

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

A RESOLUTION

To recognize February 10, 2014, as the sixtieth anniversary of the addition of the words "under God", to the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

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

WHEREAS, February 10, 1954, was chosen by Senator Ferguson as the date to introduce the bill to recognize the five-year anniversary of the imprisonment of Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty of Hungary, who was imprisoned and tortured by Communists for his sermons to expose the eradication of all religion as the goal of Communism; and

WHEREAS, speeches were delivered in congress by members of both political parties, honoring Cardinal Mindszenty and emphasizing the threat posed to America by Communism; and

WHEREAS, upon introduction of the bill, Senator Ferguson commented, "I believe this modification of the pledge is important because it highlights one of the real fundamental differences between the free world and the Communist world, namely, belief in God," and further commented that, "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 United States Pledge of Allegiance was a unanimous vote; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower became convinced that adding the words, "under God", to the United States 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 that it was appropriate to add the phrase to the United States Pledge of Allegiance because freedom "is defined by a fundamental belief in God"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Pledge of Allegiance with the phrase "under God" was recited for the first time on Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize and commemorate this historic date so as to strengthen the ties of history that bind us to our Christian heritage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize February 10, 2014, as the sixtieth anniversary of the addition of the words, "under God", to the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES