

Unfavorable Testimony on House Bill No.7781

Submitted to the house Committee on Special Legislation

Hearing Date: Tuesday March 17, 2026

Chairwoman Alzate, Vice Chairs Diaz, Lombardi, and Honorable members of the house Committee on Special Legislation:

My name is Joseph Diniz (CSM Ret.), and I am submitting this testimony in **opposition to House Bill 7781**, which proposes to change the current name of Rhode Island Victory Day holiday to “Peace and Remembrance Day.”

I remember Victory Day prior to entering the Military in 1979 and serving in the Army until my retirement in 2009. I have always acknowledged this historical observance day as the end of World War II and our victory over the Imperial Japan Military. Rhode Island continues to be the only State that honors this day. This day reflects the sacrifices our generation of young man and woman made to secure victory over oppression.

Attempting to change the name Victory Day, is the same as attempting to rewrite history. This State and Country sacrificed to fight tyranny all over the World and know a small group of people feel insulted by that.

I see ugly side combat in the military, yet I prefer peace of combat. Victory Day serves as a yearly reminder that we fought in World War II, and we remain committed to peace. Renaming Victory Day does not shape the understanding of the holiday or bring unity to the veterans in Rhode Island.

Conclusion:

I therefore respectfully urge and request that this Committee give House Bill 7781 an unfavorable recommendation and continue recognizing the holiday as it was meant to be **VICTORY DAY**.

Respectfully Submitted

CSM Ret. Joseph Diniz
State Commander
Department of Rhode Island
Veterans of Foreign Wars