

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes February 10, 2014, as the sixtieth anniversary of the addition of the words, "under God", to the United States Pledge of Allegiance

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize February 10, 2014, as the sixtieth anniversary of the addition of the words  
3 "under God", to the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

4 WHEREAS, on February 10, 1954, Senator Homer Ferguson of Michigan introduced  
5 a bill in the United States Congress to amend the Pledge of Allegiance by adding the words,  
6 "under God", to the text of the pledge; and

7 WHEREAS, February 10, 1954, was chosen by Senator Ferguson as the date to  
8 introduce the bill to recognize the five-year anniversary of the imprisonment of Cardinal  
9 Joseph Mindszenty of Hungary, who was imprisoned and tortured by Communists for his  
10 sermons to expose the eradication of all religion as the goal of Communism; and

11 WHEREAS, speeches were delivered in congress by members of both political  
12 parties, honoring Cardinal Mindszenty and emphasizing the threat posed to America by  
13 Communism; and

14 WHEREAS, upon introduction of the bill, Senator Ferguson commented, "I believe  
15 this modification of the pledge is important because it highlights one of the real fundamental  
16 differences between the free world and the Communist world, namely, belief in God," and  
17 further commented that, "Our nation is founded on a fundamental belief in God, and the first  
18 and most important reason for the existence of our government is to protect the God-given  
19 rights of our citizens. Spiritual values are every bit as important to the defense and safety  
20 of our nation as are military and economic values"; and

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

3           WHEREAS, on February 7, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower became convinced  
4 that adding the words, "under God", to the United States Pledge of Allegiance would be the  
5 right thing to do after hearing Reverend George Docherty preach that the phrase, "nation  
6 under God" was first used in the Gettysburg Address and that it was appropriate to add the  
7 phrase to the United States Pledge of Allegiance because freedom "is defined by a  
8 fundamental belief in God"; and

9           WHEREAS, the United States Pledge of Allegiance with the phrase "under God" was  
10 recited for the first time on Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

11           WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize and commemorate this historic date so as  
12 to strengthen the ties of history that bind us to our Christian heritage.

13           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
14 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize February 10, 2014, as the sixtieth  
15 anniversary of the addition of the words, "under God", to the United States Pledge of  
16 Allegiance.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Hodges

HR No. 34

Recognizes Feb. 10, 2014, as the 60th anniversary of the addition of the words "under God" to the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance.