

Testimony against H-5887

Chairwomen Alzate,

Chairwomen and members of the House Special Legislation Committee. My name is John Gallo and I am the Chairman of the Legislation Committee of the United Veterans Council of RI. I am also a retired veteran with over forty-two years of military experience. The UVCRI is made up of nine mayor veterans organizations that has a State Department in Rhode Island.

We are against passage of H-5887

Victory Day is closely tied to several significant historical events, primarily related to World War II. Here are some key events associated with Victory Day:

1. **End of World War II in Europe:** Victory Day marks the surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces on May 8, 1945, which is celebrated as V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day) in many countries.
2. **Victory over Japan:** In the United States, Victory Day is also known as V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day), commemorating the surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945, which effectively ended World War II.
3. **Soviet Union's Victory:** In Russia and other former Soviet countries, Victory Day is celebrated on May 9th to mark the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany. This day is observed with grand military parades and various commemorative events.

These events are commemorated to honor the sacrifices made by those who fought and to remember the resilience and bravery of the people during such a challenging time in history.

1. **Historical Legacy:** Victory Day commemorates the end of World War II and the victory over Nazi Germany. This historical event is a source of immense national pride and serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by previous generations.
2. **Patriotic Sentiment:** The celebrations and rituals associated with Victory Day, such as military parades, speeches, and commemorative events, foster a sense of patriotism and national unity. It reinforces the idea of a shared history and collective memory.
3. **Cultural Identity:** Victory Day is deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of the nation. It is a day when people come together to honor veterans, remember the fallen, and celebrate the resilience and bravery of their ancestors.
4. **Political Significance:** In some countries, Victory Day is used as a tool for political messaging. It can be a way for governments to promote nationalistic narratives and strengthen their legitimacy by aligning themselves with the heroic legacy of the past.
5. **Educational Impact:** Schools and educational institutions often play a significant role in Victory Day celebrations. Through history lessons, commemorative activities, and patriotic education, young generations are taught the importance of the day and its relevance to their national identity.

Overall, Victory Day serves as a powerful symbol of national pride, unity, and historical continuity. It helps to shape and reinforce the national identity by connecting the past with the present and future.

Victory over Japan Day, commonly known as V-J Day, marks the day when Imperial Japan surrendered to the Allies, effectively bringing World War II to an end. This significant event is celebrated on two different dates: August 15th, when the initial announcement of Japan's surrender was made, and September 2nd, when the formal surrender documents were signed aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay².

The surrender followed the devastating atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as the Soviet Union's declaration of war on Japan. V-J Day is a time to remember the immense sacrifices made during the war and to celebrate the end of hostilities in the Pacific².

In the United States, V-J Day is officially commemorated on September 2nd, while in the United Kingdom, it is observed on August 15th. Rhode Island is the only state in the U.S. that has a holiday dedicated to V-J Day, known as Victory Day, celebrated on the second Monday in August².

V-J Day, or Victory over Japan Day, is celebrated in various ways around the world, reflecting the significance of the end of World War II. Here are some examples:

1. **United States:** V-J Day is commemorated on September 2nd, the day Japan formally surrendered. Rhode Island is the only state that observes V-J Day as a holiday, known as Victory Day, celebrated on the second Monday in August. Parades and ceremonies are held in various locations, including Seymour, Indiana; Moosup, Connecticut; and Arma, Kansas.
2. **United Kingdom:** V-J Day is observed on August 15th, the day Japan's surrender was announced. The UK holds commemorative events, including ceremonies, parades, and moments of silence to honor the sacrifices made during the war.
3. **Australia:** Known as Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day, it is celebrated on August 15th. Australians commemorate the day with ceremonies, parades, and events to remember the end of the war in the Pacific.
4. **New Zealand:** V-J Day is also observed on August 15th, with various events and ceremonies to honor the end of World War II and the sacrifices made by New Zealanders.
5. **South Korea:** August 15th is celebrated as Liberation Day, marking the end of Japanese colonial rule. It is a national holiday with various events, including ceremonies, parades, and cultural performances.
6. **China and Taiwan:** V-J Day is recognized on September 2nd, the day of Japan's formal surrender. Both countries hold commemorative events and ceremonies to honor the end of the war.
7. **Philippines:** V-J Day is observed on September 3rd, marking the surrender of Japanese General Tomoyuki Yamashita. The day is commemorated with ceremonies and events to remember the end of the war and the sacrifices made by Filipinos.

These celebrations reflect the global impact of World War II and the significance of the end of hostilities in the Pacific.

Thank You,

John P Gallo Sr. Chairman
UVCRI Legislation Committee