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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The National Fascist Party, headed by Benito
3 Mussolini, imposed totalitarian rule over Italy from 1922 to
4 1943; and

5 WHEREAS, Fascist Italy, in alliance with Nazi Germany,
6 formed the Axis forces and sought to promote fascist and
7 racist policies throughout Europe in the World War II era; and

8 WHEREAS, On October 28, 1940, Italian dictator Benito
9 Mussolini delivered a 3 a.m. ultimatum to the Government of
10 Greece, demanding they allow Axis forces to enter Greece or
11 face war; and

12 WHEREAS, The Government of Greece answered the Axis
13 forces' request for surrender with one word, "Oxi!" or "No!";
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Italian troops attacked the Greek border hours
16 later, marking the beginning of Greece's involvement in World
17 War II; and

18 WHEREAS, That same morning, thousands of Greek citizens
19 took to the streets, chanting "Oxi!", in honor of the
20 Government of Greece's refusal to relent to fascism; and

1 WHEREAS, After the world watched Axis forces overwhelm 15
2 countries in less than a year, Greece became the first to repel
3 the Axis invasion, leading United States President Franklin
4 Roosevelt to say, "When the entire world had lost all hope, the
5 Greek people dared to question the invincibility of the German
6 monster, raising against it in the proud spirit of freedom";
7 and

8 WHEREAS, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill observed
9 of the Greek people's courageous actions, "Hence we will not
10 say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like
11 Greeks"; and

12 WHEREAS, Nazi forces had to delay their invasion of Russia
13 to intervene in the Greco-Italian War to ensure the ultimate
14 defeat of Greece and the Greek people's spirited resistance,
15 and this delay caused the Nazi regime to face a brutal Russian
16 winter that hindered their advance and ultimately led to their
17 eventual defeat; and

18 WHEREAS, The Greek people's bravery changed the trajectory
19 of the war, leading Hitler's Field Marshal and Chief of Staff
20 Wilhelm Keitel to say, "The Greeks delayed by two or more vital
21 months the German attack against Russia; if we did not have
22 this long delay, the outcome of the war would have been

1 different"; and

2 WHEREAS, Prime Minister Churchill concluded that "if there
3 had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not
4 know which the outcome of World War II would have been"; and

5 WHEREAS, This was a consequential victory for freedom and
6 democracy in the modern world and, at the time, an act that
7 inspired and gave hope to the free world; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States and Greece have been allies in
9 all major international conflicts throughout modern history,
10 including World War II, upholding freedom, democracy, rule of
11 law, human rights, peace, and stability, and those efforts and
12 shared values have enhanced the close bond between the peoples
13 of the United States and Greece; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States has previously joined Greece in
15 observing Greek Independence Day, including celebrating the
16 200th anniversary of the holiday on March 25, 2021,
17 reaffirming the democratic principles from which these two
18 great countries were founded; and

19 WHEREAS, Since 1942, Oxi Day has been celebrated in Greece
20 and Cyprus to commemorate Greece's refusal to submit to
21 fascism on October 28; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare October 28,
3 2025 as Oxi Day in the State of Illinois to commemorate
4 Greece's refusal to submit to the Axis powers during World War
5 II, noting that this resistance likely led to the ultimate
6 defeat of Nazi Germany; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we encourage the people of Illinois to
8 support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs,
9 and other activities in observance of such a day of
10 remembrance.