

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.190

Reps. Kuppa, Hertel, Brixie, Hood, Lasinski, Hoadley, Kennedy, Love, Witwer, Haadsma, Garrett, Tyrone Carter, Peterson, Sneller, Wittenberg, Cherry, Cambensy, Robinson, Stone, Cynthia Johnson, Elder, Liberati, Bolden, Crawford, Pohutsky, Koleszar, Greig, Chirkun, Webber, Warren, Sowerby, Mueller, Sabo, Calley, Brann, Camilleri, Shannon, Clemente, Vaupel, Jones, Coleman, Rabhi, Hammoud, Garza, Gay-Dagnogo, Hope, Manoogian and Pagan offered the following resolution:

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

3 Whereas, Diwali is celebrated annually every autumn by Hindus,
4 Sikhs, and Jains in Michigan, the United States, and the world; and

5 Whereas, Diwali is a holy day, during which celebrants light



1 small oil lamps and place them around the home. The lighting of
2 lamps is followed by prayers for attainment of health, wealth,
3 knowledge, peace, and valor and is recognized as the beginning of a
4 new year for some Hindus; and

5 Whereas, The word "Diwali" is a shortened version of the
6 Sanskrit word "Deepavali", which means "a row of lamps"; and in
7 English is referred to as the "Festival of Lights;" and

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

11 Whereas, For Hindus, Diwali is a celebration of the belief
12 that light triumphs over darkness, and good triumphs over evil; and

13 Whereas, For Sikhs, Diwali is feted as the day that the sixth
14 founding Sikh Guru, or revered teacher, Guru Hargobind, was
15 released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir; and

16 Whereas, For Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the
17 attainment of moksha or liberation by Lord Mahavira, the last of
18 the Tirthankaras, who were the great teachers of Jain dharma, at
19 the end of his life in 527 B.C.; and

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

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

1 Resolved, That we express respect and admiration to all those
2 who celebrate the Festival of Diwali throughout the world and in
3 our own communities and call upon public officials and the citizens
4 of Michigan to acknowledge and appreciate those who celebrate
5 Diwali and the peace and prosperity that it signifies.