

Senate Resolution 9EX

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Mullis of the 53rd, Dixon of the 45th, Burke of the 11th, Walker III of the 20th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Celebrating Diwali; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, for millions of Indian-Americans, Diwali (or Deepavali) is a time for
3 thanksgiving and prayer for health, knowledge, and peace; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Diwali, a festival of great significance to Indian-Americans, is celebrated
5 annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and others throughout the United States; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Diwali is a festival of lights that occurs on a moonless night, during which
7 celebrants light small oil lamps; place them around the home; and pray for health,
8 knowledge, and peace; and
- 9 WHEREAS, celebrants of Diwali believe that the rows of lamps symbolize the light within
10 the individual that rids the soul of the darkness of ignorance; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Diwali falls on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar and is
12 celebrated as a day of thanksgiving and the beginning of the New Year for many Hindus; and

13 WHEREAS, for Hindus, Diwali is a celebration of the belief that light triumphs over
14 darkness and that good triumphs over evil; and

15 WHEREAS, for Sikhs, Diwali is recognized as the day on which the sixth founding Sikh
16 guru, Guru Hargobind, was released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir; and

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

19 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this holiday be celebrated for its
20 significance to the many Indian-Americans who call the State of Georgia their home.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
22 celebrate Diwali and extend sincere best wishes to the State of Georgia's Indian-American
23 community for health and prosperity during this special time.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
25 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
26 press.