

**2019 -- H 6083**

LC002598

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

COMMEMORATING THE 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY (VICTORY IN EUROPE)  
ON MAY 8, 2019, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Azzinaro, Shekarchi, Chippendale, Filippi, and Vella-Wilkinson

Date Introduced: May 08, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, World War II began on September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded  
2 Poland. Shortly thereafter, most of the nations of Western Europe were invaded by Hitler's  
3 armies, and brutalized and defeated. France, Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands, Greece, Denmark  
4 and the former Yugoslavia were conquered and their populations subjected to terror, murder, and  
5 other unspeakable crimes against humanity, while Great Britain faced daily bombings of its cities  
6 and military installations by the German Luftwaffe; and

7           WHEREAS, On June 22, 1941, Germany invaded Russia in Operation Barbarossa, and  
8 on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, turning World War II into a global  
9 catastrophe. Four days later on December 11, 1941, Nazi Germany declared war on the United  
10 States, and what followed for the next 42 months was warfare on a scale never seen before in the  
11 history of humanity. Altogether, it is estimated that 35 million Europeans were killed, including 6  
12 million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis in death camps known as Auschwitz, Bergen-  
13 Belsen, Treblinka, Dachau and many others; and

14           WHEREAS, From 1942 to May of 1945, the Allies and Nazi Germany fought in every  
15 kind of environment imaginable, from the air in horrific battles over England and Germany, to the  
16 sea in the North Atlantic as American and British destroyers and search planes fought furiously to  
17 stop the Nazi submarines and their brutal wolfpack tactics, to land battles in Stalingrad and Kursk  
18 in the East, El-Alamein in the desert of Africa, to D-Day and Omaha Beach, Anzio, and the Battle  
19 of the Bulge in the West, that will reverberate in history books until the end of time; and

1           WHEREAS, Finally, on May 8, 1945, shortly after Hitler had committed suicide, German  
2 General Alfred Jodl, representing Nazi Germany, surrendered Germany's remaining forces in  
3 Reims, France, to the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and France. At the same  
4 time, United States President Harry S. Truman and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill  
5 declared that May 8th would be celebrated as V-E Day; and

6           WHEREAS, As we commemorate this most important day in World and United States  
7 history, let us never forget that millions perished in combat and in death camps due to tyranny  
8 and evil, and let us also never forget that in the United States millions sacrificed much to defend  
9 freedom. We should always remember the brave American soldiers who endured the brutal cold  
10 to stop the German attack in the Battle of the Bulge in places named Bastogne and the Ardennes  
11 in Belgium and the heroic airmen who fought, and often perished, in the skies over Nazi Germany  
12 or the Prisoners of War who endured harsh conditions, and the selfless sacrifice and heroics of the  
13 American soldiers who landed at Omaha Beach and faced an inferno of enemy fire. We should  
14 also never forget the sacrifices of those on the home front, who ate less, conducted endless scrap  
15 drives, bought war bonds, and worried terribly about their loved ones at the front; now, therefore  
16 be it

17           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
18 Providence Plantations hereby commemorates the 74th Anniversary of V-E Day in the State of  
19 Rhode Island; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
21 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of  
22 the United States, the Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, and  
23 Major General Christopher P. Callahan, the Rhode Island Adjutant General.

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