

## PROCLAMATION

### DESIGNATING APRIL 13, 2011 AS “WE ARE ALL SIKHS” DAY

**WHEREAS**, the Davis community, the state of California and our nation are at once blessed and enriched by the diversity of our residents; and

**WHEREAS**, in California, there reside an estimated 200,000 Americans of Sikh origin, comprising nearly 40 percent of the nation’s estimated Sikh population; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikhs, who have a distinct religious and ethnic identity, respect other religions and believe in equality of all humans; and

**WHEREAS**, Sikh immigrants have resided in, and contributed to, California for more than a century, with the first Sikh immigrants believed to have labored on railroad construction projects, in lumber mills, and in the agricultural heartlands of the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sikh turban, or *dastar*, is a central part of Sikh identity worn to cover the *kes*h (uncut hair), which is viewed by Sikhs as a symbol of God's perfection; and

**WHEREAS**, many Sikh-Americans are easily recognizable by their turbans and beards, which are required articles of their faith; and

**WHEREAS**, many Sikh-Americans have suffered both verbal and physical assaults as a result of misguided anger toward Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack; and

**WHEREAS**, Surinder Singh and Gurmej Atwal, were shot on the afternoon of March 4, 2011 in Elk Grove; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize these tragic events and stand in solidarity with our Sikh brothers and sisters; and

**WHEREAS**, the injury to an individual or any group is harmful to our entire community and we condemn acts of violence, hate and prejudice against any person.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Joe Krovoza, Mayor of the city of Davis, on behalf of the City Council and the Citizens of Davis, do hereby declare April 13, 2011, as We Are All Sikhs Day in Davis and invite all persons to wear a turban in solidarity with the Sikh community.

Dated: March 29, 2011

Joseph F. Krovoza  
Mayor