

17 March 2026

House Committee on Special Legislation

The State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H7781

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation:

I am writing in support of Bill H7781 to rename "Victory Day," the name of the Rhode Island holiday observed on the second Monday of August, with "Peace and Remembrance Day."

I am a Japanese American artist and have been a Rhode Island resident since 2006 when I came to the state to study at the Rhode Island School of Design. The holiday has never sat well with me and is difficult to explain to new residents and people outside of Rhode Island. Much of my artistic practice is based around my family's history of incarceration during World War II and the day always feels exclusionary to myself and the greater Asian American community. I do not want to take the holiday away or besmirch the service of the veterans who fought in World War II but rather want a day that feels like it's for *all* Rhode Island residents.

I look forward to the day when I can take my new daughter to the beach on 'Peace and Remembrance Day' instead of explaining the fraught history of 'Victory Day'.

Sincerely,
Lois Harada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lois Harada', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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