

1 SJR49

2 156197-5

3 By Senators Hightower, Allen, Beasley, Beason, Bedford,
4 Blackwell, Brewbaker, Bussman, Coleman, Dial, Dunn, Fielding,
5 Figures, Glover, Holley, Holtzclaw, Irons, Keahay, Marsh,
6 McGill, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Scofield,
7 Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Taylor, Waggoner, Ward, Whatley
8 and Williams

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 12-FEB-14

8 COMMEMORATING THE YEAR 2014 AS THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
9 OF THE ADDITION OF THE PHRASE "UNDER GOD" TO THE PLEDGE OF
10 ALLEGIANCE AND TO HIGHLIGHT ITS LEGACY TO AMERICAN CITIZENS AS
11 A REMINDER THAT AMERICA WAS FOUNDED ON JUDEO-CHRISTIAN
12 PRINCIPLES.

13
14 WHEREAS, on February 10, 1954, a bill to "amend the
15 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of
16 America" by inserting the words "under God" was introduced in
17 a Joint Resolution by Senator Homer Ferguson, Republican from
18 Michigan. In 1953, the same proposal was made by
19 Representative Louis Rabaut, Democrat from Michigan; and

20 WHEREAS, February 10, 1954, was chosen as the date
21 to introduce the bill by Senator Ferguson to recognize the
22 five-year anniversary of the imprisonment of Cardinal Joseph
23 Mindszenty of Hungary, who was imprisoned and tortured by
24 Communists for his sermons that exposed the goal of Communism
25 to eradicate all religion; and

1 WHEREAS, speeches were delivered in Congress by
2 members of both political parties honoring Cardinal Mindszenty
3 and emphasizing the threat posed to America by Communism; and

4 WHEREAS, upon introduction of the bill, Senator
5 Ferguson commented, "I believe this modification of the pledge
6 is important because it highlights one of the real fundamental
7 differences between the free world and the Communist world,
8 namely, belief in God," furthering that with, "Our nation is
9 founded on a fundamental belief in God, and the first and most
10 important reason for the existence of our government is to
11 protect the God-given rights of our citizens," furthering that
12 with, "Spiritual values are every bit as important to the
13 defense and safety of our nation as are military and economic
14 values"; and

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

17 WHEREAS, on February 7, 1954, President Dwight
18 Eisenhower became convinced that adding the words "under God"
19 to the United States Pledge of Allegiance would be the correct
20 thing to do after hearing in a sermon by Presbyterian Minister
21 Reverend George Docherty that the phrase "this Nation under
22 God," first used in the Gettysburg Address, were appropriate
23 to be added to the United States Pledge of Allegiance because
24 freedom "is defined by a fundamental belief in God"; and

25 WHEREAS, the first time the Pledge of Allegiance was
26 recited with the phrase "under God" was Flag Day, June 14,
27 1954; and

1 WHEREAS, in order to encourage, train, and support
2 legislative leaders in every field who believe in the power of
3 prayer and ministry, and to highlight the vital role that
4 prayer and Judeo-Christian principles have played in the
5 history of our Nation and our state in strengthening the
6 fabric of our society, at all times consistent with the
7 progress of our state and with the well-being of our fellow
8 Alabamians; now therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby commemorate and
11 recognize the year of 2014 as the 60th anniversary of "under
12 God" in the Pledge of Allegiance as a method to remind United
13 States and Alabama citizens that America was founded on
14 Judeo-Christian principles and to encourage that the
15 compelling history of the importance of this anniversary be
16 posted in schools and public buildings.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
18 resolution be furnished to the Capitol Press Corp.