

16 March 2026

Dear Members of the RI House Committee on Special Legislation,

I write to show my support for a bill coming before you, H7781, by Rep. Jennifer Stewart. This bill requires no fundraising nor other difficult work by the RI Legislature. It simply changes the name of a State holiday.

Our current State holiday in early August, 'Victory Day' is known colloquially around the state as VJ Day, or Victory over Japan Day (as it was formerly named).

Of course, Japan is now our ally and Japanese tourists come to our state to see our beautiful beaches and sail in our yachts and eat our plentiful seafood. Japanese investors support our private industry, and Japanese researchers collaborate with our scientists at URI. Let's welcome them, without holding on to the reminder that our nations were at war with their forefathers three generations ago.

You know, wars generate a lot of hatred (as Mr. Trump may be learning himself as he propagates wars around the world). But World War II has been over for 80 years and it is time for the state government of Rhode Island to move beyond that hatred and re-name this holiday.

I think that upon reflection you will find that Representative Stewart's new name for this holiday is completely appropriate. 'Remembrance' means that we must remember the terrible wars of the past, the pain, the horror, and the sacrifices that were made by people from the USA and all over the world; 'Peace' because we live in peace here today in Rhode Island and we hope that it will last for our children and our grandchildren to enjoy.

I urge you to vote in favor of H7781 Peace & Remembrance Day and move it on to the full House for a vote.

Sincerely,

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