

2020 -- H 7316

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING "INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY" ON
JANUARY 27, 2020

Introduced By: Representatives Ackerman, Knight, Kislak, Mattiello, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: January 28, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Seventy-five years ago, Soviet forces and shortly thereafter, other Allied
2 forces, liberated Auschwitz and other concentration camps, liberating thousands of suffering and
3 starving prisoners; and

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

9 WHEREAS, The infamous and brutal killing grounds of Auschwitz, Buchenwald,
10 Dachau and Belson, today house the unnatural quiet and ghostly calm of somber rows of sanitized
11 barracks and rusting ovens, and stand as speechless memorials to the six million Jews and eleven
12 million total victims who succumbed to the deliberate Nazi program of genocide that was the
13 Holocaust; and

14 WHEREAS, The white nationalist and neo-Nazi messages of racial, ethnic, and social
15 intolerance has led to senseless acts of violence that continue to terrorize and marginalize
16 members of racial and religious minority communities; and

17 WHEREAS, Currently, across our nation, anti-Semitic hate crimes are rising. Between
18 2016 and 2017, there was an increase of 57 percent nationally, the largest single-year record. In
19 Rhode Island, the number of anti-Semitic hate crimes also rose from zero in 2014 and 2015 to

1 nine in 2016 and 2017; and

2 WHEREAS, Anti-Semitic malevolent attacks are not only an affront to the more than
3 16,000 members of the Jewish faith living in Rhode Island, they are an assault on the humanity of
4 all the people in our State; and

5 WHEREAS, In the words of famed writer Elie Wiesel, "There may be times when we are
6 powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." Rhode
7 Islanders and people of all nations must take the time to remember the millions of men, women
8 and children who were slaughtered simply because of their beliefs and their heritage, or their
9 strengths or their frailties, and we must firmly avow that the atrocities of the Holocaust will never
10 be repeated; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island Providence
12 Plantations hereby commemorates "International Holocaust Remembrance Day" on January 27,
13 2020. We call upon our fellow citizens to join us in remembering and honoring the amazing
14 courage and the enormous sacrifices of all those killed during the Holocaust. We moreover
15 reaffirm our pledge to work to eradicate bigotry, prejudice, brutality and injustice through
16 education and vigilance and we stand united in rejecting and condemning vile and intolerable acts
17 of anti-Semitism and hatred; and be it further

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

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