

House Resolution 893

By: Representatives Coleman of the 97th, Glanton of the 75th, Casas of the 107th, Williams of the 145th, Buckner of the 137th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 14, 2018, as Tamil Thai Pongal Day; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Tamil Thai Pongal is the most important festival celebrated by millions of
3 Tamil people in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore,
4 Malaysia, and many other countries around the world; and

5 WHEREAS, Tamil people refer to Pongal as "Tamizhar Thiruvizha," which means "the
6 festival of Tamils," and the word "pongal" itself means "overflowing," signifying abundance
7 and prosperity; and

8 WHEREAS, similar to Thanksgiving Day in the United States, Tamils celebrate Pongal as
9 a festival of thanksgiving to mother nature, the earth, farm animals, and the Sun for the
10 resources necessary for a bountiful yield of crops; and

11 WHEREAS, Tamil Thai Pongal is a four-day festival that is celebrated from January 14 to
12 January 17 and is exemplified by the Tamil phrase "Thai Piranthai Vazhi Pirakkum,"
13 meaning the beginning of the Thai month, January, will open avenues for a better life; and

14 WHEREAS, on the first day of Tamil Thai Pongal, called "Bhogi," people welcome
15 prosperity by cleaning and discarding old belongings and celebrating new possessions, often
16 lighting a bonfire; and

17 WHEREAS, the second day of Tamil Thai Pongal, the main day of the festival, focuses on
18 the worship of the Sun and is celebrated with traditional rituals, colorful kolam decorations,
19 offerings of sugarcane, and cooking the Pongal, a sweet rice; and

20 WHEREAS, the third day of Tamil Thai Pongal, known as "Mattu Pongal," celebrates the
21 importance of farm animals to the harvest, especially cows; animals are decorated and
22 worshiped, and the day is replete with rituals; and

23 WHEREAS, the final day of Tamil Thai Pongal, known as "Kanum Pongal," is spent in
24 family reunions, during which brothers pay special tribute to their married sisters by giving
25 gifts as affirmation of their filial love; landlords present gifts of food, clothes, and money to
26 their tenants; and elders bestow younger family members with gifts in a display of familial
27 love; and

28 WHEREAS, the peace-loving Tamil-American community of Georgia makes many
29 important contributions to education, health care, homeland security, and the economy with
30 exceptionally educated professionals and successful entrepreneurs while continuing to
31 observe and celebrate their rich Tamil cultural heritage; and

32 WHEREAS, the Tamil Thai Pongal Festival brings together members of the Tamil-American
33 community in Georgia as they celebrate with gatherings, decorations, and special foods.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body recognize January 14, 2018, as Tamil Thai Pongal Day.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
38 public and the press.