

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 and Hammoud 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
6 small oil lamps and place them around the home. The lighting of



1 lamps is followed by prayers for attainment of health, wealth,
2 knowledge, peace, and valor and is recognized as the beginning of a
3 new year for some Hindus; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 Resolved, That we express respect and admiration to all those

1 who celebrate the Festival of Diwali throughout the world and in
2 our own communities and call upon public officials and the citizens
3 of Michigan to acknowledge and appreciate those who celebrate
4 Diwali and the peace and prosperity that it signifies.