

Supporting Bill H 7326, introduced January 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in enthusiastic support of the proposed replacement of "Victory Day," the name of the Rhode Island holiday observed on the second Monday of August, with the title "Peace and Remembrance Day."

I support the change because holidays are vital cultural indicators of what we care about and want to gather around. Holidays are amplifiers of social values and state holidays are ways of legitimizing workers having 'time off' in honor of something deserving of ...honor.

As a Rhode Islander, I feel embarrassed and ashamed by so-called 'Victory Day.' It does no one honor to celebrate the deaths of innocent people and frame our use of bombs as 'victorious.' As a parent, I want to use "Peace and Remembrance Day" as an opportunity to reflect thoughtfully and truthfully with my family about the costs of war and lift up those working for non-violent resolutions to conflicts world-wide. Changing the name of this holiday shows that Rhode Islanders and our elected representatives are learning from history and attempting not to repeat the parts of it that have led to mass death, incarceration, and discrimination. Please change the name of this holiday so Rhode Islanders can join the rest of the country in commemorating the lives of all that were lost (of all backgrounds and on all sides) with dignity and honesty. Much like removing "Providence Plantations" from the name of RI, changing this name will move us into the modern world, where in truth- any real victory comes from policies and practices (including state holidays!) supporting Peace and Reconciliation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Eli Nixon

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