

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 439

Recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 14, 2011

Mr. CROWLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the religious and historical significance of the
festival of Diwali.

Whereas for millions of Indian Americans, Diwali is a time
for thanksgiving and prayer for health, knowledge and
peace;

Whereas Diwali, a festival of great significance to Indian
Americans, is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs,
Jains and some Buddhists throughout the United States;

Whereas Diwali is a festival of lights, during which celebrants
light small oil lamps, place them around the home, and
pray for health, knowledge and peace;

Whereas celebrants of Diwali believe that the rows of lamps
symbolize the light within the individual that rids the
soul of the darkness of ignorance;

Whereas Diwali falls on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar and is celebrated as a day of thanksgiving and the beginning of the New Year for many Hindus;

Whereas for Hindus, Diwali is a celebration of the return of god following the vanquishing of demonic forces;

Whereas for Sikhs, Diwali is feted as the day on which the sixth founding Sikh guru, Guru Hargobind, was released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir;

Whereas for Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of Nirvana by Lord Mahavira, the last of the Tirthankaras (founders of the Jain philosophy); and

Whereas Diwali is a celebration of great importance in Indian American communities throughout the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the historical and religious sig-
3 nificance of Diwali;

4 (2) in observance of Diwali, the festival of
5 lights, expresses its deepest respect for Indian Amer-
6 icans and the Indian Diaspora throughout the world
7 on this significant occasion;

8 (3) recognizes and appreciates the religious di-
9 versity in both India and the United States and
10 throughout the world; and

11 (4) acknowledges and supports the relationship
12 of collaboration and respect between the United
13 States and India.