

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING "HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY" ON MAY 2, 2019, AND
RECOGNIZING THE 71ST ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S ESTABLISHMENT

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Goldin, Raptakis, Ruggerio, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: May 02, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah), is a solemn day of
2 remembrance honoring the victims of the Holocaust and those who showed resistance and
3 amazing heroism during this horrendous period in our world history. Seventy-four years ago,
4 Soviet forces and shortly thereafter, other Allied forces, liberated Auschwitz and other
5 concentration camps, liberating thousands of suffering and starving prisoners; and

6 WHEREAS, Holocaust is the term used to refer to the period in world history from 1933
7 to 1945, before and during World War II, when Adolf Hitler and the Nazis systematically and
8 barbarically persecuted and murdered nearly six million Jews and another five million non-Jews
9 throughout Europe because they were perceived to be "racially inferior" and "life unworthy of
10 life"; and

11 WHEREAS, This year marks the 76th Anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
12 and 56th Anniversary of the dedication of the Memorial to the Six Million. The citizens of Rhode
13 Island, having our own rich heritage of resistance and intolerance for those who would trample
14 individual liberty and dignity, applaud the courageous efforts of the ghetto residents for whom
15 day to day survival was a relentless struggle. Their brave actions in April and May of 1943 stand
16 as testimony to a rare and indomitable human spirit and extraordinary courage exhibited in the
17 darkest hours of man's inhumanity; and

18 WHEREAS, Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day to make a special effort to remember.
19 It is a time to applaud all those who endured and who bravely rebuilt lives that had been so

1 cruelly shattered. It is also a time to acknowledge, with admiration, those heroes who risked and
2 often lost their own lives in order to save others; and

3 WHEREAS, May 9, 2019, the 5th of Iyyar, 5779, of the Hebrew calendar, marks the 71st
4 Anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel; and

5 WHEREAS, The desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of
6 Israel is the outgrowth of the existence of the historic Kingdom of Israel established three
7 thousand years ago in the city of Jerusalem and in the land of Israel; and

8 WHEREAS, On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to
9 partition the British Mandate of Palestine and, through that vote, to create the State of Israel; and

10 WHEREAS, Three years after the end of World War II and the death of six million Jews
11 in the Holocaust, David Ben Gurion's Declaration of Independence for Israel, made on May 14,
12 1948, fulfilled a spiritual yearning that had remained unrealized for over two millennia; and

13 WHEREAS, On the day that the British formally ended its Mandate over Palestine, the
14 Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel was signed by members of the National
15 Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum and went into effect at midnight. Thus, the State of
16 Israel was proclaimed and the United States recognized and established full diplomatic relations
17 with Israel that same day; and

18 WHEREAS, In May of 1948, Israel had a tiny population of some 650,000 Jews. Today,
19 with a population more than twelve times larger, the State of Israel has a stronger economy and
20 military than its founders ever envisioned. It has built a thriving economy larger than the
21 economies of all its immediate neighbors combined and it excels in science, technology, and
22 culture; and

23 WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders have shared an affinity with the people of Israel and our
24 partnership is steadfast. The bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between
25 Israel and Rhode Island for the past seventy-one years have enriched the cultural diversity of our
26 state's tapestry and they are eternal; now, therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island Providence Plantations
28 hereby commemorates "Holocaust Remembrance Day" on May 2, 2019. We call upon our fellow
29 citizens to join us in remembering and honoring the amazing courage and the enormous sacrifices
30 of all those killed during the Holocaust, and we reaffirm our pledge to work to eradicate bigotry,
31 prejudice, brutality and injustice through education and vigilance; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes the historic significance of the 71st
33 Anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel as a
34 homeland for the Jewish people; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
2 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the United States Holocaust Museum, the
3 Rhode Island Holocaust Museum, Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, Mr. Adam
4 Greenman, President and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and Avi Nevel,
5 Director, President and CEO of the Rhode Island Israel Collaborative.

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