

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my fervent support of proposed bill H 5887, which would legislate the replacement of "Victory Day," the name of the Rhode Island holiday observed on the second Monday of August, with that of "Peace and Remembrance Day."

As a longtime Rhode Island resident who previously lived in Japan for an extended period, I was dismayed when I first learned the name of this August holiday. Every year, the holiday brings up intense emotions for me, as I recall having visited the atomic bomb museums in both Hiroshima & Nagasaki during my time in Japan and hearing stories from older folks there about their memories of the war and its aftermath. The minor alterations to the holiday's designation over the past decades do not fully obscure nor erase the cultural superiority inherent in its original wording — Victory over Japan. While it is true that the end of the war and transition to peacetime was a cause for celebration in the US in 1945, the framing of this occasion as one of "victory" paints a sweeping and exclusively positive stroke across the immense suffering and loss of life that were the cost of exacting said "win." This framing also contributes to a national rhetoric in which binary thinking — victory and defeat, winning and losing, us and them — prevails over more comprehensive, inclusive and nuanced understanding.

My strong feelings about this issue led to me create a durational project and performance in response entitled *Victory _____ Day*. Presented at the RISD Museum in 2018 in tandem with the exhibition *Former Glory* and concurrent with the holiday, the work referenced the story of Sadako Sasaki, a child survivor of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima whose endeavor to fold a thousand cranes while hospitalized with leukemia resulting from the radiation has become legendary.

I was, in some sense, asserting a remaking of the US flag in the image of peace, using Sadako's cranes. "Peace and Remembrance Day," therefore, strikes me as a suitable name for this holiday.

With gratitude for your time & consideration,

kelli rae adams