

By: Bhojani

H.R. No. 613

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Ramadan, the ninth month of the year on the Islamic  
2 calendar, is a time when Muslims in Texas and around the world focus  
3 on peace and self-improvement; and

4           WHEREAS, On the Muslim lunar calendar, the month of Ramadan  
5 begins and ends with the sighting of the crescent moon; Muslims  
6 affirm their spiritual beliefs by fasting from sunrise to sunset, a  
7 practice that is one of the Five Pillars of Islam; it cultivates  
8 self-discipline, gratitude, and compassion for those less  
9 fortunate; and

10           WHEREAS, Fasting is a requirement of all Muslims who have  
11 passed the threshold of puberty, with exemptions for those with  
12 certain conditions, such as pregnancy or illness; each day of  
13 abstention from eating and drinking is bracketed by the first meal  
14 of the day, Suhoor, and the meal that breaks the fast, Iftar; many  
15 mosques host daily community dinners where people can break their  
16 fast together; families often invite guests to Iftar and then  
17 proceed to the mosque for the nightly prayer and a special Ramadan  
18 prayer, *taraweeh*, during which the prayer leader recites at least  
19 one thirtieth of the Qur'an, in order to recite the entire Qur'an by  
20 the end of the month; and

21           WHEREAS, Ramadan is a time of intense reflection and  
22 spiritual rejuvenation, with more precious moments devoted to  
23 reading the Qur'an and performing appropriate prayers; moreover,  
24 adherents participate in charitable giving, and many mosques hold

1 food drives and fundraisers for philanthropic organizations; some  
2 mosques host open houses to welcome friends and neighbors of other  
3 faiths to share the bounty of Iftar; and

4         WHEREAS, The end of Ramadan is marked by a major holiday, Eid  
5 ul-Fitr; a special prayer and sermon in the morning are followed by  
6 a community celebration, and friends and family spend the day  
7 socializing, eating, and reuniting with old acquaintances; food,  
8 games, and presents for children are important elements of the  
9 festivities; and

10         WHEREAS, While concentrating on spiritual growth during  
11 Ramadan, Muslims also strengthen the bonds of community and express  
12 their faith through efforts in behalf of the collective good, and it  
13 is truly fitting to acknowledge the deep significance of this  
14 important season; now, therefore, be it

15         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby recognize the holy month of Ramadan 2023 and  
17 extend to Muslims across the Lone Star State sincere best wishes for  
18 a meaningful and joyous observance.