

To achieve this objective, Hitler needed the Axis powers to strike British forces in Greece. By conquering Greece, Hitler hoped to gain access to the important connecting link with Italian bases in the Dodecanese islands, giving Italian forces a stranglehold on British forces in Egypt where they were already under attack. The defense of Egypt was vital to Allied positions in the oil-rich Middle East.

On October 28, 1940, the Italian Ambassador in Athens issued an ultimatum to Greek Prime Minister Metaxas, demanding the unconditional surrender of Greece and threatening Italy's declaration of war. Mussolini gave Prime Minister Metaxas only three hours to reply.

Mussolini obviously underestimated the resolve of the Greek people and their passion for liberty. In what has now become one of the most celebrated actions of World War II, Prime Minister Metaxas responded with the word "oxi," which means "no" in Greek.

This statement, which embodied the true spirit of the Greek people, demonstrated undeniable courage and strength in the face of imminent invasion by Italian forces. "Oxi" echoed the same devotion and love of country that Greek patriots exhibited during their war of independence against the Ottoman empire when they defiantly shouted "liberty or death." The Prime Minister's actions marked the beginning of one of the world's most heroic efforts to combat tyranny and oppression. Knowing that Greece would not give in to its demands, Italy invaded.

Greece went into battle as the clear underdog. In addition to having a population seven times smaller than Italy, the disparity in the nations' armed forces was even greater. Italy enjoyed ten times the firepower of Greece in its army and navy and seven times the number of troops. Italy's command of the air gave Greece little hope of success. However, despite their lack of equipment and smaller numbers, the Greek army proved to be well-trained and resourceful. Within a week of the invasion, the Italian forces were suffering serious setbacks.

On November 14, 1940, the Greek army launched a counteroffensive and quickly drove the Italian forces back into Albania. By December, the Greeks had captured the town of Pogradec in eastern Albania, where the fighting continued for several months. It became very clear that the Greeks were not going to stand for defeat. In a last ditch effort to bring the skirmish to a close before they would be forced to ask Hitler to intervene, the Italian armed forces launched another assault on March 12, 1941. It took only six days for them to concede that German intervention was necessary.

Hitler ordered the German invasion of Greece on April 6, 1941, but it took the Germans five weeks to finally end the conflict. This delay proved critical to the outcome of the entire war. Italy's inability to capture Greece enabled the British to win major victories against Mussolini's forces in North Africa, solidifying their positions in the region.

This delay also contributed to the failure of the German Barbarossa campaign to conquer Russia. Because he was forced to capture the Balkans, mainly Yugoslavia and Greece, Hitler had to delay his plans to invade and capture the Soviet Union before the winter of 1941. The Greek resistance, both in Albania and in another famous battle in Crete, altered the

time table of the planned Barbarossa invasion by at least six months, proving a favorable development for Allied Forces.

Perhaps the most important effect the Greeks' unyielding stand had on World War II was guaranteeing that the Germans would not gain the advantage against the British. Although Germany had conquered much of Europe, Hitler's inability to decimate British and Russian forces early in the War would eventually prove fatal. Thanks to Prime Minister Metaxas saying "oxi" and inspiring the heroic Greek resistance, the war tide was permanently changed.

The Allies gained tremendous advantages by the stubborn and proud resolve of the Greek armed forces, but the Greeks themselves suffered loss and sacrificed much. Nearly one million Hellenes died during this time, roughly 14 percent of the population in 1940. And yet, the entire Western world, discouraged and fearful of the Axis powers and increasingly ugly war, were inspired by the Greeks' incredible victories. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill honored these acts of heroism, declaring that "Today we say that Greeks fight like heroes; from now on we will say that heroes fight like Greeks."

Mr. Speaker, "Oxi" Day continues to serve as an inspiration to all those in this world who cherish democracy and freedom. It marks defiance of fascism and ongoing commitment to doing what is right. As a Greek-American, I am proud to honor the memory of those brave patriots who fought for the freedom of their country and in so doing, helped secure it for the entire free world.

Today freedom-loving nations are battling a new enemy, not defined by nation but by hatred of freedom and love of fear and oppression. As we continue to fight the Global War on Terror, we should take a page from Prime Minister Metaxas and the Greek people and echo their resolute "no" to those who threaten liberty. By doing so, we honor the spirit of "Oxi" Day and all those who have sacrificed to defend freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF SENATOR GEORGE ONORATO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Senator George Onorato, an outstanding New Yorker and a great American. For more than half a century, George Onorato has distinguished himself as a dedicated public servant devoted to his family, his State, and his country.

Senator Onorato is an accomplished and hardworking legislator who is well respected by his colleagues. After his election to the New York State Senate in 1983, he successfully sponsored legislation benefitting seniors, consumers, tenants, Medicare patients, the environment, and current and former members of the U.S. armed forces. George Onorato has held positions in Senate leadership since 1992, and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Minority Conference, as a member of the Policy Committee of the Senate Democratic Conference, and as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Insurance. Because of his

leadership on issues affecting the environment and air quality, he was appointed Co-Chairman of the State Senate's Democratic Task Force on Energy & Conservation. Senator Onorato also serves on the Minority Task Force on Waterfront Development, a platform he has used to promote one of his most cherished goals, creating more affordable housing for the elderly and for moderate and low income New Yorkers. He is a past President of the Conference of Italian American Legislators.

In addition to his tenure in the State Legislature, Senator Onorato has distinguished himself in service to his country. He served in the United States Army, 118th Medical Battalion from 1950 to 1952, and was awarded a Presidential Citation. To this day, he remains a champion for veterans and their families as well as current members of the armed forces. As a member of the Senate Minority Task Force on Vietnam Veterans and the Acting Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Senator Onorato was a sponsor of legislation providing student aid to Vietnam veterans, and in 1997 introduced legislation to increase the level of such funding. He sponsored and supported legislation to help develop a data base for research on dioxin-related birth defects of children born to Vietnam veterans. In 2003, Senator Onorato was one of the founders of the bipartisan New York State Armed Forces Legislative Caucus, which he currently co-chairs.

Just as noteworthy as his dedication to public service, George Onorato is a devoted and loving family man. He is married to the former Athena Georgakakos. They have three adult children, Joanne, George and Janice, and six grandchildren. His wife regularly accompanies him to legislative sessions in Albany, where the two of them are a universally admired and inseparable couple.

Senator Onorato and his wife are equally devoted to their community. A lifelong resident of Astoria, Senator Onorato, is active in numerous civic organizations. Since 1972, he has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Taminent Regular Democratic Club, one of the largest and most prominent Democratic Clubs in our nation's greatest city. Senator Onorato has also served as a Democratic Leader of the 36th Assembly District since 1977.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his courageous wartime service to our country in the United States Army, to the people of the State of New York, and to his beloved family, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me to pay tribute to the enormous contributions to civic life made by the Honorable George Onorato.

HONORING SENATOR WESLEY
CHESBRO, CALIFORNIA STATE
SENATE, DISTRICT 2, HUMBOLDT
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize State Senator Wesley Chesbro of Arcata, who is being honored for his 32 years of public service to the people of California.

Mr. Chesbro began his long and distinguished public service as a member of the Arcata City Council in 1974, where he fought to protect the environment and to promote social justice. He served as a member of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors from 1980 to 1990, where he served with distinction as an effective and powerful advocate for local government, protecting California's coastline and northern California's water resources.

He served on many boards and commissions, was a founding member of the North Coast Environmental Center and the Arcata Community Recycling Center. His leadership role in advocating for community recycling led to his being appointed to serve on the State of California Integrated Waste Management Board for 8 years. His service resulted in many projects around the state that bear the imprint of his commitment to recycle, reuse and clean-up.

Senator Chesbro was elected to the State Senate in 1998 as the representative for the Second Senate District of California, which encompasses a portion of the state's North Coast and the North Bay counties of Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Sonoma, and Solano. During his tenure he has become a statewide leader in the area of healthcare, mental health and developmental disabilities; resource, fisheries and coastal protection; school facilities funding; and veterans' affairs.

A California native, Wes attended California State University, Humboldt and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of San Francisco. He is married to Cindy Chesbro and is the proud father of Alan and Collin.

Senator Chesbro is being honored for his contribution to one of our nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. He is being recognized for his outstanding contribution to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as "Democrat of the Year, 2006." His active commitment to the preservation of our political liberty is an example for all of his many admirers.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Senator Wesley Chesbro for his contributions and service to our country.

HONORING 21 YEARS OF HEAT'S ON

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor "Heat's On," a partnership between Union Pipefitters and the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association that has been helping those in need for 21 years.

Winters are cold in Minnesota, and home heating is a basic necessity. Over the past two decades, St. Paul Pipefitters Local 455, Minneapolis Pipefitters Local 539 and local contractors come together each fall to volunteer their skills and time to inspect and fix furnaces, flues and smoke alarms for low-income senior citizens and disabled homeowners. Thankfully, most of these visits turn up no serious problems. However, when inspections do not go smoothly, these professionals are able to provide the help needed.

Volunteers sometimes uncover major problems. On average, 10 homes out of the 400 homes inspected each year have furnaces that must be replaced, and many of these homeowners cannot afford the expense. This year, pipefitters and contractors have come together yet again to establish a fund to help these homeowners with the cost of furnace replacement.

Thanks to the outstanding Heat's On partnership, thousands of senior citizens and disabled Minnesotans have been able to remain safe in their homes. Just as important, they have a sense of relief knowing that their homes will be warm and comfortable as cold weather approaches.

I am proud to live in a community that cares—where union workers come together with small businesses for the good of our neighbors. This is a partnership that makes sense, which is why it has served as a model for other communities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending all of the volunteers from St. Paul Pipefitters Local 455, Minneapolis Pipefitters Local 539 and the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association for 21 years of Heat's On.

TRIBUTE TO CLEVELAND-CLIFFS (CCI)

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an important industry in my district that has been responsible for creating thousands of jobs in Michigan and for the settlement of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. On October 2nd, Cleveland-Cliffs, CCI, will celebrate the milestone of 50 years of iron ore pellet production and 500 million tons of iron ore pellets produced.

Even in its earliest days, Cleveland-Cliffs' history was characterized by pioneering risk-taking. Cleveland-Cliffs brought electrical power to Michigan's Upper Peninsula by introducing electric haulage equipment at the Cleveland Lake Mine in 1892. Cleveland-Cliffs created the first geological department for an iron mining company in the Lake Superior region in Ishpeming, Michigan in 1900. In 1910, the company built the region's first hydro-electric plant.

However, it was not until the middle of the 20th century that Cleveland-Cliffs made what is perhaps the company's most valuable contribution, iron ore pellets. In the 1940s, it became apparent that the iron ore of the Marquette area that Cleveland-Cliffs had relied upon were being depleted. While the Marquette Iron Range still had millions of tons of leaner ores, a method had not yet been invented for making this leaner ore usable in blast furnaces. Once more, Cleveland-Cliffs exhibited leadership and innovation. Partnering with the U.S. Bureau of Mines, Cleveland-Cliffs researchers developed a technique for concentrating low-grade iron ore and pelletizing it to provide high-quality iron ore pellets for use in steel production in the company's blast furnaces.

In 1956, CCI put this innovative technique into practice, producing its first iron ore pellets at the Eagle Mills pellet plant near Negaunee,

Michigan, just west of Marquette. While these first pellets were crude by today's standards, the pellets could be used in the blast furnaces to make a high grade steel and they opened the way for the development of the pellet making operations of today.

The process of pelletizing low-grade iron ore revolutionized the iron ore business. Without this process, thousands of jobs in Michigan might never have been created and Marquette County would have missed out on billions of direct economic impact from these mines. Today, Cleveland-Cliffs is the largest producer of iron ore pellets in North America.

This year, Cleveland-Cliffs reached another historic milestone. Celebrating the 500 millionth ton total is an important tribute to not only the Cleveland-Cliffs company, but also to the working men and women who have kept the pelletizing and mining operations running smoothly and productively over the past 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, from the beginning of its operations in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to its innovation of the iron ore pelletizing process to the present day, Cleveland-Cliffs has demonstrated leadership and a forward thinking trailblazing spirit. As this great company marks this important occasion, I would ask that you and the U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting the past and present employees of Cleveland-Cliffs, CCI's entrepreneurial spirit, their steady growth, their innovations, and their contributions to the economy of the Great Lakes region.

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5825, the "Electronic Surveillance Modernization Act."

Yet again, the Republican Majority has brought legislation to the Floor that disregards the rights of American citizens. H.R. 5825 would give the executive branch broad discretion to eavesdrop on Americans without judicial review or sufficient oversight from Congress.

Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, we have learned more and more about the secret programs run by this Administration that violated long-standing U.S. laws and policies. I know that we all agree that obtaining intelligence to prevent terrorist attacks is a high priority. However, innocent Americans should not have to worry that their phones have been tapped or their emails are being read.

It is a shame that the bill before us today leaves out the sensible provisions of the bipartisan Schiff-Flake-Harman-Ingalls substitute which would require congressional oversight of surveillance programs, extends from 72 hours to seven days the amount of time allowed to initiate surveillance in an urgent situation before going to the FISA court for a warrant, and increase the speed of the FISA process.

We should be standing up for the Constitution today and not passing legislation that tramples all over it.

I urge my colleagues to vote no.