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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING "HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY" ON APRIL 8, 2021, AND
RECOGNIZING THE 73RD ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S ESTABLISHMENT

Introduced By: Senators Goldin, Miller, and Raptakis

Date Introduced: April 13, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah), which begins at sunset on
2 the 27th day of the month of Nisan, corresponding to April 7th, 2021, is a solemn day of
3 remembrance honoring the victims of the Holocaust and those who showed resistance and
4 amazing heroism during this horrendous period in our world history. Seventy-six years ago,
5 Soviet forces and shortly thereafter, other Allied forces, liberated Auschwitz and other
6 concentration camps, liberating thousands of suffering and starving prisoners; and

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

12 WHEREAS, In the year 1933, nine million Jews lived in Europe, 500,000 of whom lived
13 in Germany, and were subjected to over 400 laws and regulations to strip them of their basic
14 human rights; and

15 WHEREAS, On November 9th and 10th, 1938, referred to as Kristallnacht, Nazis torched
16 synagogues, Jewish homes, schools, and killed Jewish residents, beginning systemic violence
17 against Jews in Germany; and

18 WHEREAS, This year marks the 78th Anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising,
19 where Jews fought and refused to surrender to Nazi forces. Their brave actions in April and May

1 of 1943 stand as testimony to a rare and indomitable human spirit and extraordinary courage
2 exhibited in the darkest hours of man's inhumanity; and

3 WHEREAS, Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day to make a special effort to remember,
4 so that the lessons of our past are never again repeated. The day is also a time to applaud all those
5 who endured and who bravely rebuilt lives that had been so cruelly shattered, and acknowledge,
6 with admiration, those heroes who risked and often lost their own lives in order to save others;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, On May 14th, 1948, three years after the end of World War II and the death
9 of six million Jews in the Holocaust, David Ben Gurion's Declaration of Independence
10 established the modern State of Israel, creating a homeland for Jewish refugees; and

11 WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders continue a longstanding relationship with the State of
12 Israel, enriching the cultural diversity of our state's tapestry; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes the historic significance of the 73rd
14 Anniversary of the modern State of Israel; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the United States Holocaust Museum, the
17 Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Memorial Education Center, Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode
18 Island, Mr. Adam Greenman, President and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island
19 and Avi Nevel, Director, President and CEO of the Rhode Island Israel Collaborative.

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