

2016 -- S 2943

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING "HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY" ON MAY 5, 2016

Introduced By: Senators Goldin, Miller, and Raptakis

Date Introduced: May 05, 2016

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 years ago, Soviet
4 forces and shortly thereafter, Allied forces, liberated Auschwitz and other concentration camps,
5 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, The infamous and brutal killing grounds of Auschwitz, Buchenwald,
12 Dachau and Belson, today house the unnatural quiet and ghostly calm of somber rows of sanitized
13 barracks and rusting ovens, and stand as speechless memorials to the six million Jews and eleven
14 million total victims who succumbed to the deliberate Nazi program of genocide that was the
15 Holocaust; and

16 WHEREAS, This year marks the 73rd Anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
17 and 53rd Anniversary of the dedication of the Memorial to the Six Million. The citizens of Rhode
18 Island, having our own rich heritage of resistance and intolerance for those who would trample
19 individual liberty and dignity, applaud the courageous efforts of the ghetto residents for whom
20 day to day survival was a relentless struggle. Their brave actions in April and May of 1943 stand

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

3 WHEREAS, Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day to make a special effort to remember
4 Zachor. It is a time to applaud the men and women who endured and who bravely rebuilt lives
5 that had been so cruelly shattered. It is also a time to acknowledge, with admiration, those heroes
6 who risked and often lost their own lives in order to save others; and

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

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island Providence Plantations
14 hereby commemorates "Holocaust Remembrance Day" on May 5, 2016. We call upon our fellow
15 citizens to join us in remembering and honoring the amazing courage and the enormous sacrifices
16 of all those killed during the Holocaust, and we reaffirm our pledge to work to eradicate bigotry,
17 prejudice, brutality and injustice through education and vigilance; 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 Federation of Rhode Island and the Jewish
21 Community Center of Rhode Island.

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