

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE
4 RESOLUTION 1063

5 By: Kern, Derby, Ritze, Coody
6 (Ann), Faught, Inman,
7 Rousselot, Osborn, Strohm,
8 Billy, Brumbaugh, Moore,
9 Cooksey, Johnson, Bennett,
10 Wright, Wesselhoft, Nelson,
11 Condit, Peterson and
12 Proctor

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14
15 AS INTRODUCED

16 A Resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of
17 the national motto; and supporting and encouraging
18 its public display.

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

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

WHEREAS, the phrase may have originated from the words of "The
Star-Spangled Banner" written during the War of 1812, as the fourth

1 stanza includes the phrase, "*And this be our motto - In God is our*
2 *trust*"; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, the use of "In God We Trust" has not been continuous
22 since its inception. In 2006, on the 50th anniversary of its
23 adoption, the U.S. Senate reaffirmed the phrase as the official
24 national motto and in 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives passed

1 House Concurrent Resolution 13 in an additional reaffirming vote of
2 396-9.

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

5 THAT members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
6 commemorate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the national
7 motto "*In God We Trust*".

8 THAT members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives support
9 and encourage the public display of the national motto.

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