

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.330

Rep. Kuppa 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 throughout the  
5 world, with over 1 billion celebrants marking the holiday; and

6       Whereas, Diwali is a holy day, during which celebrants light  
7 small oil lamps and place them around the home. The lighting of  
8 lamps is followed by prayers for attainment of health, wealth,  
9 knowledge, peace, and valor, and is recognized as the beginning of  
10 a new year for some Hindus; and

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

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

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

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

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

13      Whereas, Michigan remains resolute in its commitment to  
14      continue fostering diversity of experience and religious acceptance  
15      and Diwali is a time marked by qualities of togetherness, family,  
16      and community; now, therefore, be it

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

23      Resolved, That we express respect and admiration to all those  
24      who celebrate the Diwali Festival throughout the world and in our  
25      own communities; and be it further

26      Resolved, That we call upon public officials and the citizens  
27      of Michigan to acknowledge and appreciate those who celebrate  
28      Diwali and the peace and prosperity that the holiday signifies.