

To: Chair Alzate and the House Special Legislation Committee Members

From: Valerie Reishuk  
430 Morris Avenue  
Providence, RI 02906  
401-441-1372

Re: SUPPORT for H5887 Peace & Remembrance Day

April 9, 2025

Dear Chair Alzate and Committee Members,

My name is Val Reishuk and I live on Morris Avenue in Providence. Bill co-sponsor Rebecca Kislak is my State Representative. I write to you in support of Rep Stewart's bil H5887 Peace & Remembrance Day.

As a member of the Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), I feel that changing the name of this holiday is congruent with my Quaker Testimonies of Peace and Equality.

Here in Rhode Island, we have a strong tradition of recognizing the sacrifices made by our armed forces personnel, and their families, throughout history. This name change doesn't alter that tradition, even for pacifists like myself. Veterans deserve our respect. But the name change promotes equality for veterans of all wars, like my Uncle Eberhard (who served in Vietnam) and who often feels that his service was overlooked.

I hope that we will continue to lift up the joyful spirit of families reunited that Ocean Staters felt in September 1945. Peace & Remembrance is more than the acknowledgment of nuclear horror (although that is necessary and instructive), Peace & Remembrance celebrates our joy when conflict ends.

I urge you to send H5887 Peace & Remembrance Day to the floor for a vote, with a recommendation for passage. In this time of national division, my fondest hope is to see your Committee find Unity in supporting this bill. Yes, Unity is a principle of Quaker decision-making.

Sincerely,  
Val Reishuk