

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 HOUSE
4 RESOLUTION 1042

By: Kern

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of
8 the national motto; and supporting and encouraging
9 its public display.

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11 WHEREAS, "*In God We Trust*" was adopted as the official motto of
12 the United States in 1956. The law making this phrase the national
13 motto passed through a joint resolution by the 84th Congress and was
14 signed by President Eisenhower on July 30, 1956, and is now codified
15 in 36 U.S.C., Section 186; and

16 WHEREAS, the phrase was designed as an alternative to *E*
17 *pluribus unum*, which was the unofficial motto first used in 1782
18 when the Great Seal of the United States was also created; and

19 WHEREAS, the phrase may have originated from the words of "The
20 Star-Spangled Banner" written during the War of 1812, as the fourth
21 stanza includes the phrase, "*And this be our motto: In God is our*
22 *Trust*"; and

23 WHEREAS, the motto first appeared on U.S. coins in 1864 and on
24 paper currency in 1957 (a one-dollar silver certificate); and

1 WHEREAS, Chief Historian at Antietam National Battlefield, Ted
2 Alexander, maintains the motto was first used by the 125th
3 Pennsylvania Infantry as a battle cry on September 17, 1862. From
4 the crucible of the Civil War, the Reverend M.R. Watkinson, in a
5 letter dated November 13, 1861, petitioned the Treasury Department
6 to add a statement recognizing, "Almighty God in some form in our
7 coin", perhaps as a declaration that God was on the Union side.
8 Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase acted on Watkinson's proposal and
9 directed the Director of the Philadelphia Mint, James Pollock, to
10 begin work on potential designs that included the phrase; and

11 WHEREAS, due to an Act of Congress dated January 18, 1837,
12 mottoes and devices that are placed on U.S. coins had to first be
13 prescribed by enacting additional legislation. Such legislation was
14 introduced and passed on April 22, 1864, allowing the Secretary of
15 the Treasury to authorize the inclusion of the phrase on one-cent
16 and two-cent coins; and

17 WHEREAS, the use of "In God We Trust" has not been continuous
18 since its inception. In 2006, on the 50th anniversary of its
19 adoption, the U.S. Senate reaffirmed the phrase as the official
20 national motto and in 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives passed
21 House Concurrent Resolution 13 in an additional reaffirming vote of
22 396-9.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
24 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

1 THAT members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
2 commemorate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the national
3 motto "*In God We Trust*".

4 THAT members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives support
5 and encourage the public display of the national motto.

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