

By: Meza

H.R. No. 1020

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS Sikhs have been an influential and impactful part of
2 Texas since before the turn of the twentieth century, and have
3 persevered and flourished while contributing to the growth and
4 success of the Lone Star State, and

5 WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth-largest religion with nearly 30
6 million adherents worldwide, including nearly one million who make
7 their home in the United States and over 50,000 in Texas alone; a
8 monotheistic and relatively young faith, it was founded just over
9 500 years ago in the Punjab region of South Asia, and a number of its
10 followers immigrated to the U.S. in the late 1800s and a large
11 number sought refuge here to escape violence in the 1980s; and

12 WHEREAS, The Sikh religion centers around the idea of
13 oneness, the concept of divine unity, and the belief that every
14 human being is equal in the eyes of God; in demonstrating the core
15 values of their faith, Sikhs strive to live their lives with honesty
16 and integrity, and to stand up for truth, justice, fairness and
17 egalitarianism; and

18 WHEREAS, The Sikh community regularly engages in Sewa -
19 Selfless Service - a uniquely Sikh tradition of community service
20 to serve humanity as a way of everyday life; a defining example
21 being UNITED SIKHS, a United Nations affiliated Humanitarian Aid &
22 Advocacy Organization that has served in over 50 natural and
23 man-made disasters globally and in Texas including Hurricanes
24 Harvey, Irma, and Katrina; positively impacting both the economic

1 condition of the communities in which they reside as well as help
2 uplift and empower those same communities which they call home; and

3 WHEREAS in April, Sikhs around the world celebrate Baisakhi,
4 the day of creation of the Khalsa, in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh,
5 which cemented the disciplines, traditions, and articles of the
6 Sikh faith, and

7 WHEREAS, During the observance of Baisakhi, which falls on
8 April 14th, 2023, Sikhs visit their place of worship known as a
9 Gurdwara, read their eternal scripture - The Guru Granth Sahib, and
10 take part in parades and martial arts processions known as Nagar
11 Kirtans; moreover, large celebrations take place globally
12 including in Anandpur Sahib, Punjab, the birthplace of the Khalsa;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have made a welcome contribution to
15 our nation through their many good deeds and achievements, and the
16 joyous occasion of Baisakhi provides a fitting opportunity to
17 recognize the vibrant Sikh community that resides in the Lone Star
18 State; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
20 Legislature hereby recognize the Sikh Baisakhi festival, and extend
21 best wishes to the Sikh community across Texas for a joyous
22 celebration and meaningful observance of this occasion.