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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY submitted the following resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

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

Whereas for millions of Indian-Americans, Diwali (or
Deepavali) 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 others 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 belief that light triumphs over darkness, and good triumphs over evil;

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

1 (4) acknowledges and supports the relationship
2 of collaboration and respect between the United
3 States and India.