

## House Resolution 1319

By: Representatives Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Rynders of the 152<sup>nd</sup>, Morris of the 156<sup>th</sup>, Gasaway of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Talton of the 147<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commemorating the year 2014 as the 60th anniversary of the addition of the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, on February 10, 1954, a bill to "amend the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America" by inserting the words "under God" was introduced in a Joint Resolution by Senator Homer Ferguson, a Republican from Michigan; in 1953, the same proposal had been made by Louis Rabaut, a Democrat from Michigan; and
- 7 WHEREAS, February 10, 1954, was chosen as the date to introduce the bill by Senator Ferguson 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 exposing the goal of Communism to eradicate all religion; and
- 11 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
- 14 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, the belief in God," and he further stated, "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"; and
- 20 WHEREAS, the vote to add "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance was a unanimous vote; and
- 22 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

24 after hearing Reverend George Docherty preach that the phrase "nation under God," which  
25 was first used in the Gettysburg Address, was appropriate to be added to the Pledge of  
26 Allegiance because freedom "is defined by a fundamental belief in God"; and

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

29 WHEREAS, the Pledge of Allegiance is an integral part of this nation's identity, introduced  
30 to American children in their primary years and recited at major events, and the inclusion of  
31 "under God" to its bold and moving language demonstrates our commitment to the spiritual  
32 values on which the United States was founded.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
34 the members of this body commemorate and recognize the year 2014 as the 60th anniversary  
35 of the addition of "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance as a reminder that America was  
36 founded on Christian principles.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.