

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION**No. 555** Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY MCGINNIS, METCALFE, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BOBACK,
D. COSTA, COX, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GROVE, HARHAI, HEFFLEY,
JAMES, KAUFFMAN, KIRKLAND, KNOWLES, KORTZ, LUCAS, MAHONEY,
MILLARD, MILNE, MURT, NEILSON, OBERLANDER, RAPP, READSHAW,
ROCK, SACCONI, SANKEY, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, SWANGER, TALLMAN,
BISHOP AND MALONEY, DECEMBER 18, 2013

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JANUARY 29, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 10, 2014, as the 60th anniversary of the
2 addition of the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance
3 of the United States.

4 WHEREAS, The Founders of the United States of America
5 observed, in the Declaration of Independence, the self-evident
6 truth that rights of life and liberty are an endowment from our
7 Creator; and

8 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth have affirmed, in
9 the Constitution of Pennsylvania, their belief in God and their
10 thanksgiving for His blessings of civil and religious liberty;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, On February 7, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower
13 came to the conviction that adding the words "under God" to the
14 Pledge of Allegiance of the United States would be the right
15 thing to do after hearing Reverend George Docherty preach that
16 the phrase "nation under God," which was first used in the

1 Gettysburg Address, was appropriate to be added to the Pledge of
2 Allegiance because freedom "is defined by a fundamental belief
3 in God"; and

4 WHEREAS, On February 10, 1954, Senator Homer Ferguson of
5 Michigan introduced a bill in the United States Senate to amend
6 the Pledge of Allegiance by adding the words "under God" to the
7 text of the pledge; and

8 WHEREAS, February 10, 1954, was chosen as the date to
9 introduce the bill by Senator Ferguson ~~because it was~~ TO <--
10 RECOGNIZE the fifth anniversary of the imprisonment of Cardinal
11 Joseph Mindszenty of Hungary, who was imprisoned and tortured by
12 Communists for his sermons exposing the goal of communism to
13 eradicate all religion; and

14 WHEREAS, Upon introduction of the bill, Senator Ferguson
15 commented, "Our nation is founded on a fundamental belief in
16 God, and the first and most important reason for the existence
17 of our government is to protect the God-given rights of our
18 citizens. Spiritual values are every bit as important to the
19 defense and safety of our nation as are military and economic
20 values"; and

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

23 WHEREAS, The first time the revised Pledge of Allegiance was
24 recited was on Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

25 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the House of Representatives to
26 recognize and honor such an important date, which strengthens
27 the ties of history that bind us to our Judeo-Christian
28 heritage; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives, with due
30 reverence to the Almighty, recognize February 10, 2014, as the

1 60th anniversary of the addition of the words "under God" to the
2 Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.