

Testimony Against H-5887

Dear Chairperson Alzate and Esteemed Members of the House Special Legislation Committee,

I would like to express in detail my opposition to H-5887 as currently written. I believe what could have been just a simple request to change the name from “Victory Day” to “Peace and Remembrance Day”, which would still honor the end of World War Two and all of its suffering, has degenerated into the most blatant, ant-American rant I've read in some time. Simply stating that the name change would be for good will towards a country that has been a stupendous ally and trading partner for decades would suffice. Instead, the anti-American hate, unfortunately coming from some of our elected Rhode Island legislators who wrote and sponsored this, was allowed to boil over in this spew. I must address a few points.

In part (4.) there are some serious biases being thrown around which do descend into political statements way beyond being connected to changing the name of the day. As it says starting off this section, by voting yes for this you will be recognizing the following, some of which I will summarize. The claim is made that historians have cast doubt on our needing to use the atomic bomb. Well not all historians because many others say that by ending the War quickly, we saved millions of lives – which would have been mostly Japanese civilians, by not having to do a land invasion of Japan. Next we hear a series of ratcheting up the America is Bad message with talk about aerial bombardment and firebombing and conducting total war on civilians and on into military budgets and catastrophes from nukes, and blah-blah-blah. Yes, the US and her allies in World War Two did flatten German and Japanese cities. Maybe the sad authors of this legislation should improve their learning and recognize the same actions by Germany and Japan on those peoples they attacked and occupied. Besides Germany's atrocities, Japanese brutality in the Far East was on an equal scale. They were responsible for a multitude of war crimes including mass murder, torture, sexual slavery, starvation, forced labor and human experimentation with biological warfare. Their violent expansion in the Far East has been referred to as the “Asian Holocaust” and the “Rape of Asia”. So, sometimes to defeat such evil, difficult, unpleasant things in turn must be done.

I stand against passing H-5887 for its blatant biases and anti-American bent. To vote yes for such language as currently presented would be a sad vote indeed in the Rhode Island State House.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Carn

[I currently serve as Vice-President of the Rhode Island State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America and am a delegate from my organization to the Rhode Island United Veterans Council. The views expressed in this testimony are entirely my own.]