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R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Ramadan is a time of intense reflection and spiritual rejuvenation, with more precious moments devoted to reading the Qur'an and performing appropriate prayers; moreover, adherents participate in charitable giving, and many mosques hold food drives and fundraisers for philanthropic organizations; some mosques host open houses to welcome friends and neighbors of other faiths to share the bounty of Iftar; and

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

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

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