

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 58

Recognizing the holiday of Diwali.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on Government Reform

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the holiday of Diwali.

Whereas Diwali is an annual festival celebrated by many  
South Asians and is particularly significant to Hindus,  
Sikhs, and Jains;

Whereas for nearly 2,000,000 Indian Americans, Diwali is a  
time for thanksgiving and prayer for health, knowledge,  
and peace;

Whereas Diwali falls on the last day of the last month in the  
lunar calendar and is celebrated as the beginning of the  
New Year by Hindus and Jains;

Whereas the word “Diwali” is a version of the Sanskrit word  
“Deepavali”, which means a row of lamps;

Whereas Diwali is a festival of lights, celebrated in part by  
the lighting and display of small oil lamps throughout the  
home and the community;

Whereas Hindu 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 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 cultural signifi-
- 3       cance of Diwali; and
- 4               (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
- 5       mation recognizing Diwali.

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