

2018 -- S 2827

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING "HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY" ON APRIL 12, 2018, AND
RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S ESTABLISHMENT

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

Date Introduced: April 24, 2018

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-three years ago,
4 Soviet forces and shortly thereafter, Allied forces, liberated Auschwitz and other concentration
5 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 75th Anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
12 and 54th 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 Zachor. It is a time to applaud the men and women who endured and who bravely rebuilt lives

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

3 WHEREAS, On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the
4 sovereign and independent State of Israel, and the United States government established full
5 diplomatic relations after Israel's first election in 1949; and

6 WHEREAS, The establishment of the modern State of Israel as a homeland for the
7 Jewish people followed the destruction of much of European Jewry during the Holocaust; and

8 WHEREAS, The desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of
9 Israel is directly linked to the existence of the historic kingdom of Israel established in the land of
10 Israel 3,000 years ago; and

11 WHEREAS, Since its establishment 70 years ago, the modern State of Israel has rebuilt
12 the nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a thriving economic, political, cultural,
13 and intellectual life despite the heavy burdens of war, terrorism, and unjustified diplomatic and
14 economic boycotts against the people of Israel; and

15 WHEREAS, The people of Israel, in the spirit of Israel's Declaration of Independence,
16 have established a vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political system, which includes freedom of
17 speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press; free, fair and open elections; the rule of
18 law; a fully independent judiciary; and other democratic principles and practices; now, therefore
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island Providence Plantations
21 hereby commemorates "Holocaust Remembrance Day" on April 12, 2018. We call upon our
22 fellow citizens to join us in remembering and honoring the amazing courage and the enormous
23 sacrifices of all those killed during the Holocaust, and we reaffirm our pledge to work to eradicate
24 bigotry, prejudice, brutality and injustice through education and vigilance; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes the historic significance of the 70th
26 Anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel as a
27 homeland for the Jewish people; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
29 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the United States Holocaust Museum, the
30 Rhode Island Holocaust Museum, Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, Mr. Adam
31 Greenman, President and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and Yehuda
32 Yaakov, Consul General of Israel.

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