

Dear Representatives

My name is Eli Nixon and I am a Pawtucket Resident. I urge you to support H 7781 in favor of renaming "Victory Day" to "Peace and Remembrance Day". What a gruesome way to enjoy a day at the beach. Have you tried explaining to a car full of sandy toddlers what this holiday is that we Rhode Islanders are the last to still celebrate? It is embarrassing and grotesque. Let us use the power of holidays to uplift something we actually need, that respects the lives lost on all sides.

This bill would further the cause of peace, and create a space for Rhode Islanders to reflect on war, militarism, and the impact of war on civilians. We need this space more than ever now as war persists in the Middle East, Ukraine, and many other places around the globe.

"Victory Day" is an example of how an over-simplified myth about the past can be used to mobilize support for war. In fact, Trump has demanded that Veterans Day be renamed as "Victory Day."

(<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5284786-trump-world-wars-national-holidays/>). So it is especially important for us to support this bill as Trump and MAGA Republicans attempt to whitewash and erase our history, especially the experiences of Americans whose struggles for equality and dignity give meaning to our shared, founding values. (<https://naacp.org/articles/naacp-opposes-trumps-recent-attempts-whitewash-american-history>)

Thank you for your consideration,
Eli Nixon
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