

House Committee on Special Legislation  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly

March 16, 2026  
Testimony in support of House Bill 7781

Dear Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the movement to change the official name of the August holiday known as “Victor Day” to the much more appropriate “Peace and Remembrance Day.” We are, after all, celebrating the end of the war and remembering those who took part, especially those who died.

When I was a young girl, my parents were honored to host in our home a delegation including some survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing. I was too young to understand why the bombing had happened, but I wasn’t too young to understand the outcomes for these individuals and their loved ones.

Today, I have a great deal of trouble explaining to others why the State of Rhode Island, having changed its name to remove the word “Plantations,” still celebrates a victory, rather than peace. I can’t explain it, because it doesn’t make sense. Let’s make this a holiday that we can all celebrate: one focused on peace and remembering.

Please support House Bill 7781.

Sincerely,

Helen G. Grundman  
District 1  
Providence, RI