

## 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  
17 Gettysburg Address, was appropriate to be added to the Pledge of  
18 Allegiance because freedom "is defined by a fundamental belief

1 in God"; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives, with due  
28 reverence to the Almighty, recognize February 10, 2014, as the  
29 60th anniversary of the addition of the words "under God" to the  
30 Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.