

Text of House Resolution 847 (Passed 372 Yes, 9 No) [110<sup>th</sup> Congress]

*Whereas* Christmas, a holiday of great significance to Americans and many other cultures and nationalities, is celebrated annually by Christians throughout the United States and the world;

*Whereas* there are approximately 225,000,000 Christians in the United States, making Christianity the religion of over three-fourths of the American population;

*Whereas* there are approximately 2,000,000,000 Christians throughout the world, making Christianity the largest religion in the world and the religion of about one-third of the world population;

*Whereas* Christians and Christianity have contributed greatly to the development of western civilization;

*Whereas* the United States, being founded as a constitutional republic in the traditions of western civilization, finds much in its history that points observers back to its Judeo-Christian roots;

*Whereas* on December 25 of each calendar year, American Christians observe Christmas, the holiday celebrating the birth of their savior, Jesus Christ;

*Whereas* for Christians, Christmas is celebrated as a recognition of God's redemption, mercy, and Grace; and

*Whereas* many Christians and non-Christians throughout the United States and the rest of the world, celebrate Christmas as a time to serve others: Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the House of Representatives

- (1) recognizes the Christian faith as one of the great religions of the world;
- (2) expresses continued support for Christians in the United States and worldwide;
- (3) acknowledges the international religious and historical importance of Christmas and the Christian faith;
- (4) acknowledges and supports the role played by Christians and Christianity in the founding of the United States and in the formation of the western civilization;
- (5) rejects bigotry and persecution directed against Christians, both in the United States and worldwide; and
- (6) expresses its deepest respect to American Christians and Christians throughout the world.

Text of House Resolution 635 (Passed 376 Yes, 0 No) [110<sup>th</sup> Congress]

*Whereas* it is estimated that there are approximately 1,500,000,000 Muslims worldwide;

*Whereas* since the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, some threats and incidents of violence have been directed at law-abiding, patriotic Americans of African, Arab, and South Asian descent, particularly members of the Islamic faith;

*Whereas*, on September 14, 2001, the House of Representatives passed a concurrent resolution condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States;

*Whereas* some extremists have attempted to use selective interpretations of Islam to justify and encourage hatred, persecution, oppression, violence and terrorism against the United States, the West, Israel, other Muslims, and non-Muslims;

*Whereas* some Muslims in the United States and abroad have courageously spoken out in rejection of interpretations of Islam that justify and encourage hatred, violence, and terror, and in support of interpretations of and movements within Islam that justify and encourage democracy, tolerance and full civil and political rights for Muslims and those of all faiths;

*Whereas* Ramadan is the holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal for Muslims worldwide, and is the 9th month of the Muslim calendar year;

*Whereas* the observance of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan commenced at dusk on September 13, 2007, and continues for one lunar month: Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the House of Representatives

- (1) recognizes the Islamic faith as one of the great religions of the world;
- (2) expresses friendship and support for Muslims in the United States and worldwide;
- (3) acknowledges the onset of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal, and conveys its respect to Muslims in the United States and throughout the world on this occasion;

(4) rejects hatred, bigotry, and violence directed against Muslims, both in the United States and worldwide; and

(5) commends Muslims in the United States and across the globe who have privately and publicly rejected interpretations and movements of Islam that justify and encourage hatred, violence, and terror.

Text of House Resolution 747 (Passed 358 Yes, 0 No) [110<sup>th</sup> Congress]

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

*Whereas* there are more than 2,000,000 Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains in the United States;

*Whereas* the word 'Diwali' is a shortened version of the Sanskrit term 'Deepavali', which means 'a row of lamps';

*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, falling on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar, 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 victory of good over evil;

*Whereas* for Sikhs, Diwali is feted as the day that the sixth founding Sikh Guru, or revered teacher, Guru Hargobind ji, was released from captivity from the ruling Mughal Emperor; and

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

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives

(1) during this time of celebration, in order to demonstrate support for Indian Americans and the Indian Diaspora throughout the world, recognizes Diwali as an important festival;

(2) acknowledges the international religious and historical importance of the festival of Diwali;

(3) recognizes and appreciates the religious diversity in both India and the United States and throughout the world;

(4) acknowledges and supports the new relationship of collaboration and dialogue in international efforts between the United States and India; and

(5) in observance of and out of respect for the start of Diwali, the festival of lights, acknowledges the onset of Diwali and expresses its deepest respect to Indian Americans and the Indian Diaspora throughout the world on this significant occasion.

Text of House Resolution 579 (Passed 401 Yes, 22 No) [109<sup>th</sup> Congress]

*Whereas* Christmas is a national holiday celebrated on December 25,; and

*Whereas* the Framers intended that the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States would prohibit the establishment of religion, not prohibit any mention of religion or reference to God in civic dialog: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representative

(1) recognizes the importance of the symbols and traditions of Christmas;

(2) strongly disapproves of attempts to ban reference to Christmas; and

(3) expresses support for the use of these symbols and traditions, for those who celebrate Christmas.