

MAR 07 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING AND RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 8 AS THE DATE "UNDER GOD" WAS ADDED TO THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO REMIND AMERICAN CITIZENS THAT AMERICA WAS FOUNDED ON CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.

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

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8 WHEREAS, February 8, 1954, was chosen as the date to
9 introduce this bill because it was the five-year anniversary of
10 the imprisonment of Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty, a Hungarian
11 prelate who had been arrested, tortured and imprisoned by both
12 Nazis and Communists for his sermons that exposed their common
13 goals to eradicate all religion; and

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15 WHEREAS, on February 8, 1954, six speeches were made in
16 Congress by both Democrats and Republicans honoring Cardinal
17 Mindszenty and drawing attention to the threat that Communism
18 posed to America – the eradication of Christianity. Senator
19 Ferguson's comments upon the introduction of this bill: "Our
20 nation is founded on a fundamental belief in God, and the first
21 and most important reason for the existence of our government is
22 to protect the God-given rights of our citizens. America must be
23 defended by the spiritual values which exist in the hearts and
24 souls of the American people. Our country cannot be defended by
25 ships, planes and guns alone"; and

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27 WHEREAS, the vote to add "under God" to the Pledge of
28 Allegiance was unanimous. The bill was signed into law by
29 President Dwight Eisenhower, who became convinced that it was
30 the correct thing to do after hearing a sermon by Presbyterian
31 Minister Reverend George Docherty on February 7, 1954, who



1 pointed out that Abraham Lincoln used the phrase, that "...under
2 God this Nation shall know a new birth of freedom" in his
3 Gettysburg Address; and
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5 WHEREAS, the original Pledge of Allegiance was recited on
6 October 21, 1892, by an estimated 12 million school children and
7 although it did not include a reference to God, the program that
8 instructed schools on its recitation admonished that they
9 "Acknowledge God" through prayer or scripture reading
10 immediately after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The first
11 time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited with the phrase "under
12 God" was Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and
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14 WHEREAS, in order to encourage, train and support
15 legislative leaders in every field who believe in the power of
16 prayer and ministry, and to highlight the vital role that prayer
17 and Judeo-Christian principles have played in the history of our
18 Nation and our state in strengthening the fabric of our society,
19 at all times consistent with the progress of our state and with
20 the well-being of our fellow citizens of Hawaii; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
24 House of Representatives concurring, that we do hereby
25 commemorate and recognize the date of February 8 as the date the
26 U.S. Congress introduced the bill to add "under God" to the
27 Pledge of Allegiance as a method to remind United States
28 citizens and the people of Hawaii that America was founded on
29 Christian principles and to encourage that the compelling
30 history of the importance of this date be posted in schools and
31 public buildings; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant
35 Governor and the State Board of Education for proper
36 dissemination to the schools and agencies of our state and be
37 made available to the Capitol Press Corp.
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S.C.R. NO. 94

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OFFERED BY:

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