

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, For more than a century, members of the Sikh faith
2 have benefited the Lone Star State in countless ways, and their
3 achievements are indeed deserving of special recognition; and

4 WHEREAS, First arriving in the U.S. and Texas in the early
5 1900s, the initial Sikh immigrants often worked as farmers,
6 laborers, and entrepreneurs; though they often experienced
7 discrimination and other hardships, these industrious individuals
8 persevered; through the years, Sikhs have made notable
9 contributions in such fields as medicine, law enforcement,
10 business, and agriculture, and their efforts have helped advance
11 the economic well-being of the entire state; and

12 WHEREAS, Numerous Sikh Americans have emerged as prominent
13 figures; notable examples at the national level include civic
14 leader and philanthropist Dr. Amarjit Singh Marwah, U.S.
15 Representative Dalip Singh Saund, and scholar and author Simran
16 Jeet Singh; moreover, Harris County Deputy Sheriff Sandeep Dhaliwal
17 became the first officer in Texas to serve with traditional
18 articles of the Sikh faith, including a turban and beard, and he
19 distinguished himself in his work until he was tragically shot and
20 killed in the line of duty in 2019; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, there are an estimated 500,000 Sikhs in the
22 U.S., with thousands residing in Texas, and Sikh communities have
23 flourished in such cities as Houston, Dallas, and Austin; in
24 addition, the state is home to several prominent gurdwaras, or

1 places of worship, among them, the Gurdwara Sahib of Houston and the
2 Sikh Center of San Antonio; and

3 WHEREAS, Members of the Sikh community play a vital role in
4 myriad social and humanitarian initiatives, with Sikh
5 organizations proving especially valuable in providing disaster
6 relief to those affected by Hurricane Harvey in 2017; and

7 WHEREAS, Each year, the Sikh holiday of Vaisakhi takes place
8 on April 13 or 14; originally established to commemorate the
9 beginning of the spring harvest in the Indian state of Punjab, the
10 festival gained religious significance in 1699 when the last living
11 guru for Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh, chose the occasion to found the
12 Khalsa order of Sikhism; and

13 WHEREAS, The passage of this important observance provides a
14 welcome opportunity to recognize Texas' Sikh community, which has
15 become an integral part of the Lone Star State's vibrant and diverse
16 mix of cultures; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby designate April 14 as Sikh Day; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
20 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
21 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
22 passed by the legislature.