

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 592

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2012

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following
resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

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

Whereas Diwali, a festival of great significance to Indian
Americans and South Asian Americans, is celebrated an-
nually by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains throughout India, the
United States, and the world;

Whereas Diwali is a festival of lights that marks the begin-
ning of the Hindu new year, during which celebrants
light small oil lamps, place the lamps around the home,
and pray for health, knowledge, peace, wealth, and pros-
perity in the new year;

Whereas the lights symbolize the light of knowledge within
the individual that overwhelms the darkness of ignorance,
empowering each celebrant to do good deeds and show
compassion to others;

Whereas Diwali falls on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar and is celebrated as a day of thanksgiving for the homecoming of the Lord Rama and worship of Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles and bestower of blessings, at the beginning of the new year for many Hindus;

Whereas, for Sikhs, Diwali is celebrated as Bandhi Chhor Diwas (The Celebration of Freedom), in honor of the release from prison of the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind; and

Whereas, for Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of moksha, or liberation, by Mahavira, the last of the Tirthankaras (the great teachers of Jain dharma), at the end of his life in 527 B.C.: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

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

4 (2) in observance of Diwali, the festival of
5 lights, expresses its deepest respect for Indian Amer-
6 icans and South Asian Americans, as well as fellow
7 countrymen and diaspora throughout the world on
8 this significant occasion.

