

By: Jetton

H.R. No. 220

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The festival of Diwali, a holiday celebrated by  
2 followers of Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism, is taking place during  
3 the second week of November 2023; and

4           WHEREAS, For people of these faiths, Diwali represents the  
5 symbolic victory of light over darkness; while celebrants observe  
6 different national, regional, and religious customs, the  
7 five-day-long event is generally regarded as a time of happiness  
8 and benevolence, when people come together and express gratitude  
9 for their blessings; and

10           WHEREAS, Among Hindus, a common Diwali custom is to light  
11 diyas, or small lamps filled with oils; the custom is performed to  
12 invite Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, into one's home, and  
13 throughout the festival, diyas are also lit and placed around  
14 temples and floated down rivers and streams; in the Jain community,  
15 Diwali represents the enlightenment and liberation of the spiritual  
16 teacher Mahavira from the cycle of life and death, with the  
17 illumination of lamps around homes symbolizing the light of  
18 Mahavira's holy knowledge; for the Sikhs, Diwali commemorates an  
19 important event in the Sikh tradition, the release of a prominent  
20 holy figure, Guru Hargobind, from imprisonment; and

21           WHEREAS, Celebrated by more than a billion people across the  
22 globe, Diwali is a holiday that is richly varied in its customs,  
23 rituals, and significance, and it is fitting to acknowledge the  
24 great importance that Diwali has to those of the Hindu, Jain, and

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1 Sikh faiths who reside in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it  
2           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
3 Legislature hereby recognize the festival of Diwali 2023 and extend  
4 to all those participating in the observance sincere best wishes  
5 for a meaningful and memorable occasion.