

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1063

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

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10
11 AS INTRODUCED

12 A Resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of
13 the national motto; and supporting and encouraging
its public display.

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

21 WHEREAS, the phrase was designed as an alternative to *E*
22 *pluribus unum*, which was the unofficial motto first used in 1782
23 when the Great Seal of the United States was also created; and
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1 WHEREAS, the phrase may have originated from the words of "The
2 Star-Spangled Banner" written during the War of 1812, as the fourth
3 stanza includes the phrase, "*And this be our motto - In God is our*
4 *trust*"; and

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, the use of "In God We Trust" has not been continuous
24 since its inception. In 2006, on the 50th anniversary of its

1 adoption, the U.S. Senate reaffirmed the phrase as the official
2 national motto and in 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives passed
3 House Concurrent Resolution 13 in an additional reaffirming vote of
4 396-9.

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

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

10 THAT members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives support
11 and encourage the public display of the national motto.

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13 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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