

MAR 07 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

A SENATE 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
7

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
14

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
26

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
32 pointed out that Abraham Lincoln used the phrase, that "...under
33 God this Nation shall know a new birth of freedom" in his
34 Gettysburg Address; and



1
 2 WHEREAS, the original Pledge of Allegiance was recited on
 3 October 21, 1892, by an estimated 12 million school children and
 4 although it did not include a reference to God, the program that
 5 instructed schools on its recitation admonished that they
 6 "Acknowledge God" through prayer or scripture reading
 7 immediately after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The first
 8 time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited with the phrase "under
 9 God" was Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

10
 11 WHEREAS, in order to encourage, train and support
 12 legislative leaders in every field who believe in the power of
 13 prayer and ministry, and to highlight the vital role that prayer
 14 and Judeo-Christian principles have played in the history of our
 15 Nation and our state in strengthening the fabric of our society,
 16 at all times consistent with the progress of our state and with
 17 the well-being of our fellow citizens of Hawaii; now, therefore,
 18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
 20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014,
 21 that we do hereby commemorate and recognize the date of February
 22 8 as the date the U.S. Congress introduced the bill to add
 23 "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance as a method to remind
 24 United States citizens and the people of Hawaii that America was
 25 founded on Christian principles and to encourage that the
 26 compelling history of the importance of this date be posted in
 27 schools and public buildings; and

28
 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 30 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor
 31 and the State Board of Education for proper dissemination to the
 32 schools and agencies of our state and be made available to the
 33 Capitol Press Corp.
 34
 35

OFFERED BY:

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The top signature is more stylized and cursive, while the bottom signature is more legible and appears to read 'Walter J. ...'.

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