

To the House Committee on Special Legislation,

I am writing to express my support of House Bill 7326, changing the name of "Victory Day" to "Peace and Remembrance Day." I'm relatively new to Rhode Island (I moved here almost 7 years ago) and for all of those years I am always ashamed to tell friends, family members, whoever, that the reason I have off on the second Monday of August is because the state I now live in refuses to stop celebrating a holiday that exists only to celebrate the murder of millions of people. I get equally appalled reactions from these friends when I tell them about this holiday and how the whole country used to celebrate it and how Rhode Island is the only one that has yet to realize how problematic of a holiday this is. However, this coming from a state that only recently removed "and Providence Plantations" from its official name is not entirely surprising. When I moved here I was honestly shocked to learn how backwards and conservative this "progressive, blue, New England state" really is. We must do more to bring Rhode Island into present day and stop glorifying parts of this country's past, that we now know are deeply problematic and nothing to be proud of.

By changing the name to Peace and Remembrance Day, it allows the focus to be on reflection of instead of the celebration of the mass murder event our country committed against Japan. Please do the right thing and bring Rhode Island into the 21st century and vote in favor of H7326.

Thank you.

-Alex Denisevich  
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