I offer my prayers and condolences to the victims and their families who still feel the very real effects of this heinous crime against humanity.

March 25th officially marks the beginning of the genocide in Bangladesh.

The brutality unleashed by the Pakistani army and the targeting of Bengali Hindus simply because of their religion must be strongly condemned as religious freedom is one of the most sacred of human rights.

It has been 50 years since the genocide in Bangladesh, and the survivors and their descendants are still fighting for recognition; they are still fighting for an apology from Pakistan, as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh formerly asked her Pakistani counterpart as recently as January of 2021; and they are still fighting for justice and for closure.

On March 28, 1971, Archer K. Blood, U.S. Consul General stationed in Dhaka, East Pakistan, present-day Bangladesh, during the genocide, sent a cable back to Foggy Bottom with the subject reading “Selective Genocide.”

In his cable, the Consul General informs his superiors at the State Department that “Here in Dacca we were most horrified witnesses to a reign of terror by the Pak military,” and that the full horror of its atrocities “will come to light sooner or later.”

That is why I Rise; to remember and acknowledge that history so that victims and survivors of the Bengali Hindu Genocide know that the people of the United States stand in solidarity with them.

IN RECOGNITION OF JILL SELLERS

HON. JOHN JOYCE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jill Sellers on her new role as the Executive Director of Main Street Gettysburg, a non-profit organization committed to the preservation and revitalization of historic Gettysburg.

In this new role, Jill will collaborate with community leaders and volunteers to steward the mission of Main Street Gettysburg. Since first visiting Gettysburg two decades ago, Jill has been a passionate advocate for this town and community.

Jill has extensive leadership and management experience. Prior to moving to Adams County, Jill founded a public relations firm and served as the President of the Weston County Hospital in Wyoming. Earlier in her career, she served as an intelligence officer with the Defense Intelligence Agency as a program manager for Northrop Grumman. Jill is a graduate of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, where she earned a master’s degree in international policy.

Jill Sellers will be an incredible partner to small businesses and the tourism community in Adams County. I congratulate Jill on this new chapter, and I look forward to working alongside her to serve the Gettysburg community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BENGALI HINDU GENOCIDE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in sad remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the Bengali Hindu Genocide, and celebrate and honor the lives of the more than two million Bengali Hindu persons who were systematically killed by the Pakistani Army when it launched an offensive into East Pakistan, present-day Bangladesh, thus beginning the 10-month reign of terror known as “Operation Searchlight.”

Over that time, approximately 2 to 3 million people were killed, over 200,000 women were raped in organized rape camps, and over 10 million people were displaced, most finding refuge in India.

Madam Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to Ms. Heather Schafer, former Chief Executive Officer of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). She passed away unexpectedly on March 15, 2021.

Celebrating its 45th year of service, the NVFC is the leading nonprofit association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. Ms. Schafer began her career with the NVFC in 1993, and within one year of service became the NVFC’s Executive Director and CEO.

Madam Speaker, I know you are well aware of my passion for supporting our firefighters and emergency services personnel. They are our first responders to all disasters. They face daunting challenges which require high levels of training and specialized equipment.

They need strong voices at the local, state, and national levels to ensure that their needs are addressed by government officials. Heath- er Schafer provided such a voice, always ad- vocating forcefully for our volunteer fire- fighters. Her passion for nonprofit work led her to the NVFC and her bold leadership and vi- sion grew the organization and advanced the interests of the volunteer fire service and the health and safety of its members.

As we celebrate National Women's History Month, let us remember women like Ms. Schafer who serve as role models for young women seeking careers in professions traditionally occupied by their male counterparts. The fire and emergency services is one such profession.

Ms. Schafer leaves behind a legacy of great accomplishment over her 27 years of steadfast service managing the NVFC. And her contribution to a more equitable society for women and all Americans is surely among her greatest achievements.

On behalf of the Congressional Fire Serv- ices Caucus, I extend my deepest sympathies to Ms. Schafer's family, friends, and staff for the loss of a remarkable and talented leader of our nation's volunteer fire and emergency services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I regret- tably missed Roll Call vote 86 H.R. 1620 The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 on March 17, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.