

1 SJR49

2 156197-6

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

1 SJR49

2

3

4 ENROLLED, SJR49,

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

10

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, the first time the Pledge of Allegiance was
23 recited with the phrase "under God" was Flag Day, June 14,
24 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.

1

2

3

4

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

5

6

Speaker of the House of Representatives

7

SJR49

8

Senate 12-FEB-14

9

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

10

11

12

13

14

15

Patrick Harris
Secretary

16

17

House of Representatives

18

Adopted: 25-FEB-14

19

20

21

By: Senator Hightower