

2023 -- H 5246

LC000334

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING "INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY" ON  
JANUARY 27, 2023

Introduced By: Representatives Ackerman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Knight, Boylan,  
Finkelman, Ajello, Kislak, Corvese, and Chippendale

Date Introduced: January 26, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The Holocaust, also known as the Shoah, is the term used to refer to the  
2 period in world history from 1933 to 1945, before and during World War II, when Adolf Hitler  
3 and the Nazis systematically and barbarically persecuted and murdered nearly six million Jews  
4 and another five million non-Jews throughout Europe because they were perceived to be "racially  
5 inferior" and "life unworthy of life"; and

6           WHEREAS, On January 27, 1945, the Soviet army entered Auschwitz and liberated more  
7 than 7,000 remaining prisoners, who were mostly ill and dying. Shortly thereafter, other Allied  
8 forces liberated the remaining concentration camps, freeing thousands of additional suffering and  
9 starving prisoners. By the time these liberations occurred, roughly two-thirds of Europe's Jewish  
10 population had been systematically and heinously murdered; and

11           WHEREAS, In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution  
12 designating January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day to mark the anniversary  
13 of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and to honor the six million Jewish victims of the  
14 Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism; and

15           WHEREAS, This year marks the 78th year anniversary of the end of the infamous and  
16 brutal killing grounds of Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau and Belson but across our nation, anti-  
17 Semitic hate crimes continue and are rising with messages and incidents of racial, ethnic, and  
18 social intolerance leading to senseless acts of violence that continue to terrorize and marginalize  
19 the more than 18,750 members of the Jewish faith living in Rhode Island; and

1           WHEREAS, Anti-Semitic malevolent attacks are an assault on the humanity of all the  
2 people in our State. In the words of famed writer Elie Wiesel, "There may be times when we are  
3 powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." Rhode  
4 Islanders and people of all nations must take the time to remember the millions of men, women  
5 and children who were slaughtered simply because of their beliefs and their heritage, or their  
6 strengths or their frailties, and we must firmly avow that the atrocities of the Holocaust will never  
7 be repeated; now, therefore be it

8           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
9 commemorates "International Holocaust Remembrance Day" on January 27, 2023. We call upon  
10 our fellow citizens to join us in remembering and honoring the amazing courage and the  
11 enormous sacrifices of all those killed during the Holocaust. We moreover reaffirm our pledge to  
12 work to eradicate bigotry, prejudice, brutality and injustice through education and vigilance and  
13 we stand united in rejecting and condemning vile and intolerable acts of anti-Semitism and  
14 hatred. In the words of Harvard philosophy professor George Santayana, "Those who cannot  
15 remember the past are condemned to repeat it"; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the United States Holocaust Museum, the  
18 Rhode Island Holocaust Museum, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, the Jewish  
19 Community Center of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Israel Collaborative.

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