

Reps. Greig, Singh, Guerra, Pagan, Camilleri, Hoadley, Brinks, Gay-Dagnogo, Byrd, Yanez, Green, Chang, Garrett, Wittenberg, Hammoud, Schor, Howrylak, Moss, Jones, Kosowski, Chirkun, Clemente, Cochran, Elder, Ellison, Faris, Geiss, Kelly, Lasinski, Maturen, Sabo, Sneller, Sowerby and Zemke offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 184.

A resolution to recognize the historic, cultural, and religious significance of the Diwali Festival.

Whereas, Diwali, a festival that holds great traditional significance and is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains, is celebrated throughout the United States and the state of Michigan. It will be observed on October 19, 2017; and

Whereas, Diwali is celebrated every autumn, around the new moon between the Hindu months of Asvina and Kartika; and

Whereas, The word “Diwali” is a shortened version of the Sanskrit term “Deepavali”, meaning “a row of lamps”; and

Whereas, Diwali is a festival of lights, during which celebrants light small oil lamps and place them around the home. The lighting of lamps is followed by prayers for attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace, and valor; and

Whereas, Celebrants of Diwali believe that the rows of lamps symbolize the light within the individual that rids the soul of darkness; and

Whereas, This festival also marks the victory of good over evil and signifies a time of peace, happiness, hope, and serenity; and

Whereas, Michigan remains resolute in its commitment to continue fostering diversity of experience and religious tolerance and Diwali is a time marked by qualities of togetherness and community, now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body recognize the historic, cultural, and religious significance of Diwali Festival. We recognize the Diwali Festival’s message of tolerance, compassion, and acceptance of others which resonates with the ideals of the American spirit; and be it further

Resolved, That we expresses deepest respect and admiration to all those who celebrate the Diwali Festival throughout the world and in our own communities.