

House Resolution 109 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY HEARTSILL, SALMON, GASSMAN, WINDSCHITL, JORGENSEN,
SHAW, R. TAYLOR, WATTS, GUSTAFSON, ALONS,
RIDING, OURTH, ROGERS, KOESTER, DOLECHECK,
BRANDENBURG, BACON, COSTELLO, SHEETS, FISHER, FRY,
THEDE, LOFGREN, DAWSON, HAGENOW, DUNKEL, BERRY,
ABDUL-SAMAD, GAINES, MAXWELL, KLEIN, PETTENGILL,
GRASSLEY, SODERBERG, FORBES, SANDS, HEATON,
SCHULTZ, LANDON, RAYHONS, DRAKE, and MUHLBAUER

1 A Resolution recognizing February 10, 2014, as the
2 60th anniversary of the introduction of federal
3 legislation to add the words, "under God," to the
4 United States Pledge of Allegiance.

5 WHEREAS, the Pledge of Allegiance of the United
6 States is an expression of loyalty to the federal flag
7 and the republic of the United States of America,
8 originally composed by Francis Bellamy in 1892 and
9 formally adopted by the United States Congress as the
10 pledge in 1942; and

11 WHEREAS, on February 7, 1954, President Dwight D.
12 Eisenhower became convinced that adding the words,
13 "under God," to the United States Pledge of Allegiance
14 would be the right thing to do after hearing Reverend
15 George Docherty preach that the phrase, "nation
16 under God," first used in the Gettysburg Address, was
17 appropriate to be added to the United States Pledge of
18 Allegiance because freedom "is defined by a fundamental
19 belief in God"; and

20 WHEREAS, in February 1954, Senator Homer Ferguson
21 and Representative Charles Oakman of Michigan

1 introduced bills in the United States Congress to amend
2 the Pledge of Allegiance by adding the words, "under
3 God," to the text of the pledge; and

4 WHEREAS, February 10, 1954, was chosen as the date
5 to introduce the bill by Senator Ferguson because it
6 was the five-year anniversary of the imprisonment
7 of Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty of Hungary, who was
8 imprisoned and tortured by communists for his sermons
9 exposing the goal of communism to eradicate all
10 religion; and

11 WHEREAS, speeches were delivered in the United
12 States Congress by members of both political parties,
13 honoring Cardinal Mindszenty and emphasizing the threat
14 posed to America by communism; and

15 WHEREAS, the vote to add "under God" to the United
16 States Pledge of Allegiance was a unanimous vote; and

17 WHEREAS, the bill adding the language was signed
18 into law by President Eisenhower on Flag Day, June 14,
19 1954; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
21 That the House of Representatives recognizes February
22 10, 2014, as the 60th anniversary of the addition of
23 the words, "under God," to the United States Pledge of
24 Allegiance.