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YOM HAZIKARON

Yom HaZikaron ([Hebrew](#): יום הזכרון, [lit.](#) 'Memorial Day'), in full **Yom HaZikaron LeHalalei Ma'arakhot Yisrael ul'Nifge'ei Pe'ulot HaEivah** ([Hebrew](#): יום הזכרון לחללי מערכות ישראל ולנפגעי פעולות האויבה, [lit.](#) 'Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of the Wars

of Israel and Victims of Actions of Terrorism'^[2]), is [Israel's](#) official remembrance day,^[3] enacted into law in 1963.^[4] While Yom HaZikaron has been traditionally dedicated to [fallen soldiers](#), commemoration has also been extended to civilian victims of [terrorism](#).

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HISTORY

In 1949 and 1950, the first two years after the declaration of the State, memorial services for soldiers who fell in the [1947–1949 Palestine war](#) were held on [Independence Day](#).^[6] Services at military cemeteries were coordinated between the [IDF](#) and the [Ministry of Defense](#). A concern arose, expressed by families of fallen soldiers, to

establish a separate memorial day observance distinct from the festive celebrations of national independence. In response, and in light of public debate on the issue, [Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion](#) – also serving as [Minister of Defense](#) – established in January 1951 the "Public Council for Soldiers' Commemoration". This council recommended

establishing the 4th of Iyyar, the day preceding Independence Day, as the "General Memorial Day for the Heroes of the War of Independence". This proposal won government approval that same year.

