



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Daniel J. McKee **Governor**
Kasim J. Yarn **Director**

April 9, 2025

The Honorable Karen Alzate
Chair, House Special Legislation Committee
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H5887 - AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE -- HOLIDAYS (Changes the name of the holiday on the second Monday of August from Victory Day to Peace and Remembrance Day.)

Dear Chair Alzate:

I respectfully submit this letter for the record to express the Office of Veterans Services' strong opposition to House Bill 5887. While World War II may seem like a distant chapter in history, it remains a living reality for many of Rhode Island's brave Veterans. We are fortunate that several Rhode Island Veterans from that conflict are still with us, and at present, ten World War II Veterans are receiving quality care at our state-run Veterans Home in Bristol. For them and countless military families, World War II is not a distant memory—it is a lived experience.

According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1,669 Rhode Islanders made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, giving their lives in defense of our nation. America's greatness is founded upon the service and sacrifice of these individuals, and the continued safety, security, and freedoms we enjoy today are made possible by those who continue to wear the uniform. Their sacrifices are the backbone of the freedoms we hold dear.

As our Veterans and military families' chief advocate, I view H5887 through the lenses of the Gold Star Family Experience. A "Gold Star Family" refers to the immediate family of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who has died while serving. We must never forget, nor allow future generations to forget those who gave their lives for the freedoms we too often take for granted.

I thank you for your partnership and consideration of this letter, and I urge the Committee to oppose H5887.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. J. Yarn", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kasim J. Yarn
Director of Veterans Services

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Special Legislation Committee
The Honorable Jennifer A. Stewart
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy