

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of H 5887, changing Victory Day to Peace and Remembrance Day in Rhode Island. As a farmer, attendee of the Providence Friends Meeting and grandchild of WWII veterans, I have seen how twisting evils of the past into modern mythology robs us of self-knowledge and well-being, and stunts our ability to grow. I have seen the lasting harms of racism and suffered the fallout of our culture of dishonesty necessitated by the disconnect between our stated values and our concrete practices. My field is weighed down by our unwillingness to look the past in the face, and it harms everyone from growers to eaters to everything tangential to farming; in the same way, our refusal to acknowledge the humanity at the ground level of wars in favor of whitewashed rulers and heroics will continue to keep us from living our values until we develop the courage to acknowledge evils we have committed and benefitted from, and instead build a world on love and cooperation with honest recognition of our past.

Regards,

David Durstewitz
Providence Friends Meeting