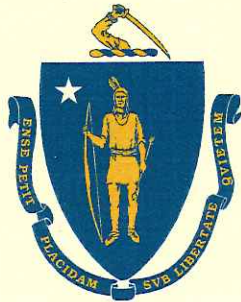


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

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

Whereas, The word "*Diwali*" is a shortened version of the Sanskrit word "*Deepavali*", which means "a row of lamps"; and

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; and

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; and

Whereas, The actual day of *Diwali* falls on the 15th day of the dark fortnight in the auspicious Hindu month of *Kartik*, or during the months of October and November on the Gregorian calendar, and comes 20 days after the popular festival of *Dussehra* and is celebrated as a day of thanksgiving and the beginning of the new year for many Hindus; and

Whereas, For Hindus, *Diwali* is a celebration of the victory of God over demonic forces; and

Whereas, For Sikhs, *Diwali* is feted as the day that the sixth founding Sikh Guru, or revered teacher, *Guru Hargobind*, was released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor *Jehangir*,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 15th through November 14th 2017, to be,

DIWALI MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this First Day of October, in the year two thousand and seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-first.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

A blue ink signature of Charles D. Baker.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A blue ink signature of Karyn E. Polito.

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A blue ink signature of William Francis Galvin.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts