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By:  Jetton H.R. No. 220

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Celebrated by more than a billion people across the globe, Diwali is a holiday that is richly varied in its customs, rituals, and significance, and it is fitting to acknowledge the great importance that Diwali has to those of the Hindu, Jain, and Sikh faiths who reside in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize the festival of Diwali 2023 and extend to all those participating in the observance sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable occasion.