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SJR 26

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sponsor Statement

On June 14, 1954 after signing House Joint Resolution 243, President Dwight D. Eisenhower led a group of in reciting the pledge of allegiance for the first time with the words "under God." The official name of *The Pledge of Allegiance* was adopted in 1945.

Congressional sessions open with the Pledge of Allegiance and students at most public and private schools recite the Pledge at the beginning of each school day.

President Eisenhower proclaimed as he signed the resolution, "From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty. To anyone who truly loves America, nothing could be more inspiring than to contemplate this rededication of our youth, on each school morning, to our country's true meaning."

The Pledge of Allegiance is recited by newly naturalized U.S. citizens after taking the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America. President Ronald Reagan reflected once that we can learn about how special this nation is by listening to those citizens who were not born here: "Every once in a while all of us native born Americans should make it a point to have a conversation with one who is American by choice. They can do a lot to firm up our resolve to be free for another 200 years."

This resolution celebrates the first recital of the Pledge of Allegiance sixty years ago after the first recital of the Pledge using the words "Under God" on Flag Day, June 14, 2014.