

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 395

Introduced by Brasch, 16; Avery, 28; Bloomfield, 17; Carlson, 38; Coash, 27; Crawford, 45; Garrett, 3; Hadley, 37; Hansen, 42; Janssen, 15; Johnson, 23; Karpisek, 32; Kintner, 2; Kolowski, 31; Krist, 10; Nelson, 6; Pirsch, 4; Schilz, 47; Seiler, 33; Wallman, 30.

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

WHEREAS, Senator Ferguson chose this date to recognize the fifth anniversary of the imprisonment of Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty of Hungary who was imprisoned and tortured by communists for his sermons exposing the goal of communism to eradicate all religion; and

WHEREAS, members of both political parties delivered speeches in Congress to honor Cardinal Mindszenty and to emphasize the threat posed to America; and

WHEREAS, upon introduction of the bill, Senator Ferguson believed the amendment was important and commented, "Our nation is founded on a fundamental belief in God, and the first and most important reason for the existence of our government is to protect the God-given rights of our citizens. Spiritual values are every bit as important to the defense and safety of our nation as are military and economic values"; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the amended Pledge of Allegiance was recited for the first time on Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes and honors important dates which strengthen the ties of history that bind us to our Christian heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes February 10, 2014, as the 60th anniversary of the addition of the words "under God" to the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

2. That the Legislature further recognizes the significant role of the Pledge of Allegiance in American history.