

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 198

Rep. Skaggs 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
14 Metaxas, demanding he allow Italian military forces to enter and

1 occupy Greece or face war; and

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

4 Whereas, Italian troops invaded Greece hours later; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 Whereas, The German invasion of Greece forced Hitler to
29 redeploy vital troops meant for Operation Barbarossa and delay his

1 invasion of the Soviet Union; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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