

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to support House Bill #5887 and pass it on to the full RI House for consideration.

Wars are terrible things. We are seeing ongoing wars today – in Ukraine, in the Middle East, in Sudan and in other places around the world. Wars generate untold suffering and hatred between nations and peoples, and these unwelcome feelings can last for generations after peace has been re-established.

It has now been eighty years, four generations, since the end of World War II with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Surely the Japanese have had reason to hate the USA, but we now find Japan as one of our closest allies in the Pacific. Japanese tourists visit and enjoy our beautiful country.

Likewise, it is time for Rhode Island to let go the feelings of animosity generated by this State holiday Victory Day (still known colloquially as Victory Over Japan Day). By re-naming the holiday as Peace and Remembrance Day, this bill eloquently changes Rhode Island's reputation.

We will certainly always remember World War II, and we are thankful that we live today in peace here in our small state.

Thank you,

William W. Smith III  
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