

By: Representatives Martinson,
 Aldridge, Bain, Baker, Baria, Barker,
 Barton, Bennett, Bounds, Boyd, Brown
 (20th), Buck (5th), Buck (72nd), Busby,
 Byrd, Carpenter, Cockerham, Coleman
 (65th), Crawford, Currie, DeBar, DeLano, Denny, Dickson, Ellis,
 Flaggs, Formby, Frierson, Gardner, Guice, Hamilton, Haney,
 Holland, Hood, Horne, Howell, Huddleston (15th), Ladner, Lamar,
 Lott, Malone, Massengill, Mayo, McGee, McLeod, Mettetal, Miles,
 Mims, Monsour, Moore, Morgan, Nelson, Pigott, Read, Rogers (14th),
 Rushing, Shows, Smith (39th), Snowden, Staples, Steverson, Turner,
 Upshaw, White, Whittington, Williams-Barnes, Young, Zuber, Eure,
 Chism, Shirley, Arnold

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 8, 1954, AS THE
 2 ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADDITION OF THE WORDS, "UNDER GOD," TO THE
 3 UNITED STATES PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

4 WHEREAS, on February 8, 1954, Senator Homer Ferguson of
 5 Michigan introduced a bill to amend the United States Pledge of
 6 Allegiance by adding the words, "under God," to the text of the
 7 pledge; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, upon introduction of the bill, Senator Ferguson
 18 commented, "I believe this modification of the pledge is important
 19 because it highlights one of the real fundamental differences
 20 between the free world and the Communist world, namely, belief in
 21 God," furthering that with, "Our nation is founded on a
 22 fundamental belief in God, and the first and most important reason
 23 for the existence of our Government is to protect the God-given
 24 rights of our citizens."; and

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



27 WHEREAS, on February 7, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower
28 became convinced that adding the words, "under God," to the United
29 States Pledge of Allegiance would be the right thing to do after
30 hearing Reverend George Docherty preach that the words were
31 appropriate to be added to the United States Pledge of Allegiance
32 because freedom to Americans was defined by a "fundamental belief
33 in God"; and

34 WHEREAS, the first time the United States Pledge of
35 Allegiance was recited was on Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

36 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
37 and honor such an important date which strengthens the ties of
38 history that bind us to our Christian heritage:

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
40 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
41 THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize February 8, 1954, as the
42 anniversary of the addition of the words, "under God," to the
43 United States Pledge of Allegiance.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
45 furnished to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

