  
6           Srebrenica and surrounding areas and the war  
7           crimes and crimes against humanity committed in  
8           Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Bosnian War;

9           “(3) encourage continued efforts in Bosnia and  
10          Herzegovina, Southeast Europe, and the world to  
11          counter efforts to undermine respect for human  
12          rights and fundamental freedoms and to promote re-  
13          spect for all ethnic and religious groups;

14          “(4) acknowledge the role of the High Rep-  
15          resentative in promoting truth about the Srebrenica  
16          genocide and maintaining peace and stability in Bos-  
17          nia and Herzegovina;

18          “(5) condemn the denial of the Srebrenica  
19          genocide, which has been recognized as genocide by  
20          the International Criminal Tribunal for the former  
21          Yugoslavia and the International Court of Justice,  
22          and condemns attempts to revise the history of the  
23          Bosnian War;

24          “(6) reaffirm support for the multi-ethnic and  
25          multi-confessional culture and territorial integrity of

1 Bosnia and Herzegovina as the people of Bosnia and  
2 Herzegovina pursue further Euro-Atlantic integra-  
3 tion;

4 “(7) condemn inflammatory rhetoric, including  
5 that which is meant to destabilize Bosnia and  
6 Herzegovina and the broader region, stoke ethnic  
7 tensions, and promote social divisions related to de-  
8 nying the Srebrenica genocide;

9 “(8) call on the international community to  
10 continue to work toward the sustainable return of  
11 Bosniaks consistent with Annex 7 of the Dayton Ac-  
12 cords throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and to  
13 Srebrenica, including by condemning ongoing vio-  
14 lence and discrimination against, and attempts to  
15 disenfranchise, Bosniaks;

16 “(9) encourage continued political reconciliation  
17 in the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in-  
18 cluding the judicial system, including through the  
19 strengthening of democratic institutions and edu-  
20 cational institutions;

21 “(10) recognize that barriers to political or so-  
22 cial reconciliation remain so long as national, re-  
23 gional, and international actors engage in genocide  
24 denial and ethno-nationalist rhetoric; and

“(11) further call on the international community to continue educating current and future generations on the Srebrenica genocide, to promote recognition of the Srebrenica genocide, and, within all the legal means provided by law and consistent with respect for human rights, to refute and deter those who continue to deny the facts of the Srebrenica genocide.”.