

Dear Friends,

I am Mary Pendergast from the Sisters of Mercy and I am writing in support of H5887.

It is important during these unprecedented times that we remember WHY we have ever gone to war in the past. Hopefully it was to bring peace to a world out of alignment.

Now we know that Peace is so much more than the absence of war. Peace is a state of tranquility that often feels like security and well being both individually and collectively.

Peace is a good!

Unfortunately, opposition to this bill over the last few years has evolved to a kind of twisted thinking, that changing the name of Victory day to Peace and Remembrance Day somehow dishonors those who fought as well as the many who gave their lives.. Nothing could be further from the truth!

We honor those who served and died for our country on many special days throughout the year. Armistice Day on November 11, Pearl Harbor Day in December with the annual laying of wreathes in the cemeteries. Vietnam War Memorial Day is in March. The month of May is Armed services appreciation month which culminates in Memorial Day., a day set aside to honor all who have served our country. We have D Day and Women's armed services appreciation month day in June. Korean War Veterans Day and in July. Purple Heart day in in August. In September we honor all who were killed in terrorist attacks and all prisoners of war. In October we have National Day of the deployed.

But where is the day set aside for peace, for reflection and dedication to her memory?

I urge you to support this bill and to bring it to completion in this, the very year when the Department of Peace, an independent agency, was dismantled.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Pendergast, RSM
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