

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1064

By: Roberts (Sean)

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7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution recognizing the year 2014 as the 60th
9 anniversary of "under God" addition to the United
10 States Pledge of Allegiance.

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12 WHEREAS, the goal of the pledge, as conceived and promoted by
13 James B. Upham, was "to instill into the minds of our American youth
14 a love for their country and the principles on which it was founded,
15 and create in them an ambition to carry on with the ideals which the
16 early Founders wrote in The Constitution"; and

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

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

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

6 WHEREAS, upon introduction of the bill, Senator Ferguson
7 commented "I believe this modification of the pledge is important
8 because it highlights one of the real fundamental differences
9 between the free world and the Communist world, namely, belief in
10 God", furthering that with "Our nation is founded on a fundamental
11 belief in God, and the first and most important reason for the
12 existence of our Government is to protect the God-given rights of
13 our citizens."; and

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

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

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1 WHEREAS, the first time the United States Pledge of Allegiance
2 was recited with the phrase "under God" was on Flag Day, June 14,
3 1954; and

4 WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan said "If we ever forget we are
5 one nation under God, we will become a nation gone under"; and

6 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Oklahoma House of
7 Representatives to recognize and honor such an important date which
8 strengthens the ties of history that bind us to our Christian
9 heritage.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

12 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes the year
13 2014 as the 60th anniversary of the addition of the words "under
14 God" to the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

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16 54-2-10938 AM 05/12/14

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