

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0003

Pledge of Allegiance-commemoration.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Hutchings, Esquibel, K.,
Filer, Freeman, McKim, Piiparinen and
Winters and Senator(s) Nutting

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION to commemorate the year 2014 as the
2 sixtieth anniversary of the addition of the phrase "under
3 God" to the Pledge of Allegiance and to highlight its
4 legacy to Wyoming citizens and all Americans as a reminder
5 that America was founded on Christian principles.

6

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

13

14 WHEREAS, February 10, 1954, was chosen as the date to
15 introduce the bill by Senator Ferguson to recognize the

1 five year anniversary of the imprisonment of Cardinal
2 Joseph Mindszenty of Hungary, who was imprisoned and
3 tortured by communists for his sermons exposing the goal of
4 communism to eradicate all religion; and

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6 WHEREAS, speeches were delivered in Congress by members of
7 both political parties, honoring Cardinal Mindszenty and
8 emphasizing the threat posed to America by communism; and

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10 WHEREAS, upon introduction of the bill, Senator Ferguson
11 commented, "I believe this modification of the pledge is
12 important because it highlights one of the real fundamental
13 differences between the free world and the communist world,
14 namely, belief in God," furthering that with, "Our nation
15 is founded on a fundamental belief in God, and the first
16 and most important reason for the existence of our
17 government is to protect the God given rights of our
18 citizens"; and

19

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

22

23 WHEREAS, on February 7, 1954, President Dwight D.
24 Eisenhower became convinced that adding the words, "under

1 God," to the United States Pledge of Allegiance would be
2 the right thing to do after hearing Reverend George
3 Docherty preach that the phrase "nation under God" was
4 first used in the Gettysburg Address and was appropriate to
5 be added to the United States Pledge of Allegiance because
6 freedom "is defined by a fundamental belief in God"; and

7

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

11

12 WHEREAS, The Pledge of Allegiance is an integral part of
13 this nation's identity, introduced to American children in
14 their primary years and recited at major national events,
15 and the inclusion of "under God" to its bold and moving
16 language demonstrates our commitment to the spiritual
17 values on which the United States was founded.

18

19 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
20 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

21

22 **Section 1.** That the year 2014 be commemorated and
23 recognized as the sixtieth anniversary of the addition of
24 the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and that

1 Wyoming citizens be encouraged to learn more about this
2 chapter in their history.

3

4 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
5 transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor of
6 Wyoming and to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and
7 issue a press release to the media containing the full text
8 of this resolution.

9

10

(END)