

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 198

Reps. Skaggs, Fox, Outman, Paiz and Rogers offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare October 28, 2025, as Oxi Day in the
2 state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Oxi Day honors the valor of heroic Greek struggle
4 against Axis military forces which began on October 28, 1940, and
5 marked a turning point in the fight against fascist aggression. The
6 resistance forged on Oxi Day helped lead to the subsequent Allied
7 and Greek victories over Italian and German Axis forces; and

8 Whereas, Benito Mussolini's Fascist Italy, in alliance with
9 Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany, formed the European Axis powers and
10 sought to promote fascist policies throughout Europe before and
11 during the World War II; and

12 Whereas, On October 28, 1940, the Italian dictator Benito
13 Mussolini delivered an ultimatum to Greek Prime Minister Ioannis

1 Metaxas, demanding he allow Italian military forces to enter and
2 occupy Greece or face war; and

3 Whereas, Prime Minister Metaxas answered Mussolini's demand
4 for surrender with one word: "Oxi!" or "No!;" and

5 Whereas, Italian troops invaded Greece hours later; and

6 Whereas, That morning, thousands of Greek citizens took to the
7 streets, chanting "Oxi!," in honor of Prime Minister Metaxas'
8 refusal to relent to foreign fascist aggression; and

9 Whereas, Though the Italian army enjoyed a firepower advantage
10 ten times greater than that of the Greek military, Greece repelled
11 the Italian offensive and initiated a counter offensive that
12 liberated its territory; and

13 Whereas, The courageous resistance of the Greeks demonstrated
14 to the world that the fascist Axis militaries could be defeated as
15 these battles marked the first allied victories of the war and
16 helped stem the tide of fascism in Europe; and

17 Whereas, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill observed the
18 Greek people's brave and determined actions and noted, "Hence we
19 will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight
20 like Greeks"; and

21 Whereas, American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, awestruck
22 at the Greek victories, stated: "When the entire world had lost
23 hope, the Greek people dared to question the invincibility of the
24 German monster, raising against it the proud spirit of freedom;"
25 and

26 Whereas, Greek victories compelled the German Army to come to
27 the aid of Italy, intervene in the Greco-Italian War, and launch
28 its own invasion and occupation of Greece; and

29 Whereas, The German invasion of Greece forced Hitler to

1 redeploy vital troops meant for Operation Barbarossa and delay his
2 invasion of the Soviet Union; and

3 Whereas, This delay helped force the German army to face a
4 brutal Russian winter at the gates of Moscow which hindered their
5 advance and ultimately led to their eventual defeat; and

6 Whereas, British Prime Minister Churchill concluded that, "if
7 there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not
8 know which the outcome of World War II would have been"; and

9 Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes the cultural impact
10 of Greek-Americans in Michigan and therefore acknowledges the
11 historic and courageous significance of Oxi Day; and

12 Whereas, The state of Michigan values the traditions and
13 contributions of citizens who hold Greek heritage, who have made an
14 impact not only in Michigan and the United States, but in the wider
15 world as well; and

16 Whereas, Since 1942, "Oxi Day" has been celebrated in Greece
17 and Cyprus on October 28, commemorating Greece's refusal to submit
18 to Italian and German fascism; and

19 Whereas, Greek-American cultural associations and community
20 organizations across Michigan continue to preserve and share the
21 history and traditions of Oxi Day, strengthening the bond between
22 American and Greek republics; now, therefore, be it

23 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
24 this legislative body declare October 28, 2025, as Oxi Day in the
25 state of Michigan. We recognize Greek heroism and their resistance
26 to Italian and German fascism which began when Greek Prime Minister
27 Ioannis Metaxas' answered "Oxi" to Italian dictator Mussolini on
28 October 28, 1940, and sparked a continental struggle which played
29 an important role in the victory of the Allies, the defeat of

- 1 European fascism and the preservation of democracy in Europe.
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