

# 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;

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.;

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.