

Supporting Bill H7781

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in enthusiastic support of the proposed replacement of "Victory Day," the name of the Rhode Island holiday observed on the second Monday of August, with the title "Peace and Remembrance Day."

I support the change because to me the holiday has always felt like a personal affront to not only me but also my entire family. My mother is from Japan, married my father in the 1950's, became an American citizen and raised four daughters in Rhode Island. For years we faced discrimination and racist remarks because of my mothers heritage and every year, we had to endure the fact that there was a holiday recognizing the anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, resulting in the estimated deaths of 246,000 people, primarily civilians, and the irradiation and suffering of many more.

I want to see the name change because we now celebrate the connection we have with the nation of Japan and its people. The state of Rhode Island remains the only state in the country that has not moved forward with changing its attitude towards Victory Day and to change the name of this holiday to something more profound and positive.

Let's, please, show the people of Rhode Island that we stand and support peace by changing the name of Victory Day to Peace and Remembrance Day.

Thank you,

Tamura Leso

Cumberland, RI