

Rep. Kandrevas offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 426.

A resolution to declare October 28, 2014, as Ohi Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Ohi Day honors the valor of the heroic Greek resistance to Axis forces on October 28, 1940, and marked a turning point in the fight against Axis aggression. Ohi Day led to the subsequent Allied and Greek victory over Italian Axis Forces and ensured the eventual defeat of the Nazi regime; and

Whereas, Prime Minister Metaxas was delivered an ultimatum to surrender Greek sovereignty to Axis forces at 5:30 a.m. and his response was truly the will of the Greek nation: Ohi (No). This was a “no” to hate and aggression and a reaffirmation of the revolutionary Greek vow, “Freedom or Death”; and

Whereas, Italian forces enjoyed a firepower ten times greater than Greece and seven times in population. These numbers were proven irrelevant as Greece not only soundly repelled the Italian offensive, but initiated a counter offensive of her own retaking half of Italian-occupied Albania. Germany would soon intervene and occupy Greece leaving much destruction in its wake, but the Greek resistance showed the Axis could be defeated and marked the first allied victory of the war; and

Whereas, Axis powers up to that point remained undefeated and seemingly invincible. Greece resisted and inspired the Western world, bringing hope and courage in dark days; and

Whereas, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, amazed and awestruck at what was a David vs. Goliath victory, stated: “When the entire world had lost hope, the Greek people dared to question the invincibility of the German monster, raising against it the proud spirit of freedom.”; and

Whereas, Even after the Greek military was overrun by Axis forces, the armed forces continued to fight in exile and civilians resisted the foreign invaders by any means. The island resistance of Crete is just one example as grandmothers waited with scythes and farming tools for German paratroopers to land and old men fought with obsolete weaponry left over from the First World War. Crete would become known to Hitler as the graveyard of paratroopers; and

Whereas, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated in admiration: “Until now we were saying that Greeks fight like heroes. From now on we will say that heroes fight like Greeks”; and

Whereas, Poland fell in 36 days, France in 43 days, and Yugoslavia in 11 days, Greece was able to hold for 189 days; and

Whereas, The heroic Greek resistance to Axis aggression delayed the German invasion of Russia by at least 6 months, forcing Germany to invade in the face of the unforgiving Russian winter and led to the eventual defeat of fascism and hate; and

Whereas, The following German occupation of Greece would leave 14% of the Greek population annihilated. Many Greek families, having lost everything during the war, migrated to Michigan in search of prosperity, peace and opportunity. Many of the over 100,000 Greek-Americans presently in Michigan have found such peace and prosperity; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare October 28, 2014, as Ohi Day in the state of Michigan. We recognize Greek heroism and

sacrifice in the face of inevitable defeat and suffering that was undertaken on October 28, 1940; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of Michigan Attorney General, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.