



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RIVETS

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Daniel J. McKee **Governor**

Kasim J. Yarn **Director**

March 14, 2023

The Honorable Samuel Azzinaro
Chair, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
via email: Rep-Azzinaro@rilegislature.gov
via email: HouseVeteransAffairs@rilegislature.gov

RE: H-5465 – Relating to Holidays and Days of Special Observance – Days of Special Observance

Dear Chairman Azzinaro:

I write today in support of H-5465 – Relating to Holidays and Days of Special Observance – Days of Special Observance, which was introduced at the request of the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services. This legislation would provide that the fifth day in April of each year be designated as “Rhode Island Gold Star Spouses Day” with appropriate exercises in public places and with flags flown at half-staff over the State House.

The United States first began observing Gold Star Mother’s Day in 1936. The Gold Star Wives organization was formed before the end of World War II. Rhode Island currently observes Gold Star Family Day in October on the third Sunday of that month. By recognizing the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter or loved one dies in service to the nation, we acknowledge that no one has given more for the nation than the families of the fallen.

By adding Gold Star Spouses Day to Rhode Island’s days of special observance, we will join other states such as Massachusetts in recognizing the fearless sacrifices of military service members and their families. By observing this special day, we can attempt to provide a sense of comfort and appreciation to affected military spouses.

As always, I thank you for your partnership and consideration of this letter, and I urge the Committee to support this bill. Your leadership and advocacy for Rhode Island’s Veterans and their families are appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Yarn".

Kasim J. Yarn
Director

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
The Honorable Deborah A. Fellela
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of Policy, House of Representatives