By:  Meza H.R. No. 1020

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Sikh community regularly engages in Sewa - Selfless Service - a uniquely Sikh tradition of community service to serve humanity as a way of everyday life; a defining example being UNITED SIKHS, a United Nations affiliated Humanitarian Aid & Advocacy Organization that has served in over 50 natural and man-made disasters globally and in Texas including Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Katrina; positively impacting both the economic condition of the communities in which they reside as well as help uplift and empower those same communities which they call home; and

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

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

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

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