

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 550

**WHEREAS**, On April 13, 2015, members of the Sikh community are coming together in Texas and around the world to celebrate Vaisakhi, one of the most important dates on the Sikh calendar; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikhism is the fifth-largest religion in the world, with more than 25 million adherents, including an estimated 700,000 in the United States; the majority of Sikhs live in the Punjab province of India, in the region where the religion was founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak Dev; and

**WHEREAS**, A monotheistic faith, Sikhism teaches respect for all people, regardless of race, religion, gender, or background; it stresses the importance of doing good in the world and demonstrating such positive values as humility, diligence, generosity, and self-sacrifice in daily life; and

**WHEREAS**, Vaisakhi celebrates the founding in 1699 of the devout Sikh fellowship known as the Khalsa; Guru Gobind Singh bestowed on all Khalsa men the surname Singh, meaning "lion," as a reminder to be courageous, and women accepted the surname Kaur, or "princess," to emphasize dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, The first Sikhs came to the United States in the 1890s to build railroads, work on California farms, or labor in the lumber mills of the Pacific Northwest; since then, Sikh Americans in all walks of life have contributed to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, The festival of Vaisakhi presents an ideal opportunity to affirm the belief in justice, equality, and freedom that is cherished by all Americans and by Sikhs the world over; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby commemorate the festival of Vaisakhi and extend to all Sikh Texans sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable observance.

Menéndez

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on April 13, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate