

SJR

26

<TARGET><BILL>SJR 26</BILL><SUBJECT>SJR
26</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA28</COMM></TARGET>

Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Leader

Judiciary Committee
Chairman
In-State Energy Committee
Co-Chair
State Affairs Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee
Legislative Council
Rules Committee



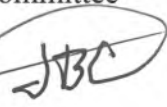
Senator John Coghill

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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 14, 2014
To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee
From: Senator John Coghill 
Re: SJR 26 Pledge of Allegiance Anniversary

I am requesting a hearing for SJR 26, "*Recognizing June 14, 2014, as the 60th anniversary of the first recital of the United States Pledge of Allegiance with the words 'under God' at your convenience.*"

I have enclosed back up information for the resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SJR 26- 60th Anniversary of
"Under God" Being Added to
the Pledge of Allegiance**



Sponsored by Senator John Coghill
April 14, 2014

Alaska State Legislature

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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.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR COGHILL

Introduced: 2/21/14
Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 14, 2014, as the 60th anniversary of the first recital of the United
2 States Pledge of Allegiance with the words "under God."

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

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

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

12 **WHEREAS** members of both political parties delivered speeches in the United States
13 Congress honoring Cardinal Mindszenty and emphasizing the threat posed to America by
14 communism; and

15 **WHEREAS**, upon introduction of the bill, Senator Ferguson commented, "I believe
16 this modification of the pledge is important because it highlights one of the real fundamental

1 differences between the free world and the Communist world, namely, belief in God. Our
2 nation is founded on a fundamental belief in God, and the first and most important reason for
3 the existence of our Government is to protect the God-given rights of our citizens. . . .
4 Spiritual values are every bit as important to the defense and safety of our Nation as are
5 military and economic values"; and

6 **WHEREAS** the vote to add "under God" to the United States Pledge of Allegiance
7 was unanimous; and

8 **WHEREAS**, on February 7, 1954, after hearing Reverend George M. Docherty
9 preach that the phrase "nation under God" was used in the Gettysburg Address, President
10 Dwight D. Eisenhower became convinced that adding the words "under God" to the United
11 States Pledge of Allegiance would be the right thing to do; and

12 **WHEREAS** President Eisenhower signed H.J. Res. 243, 83rd Cong. (1954) and the
13 United States Pledge of Allegiance was recited with the phrase "under God" for the first time
14 on Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

15 **WHEREAS** it is the policy of the legislature to recognize and honor important dates
16 that strengthen the ties of history and bind us to our Christian heritage;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes June 14, 2014, as
18 the 60th anniversary of the first recital of the United States Pledge of Allegiance with the
19 words "under God."

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
21 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
22 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of
23 Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and the
24 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the
25 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

4-15-14
Lynn
923
A

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version SJR 26
 Fiscal Note Number 1
 (S) Publish Date 3/14/14

Identifier (file name) _____ Dept. Affected _____
 Title SJR 26 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Appropriation _____
 Allocation _____
 Sponsor Senator Coghill
 Requester (S) State Affairs OMB Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY15	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY15 Request	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY15	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY15	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other)							
1156 Rcpt Svcs (DGF)							
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS

	FY15	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES

	FY15	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20

Estimated **SUPPLEMENTAL (FY14) operating costs** _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated **CAPITAL (FY15) costs** _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? _____
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended, or repealed? _____ Discuss details in analysis section.

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Prepared by (S) State Affairs
 Division _____
 Approved by Senator Dyson, Chair
 Division _____

Phone 465-2199
 Date/Time 3/12/14 12:00 PM
 Date 3/12/2014

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SJR 26

Analysis

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page below the 'Analysis' header. It is intended for the user to provide the fiscal note analysis.

Mr. Laswell, Red Skelton's Teacher explained the Pledge of Allegiance to ten year olds before "under God" was added to the Pledge.

[I] me an individual, a committee of one.

[pledge] dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity

[allegiance] my love and my devotion

[to the flag], our stand, old glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves there's respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

[united] that means we have all come together.

[states] individual communities that have united into forty eight states forty-eight individual communities with pride dignity and purpose all divided with imaginary boundaries yet united to a common purpose and that's love for country

[And to the republic] republic, a state in which sovereign powers is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern and government is the people and it is government from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

[For which it stands, one nation] one nation meaning so blessed by God

[indivisible] incapable of being divided

[With liberty] which is freedom; the right of power to live on's own life without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation

[And justice] the principle our qualities of dealing fairly with others

[For all], for all

Which means boys and girls its as much your country as it is mine

And now boys and girls let me hear you recite the pledge of allegiance.

Red Skelton's comments after "under God" was added:

"Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance; "under God". Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and be eliminated from school."

JOINT RESOLUTION

June 14, 1954

To amend the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

[H. j . Res. 243]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United

Flag of the USA.

States of America in Congress assembled^ That section 7 of the joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution to codify and emphasize existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the

56 Stat. 380.

United States of America", approved June 22, 1942, as amended (36

U. S. C , sec. 172), is amended to read as follow^s:

P l e d g e of a l -
legiance.

"SEC. 7. The following is designated as the pledge of allegiance to the flag: ' I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, w^ith liberty and justice for alP. Such pledge should be rendered by standing w^ith the right hand over the heart. How- ever, civilians will always show full respect to the flag when the pledge is given by merely standing at attention, men removing the headdress. Persons in uniform shall render the military salute."

Approved June 14, 1954.

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President Eisenhower's One Nation Under God

David Barton - 02/06/2012

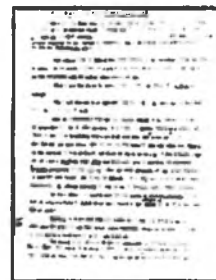


February 7 is a notable historical day for the acknowledgment of God in modern America: It is the day that a sermon was preached before President Dwight D. Eisenhower, suggesting that the words "under God" be added to the pledge. The sermon was preached by the Rev. George M. Docherty, pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C. [1] (you can

download and see the full sermon, with his notes and additions).

This sermon was preached for Lincoln Day, and it had a great impact on those listening, including President Eisenhower, who was seated in the same pew that Abraham Lincoln had regularly occupied in that church as President. [2] In that sermon Docherty stated:

There was something missing in the pledge, and that which was missing was the characteristics and definitive factor in the American way of life. Indeed apart from the mention of the phrase, the United States of America, it could be the pledge of any republic. In fact, I could hear little Muscovites repeat a similar pledge to their hammer and sickle flag in Moscow with equal solemnity. [3]



He made the point that the American pledge as it then existed could just have been recited by citizens from any country, even those from communistic nations that hated God. The day following the sermon, U. S. Rep. Charles Oakman from Michigan introduced a Joint Resolution (H. J. Res 371) to add the words "Under God" into the pledge, [4] explaining:

Mr. Speaker, I think Mr. Docherty hit the nail squarely on the head. One of the most fundamental differences between us and the Communists is our belief in God. [5]

Two days later, on February 10th, Senator Homer Ferguson from Michigan introduced the Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. 126), [6] explaining to the Senate:



ation is founded on a fundamental belief in and the first and most important reason for the existence of our government is to protect the unalienable rights of our citizens. . . . Indeed, Mr. Speaker, over one of the doorways to this very chamber inscribed in the marble are the words "In

God We Trust." Unless those words amount to more than a carving in stone, our country will never be able to defend itself. [7]

These resolutions were passed, and on June 14, 1954 (Flag Day), President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill into law, officially adding the words "under God" into the Pledge of Allegiance, telling the nation:

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. . . . In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource, in peace or in war. [8]



Who could have imagined that a single sermon could have such an impact? Yet American history is full of such accounts. On February 7th, take time to read this remarkable sermon, remembering that we are indeed "one nation under God."

[1] George M. Docherty, *One Way of Living* (Harper & Brothers, New York, 1958) p. 158, "One Nation Under God." See also "History," *New York Avenue Presbyterian Church* (at: <http://www.nvpsc.org/history>).

[2] "History," *New York Avenue Presbyterian Church* (at: <http://www.nvpsc.org/history>). See also, *Congressional Record* (Volume 100 Session 2) p. 1700 Feb 12, 1954 "House Joint Resolution 243 to Amend the Pledge of Allegiance to Include the Phrase 'Under God': Extension of Remarks of Hon. Louis C. Rabaut (at: <http://www.archive.org/stream/congressionalrec100aunit#page/n894/mode/1up>).

[3] *Congressional Record*, (Volume 100, Session 2) p.1697 Feb 12, 1954 "Abraham Lincoln: Extension of Remarks of Hon. Charles G. Oakman" (at: <http://www.archive.org/stream/congressionalrec100aunit#page/n892/mode/1up>). See also George M. Docherty, *One Way of Living* (Harper & Brothers, New York, 1958) p. 164. See also *Congressional Record* (Volume 100 Session 2) p. 1700 Feb 12, 1954 "House Joint Resolution 243 to Amend the Pledge of Allegiance to Include the Phrase 'Under God': Extension of Remarks of Hon. Louis C. Rabaut (at: <http://www.archive.org/stream/congressionalrec100aunit#page/n894/mode/1up>).

[4] *Congressional Record*, (Volume 100, Session 2) p.1522 Feb 8, 1954 (at: <http://www.archive.org/stream/congressionalrec100aunit#page/n803/mode/1up>).

[5] *Congressional Record*, (Volume 100, Session 2) p.1697 Feb 12, 1954 Abraham Lincoln: Extension of Remarks of Hon. Charles G. Oakman" (at: <http://www.archive.org/stream/congressionalrec100aunit#page/n892/mode/1up>).

[6] *Congressional Record*, (Volume 100, Session 2) p.1600 Feb 10, 1954 (at: <http://www.archive.org/stream/congressionalrec100aunit#page/n844/mode/1up>).

[7] *Congressional Record*, (Volume 100, Session 2) p.1600 Feb 10, 1954 "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" by Mr. Ferguson (at: <http://www.archive.org/stream/congressionalrec100aunit#page/n844/mode/1up>). See also *Congressional Record*, (Volume 100, Session 2) p.1601 Feb 10, 1954 "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" by Mr. Ferguson (at: <http://www.archive.org/stream/congressionalrec100aunit#page/n844/mode/1up>).

TEXT. GALATIANS 3: 28.

There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither bond nor free; there is neither male "NUMBER GOD" nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Sermon preached by Dr. George H. Docherty, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, February 7, 1954.

The famous city of Sparta was once visited by an ambassador from another kingdom. He expected to find this great city surrounded by thick protecting walls; he was surprised when he saw no battlements at all.

"Where are the walls to defend the city?", he asked of the King of Sparta.

"Here are the walls of Sparta", replied the king, showing him his army of first line crack troops.

Had this ambassador visited our United States today, he would also be surprised to find no wall around our cities. (I should think, as a matter of fact, it would be extremely difficult, even for American "know-how", to build a wall around Los Angeles!). And if our visitor were to ask the question, "Where is the defense of the nation?", he could be shown something of the awesome power of the mighty American Army, Navy and Airforce; not to mention the enormous Economic potential of the Country. But the true strength of the United States of America lies deeper, as it lay in Sparta. It is the spirit of both military and people - a flaming devotion to the cause of freedom within these borders.

At this season of anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, it will not be inappropriate to speak about this freedom, and ^{what is} ~~it is~~ called "the American way of life".

I Freedom is a subject everyone seems to be talking about without seemingly stopping to ask the rather basic question, "What do we mean by freedom?" In this matter, apparently, we all are experts.

The world of Mr. Lincoln's day is unbelievably different from this Modern Age. Yet there is a sense in which history is always repeating itself. ^{Lincoln} The issues we face today are precisely the issues ~~he~~ spent his life seeking to

resolve. In his day, the issue was sparked by Negro Slavery. Today, it is sparked by a militantly atheistic Communism that has already enslaved 800 million of the peoples of the earth, and now menaces the rest of the free world.

Lincoln, in his day, saw this Country as a nation that "was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal". And the question he asks is the timeless, and timely, one - "whether this nation or any nation so conceived and dedicated, can long endure".

I recall once discussing the "American way of life" with a Newspaper Editor. He had been using the phrase rather freely. When asked to define the phrase, "The American Way of Life," he became very wordy and verbose. "It is live and let live; it is freedom to act" and other such platitudes.

Let me ^{describe} tell what "The American Way of Life" is. It is going to the ballgame and eating pop-corn, and drinking Coca Cola, and rooting for the Senators. It is shopping in Sears & Roebuck. It is losing heart and hat on a roller coaster. It is driving on the right side of the road and putting up at motels on a long journey. It is being bored with television commercials. It is setting off fire crackers with your children on the Fourth of July. It is sitting for seven hours to see the pageantry of the Presidential Inauguration.

But, it is deeper than that.

It is gardens with no fences to bar you from the neighborliness of your neighbor. It is the perfume of honeysuckle, and the sound of katydids in the warm night air of summer, when you go out into the garden, the children long ago asleep, and you feel the pulse and throb of nature around you. It is Negro Spirituale and Colonial Architecture. It is Thanksgiving Turkey and pumpkin pie. It is the sweep of broad rivers and the sea of wheat and grass. It is a view from the air of the conflux of muddy rivers and neat little excavations and columns of smoke that is the mighty Pittsburgh. It is canyons of skyscrapers

in New York, and the sweep of Lakeshore Drive that is Chicago. It is the lonely proud status of Lee on Gettysburg field. It is school girls wearing jeans and school boys riding enormous push bikes. It is color comice. It is the Sunday New York Times. It is sitting on the porch of a Sunday afternoon, after morning church, rocking in a creaking wicker chair. It is a lad and lass looking at you intently in the marriage service. It is sickness; and a home empty, quietened and stilled by grief. It is the sound of the bell at the railroad crossing, and childrens' laughter. It is a solitary bugler playing taps, clear and long-noted, at Arlington.

And where did all this come from?

It has been with us so long, we have to recall it was brought here by people who laid stress on fundamentals. They called themselves Puritans because they wished to live the pure and noble life purged of all idolatry and enslavement of the mind, even by the Church. They did not realize that in fleeing from tyranny and setting up of a new life in a new world, they were to be the Fathers of a Mighty Nation.

These fundamental concepts of life had been given to the world from Mount Sinai, where the moral law was graven upon Tables of Stone, symbolizing the universal application to all men. And they came from the New Testament where they heard in the words of Jesus of Nazareth, the Living Word of God for the world.

This is the "American Way of Life". Lincoln saw this clearly. History for him was the Divine Comedy, though he would not use that phrase. The providence of God was being fulfilled.

Therefore, Lincoln he claims that it is 'UNDER GOD' that this nation shall know a new birth of freedom. And by implication, it is under God that "government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth".

For Lincoln, since God was in his heaven, all must ultimately be right for his Country.

Now, all this may seem obvious to me, until one sits down and takes these implications of freedom really seriously. For me, it came in a flash one day sometime ago when our children came home from school. Almost casually, I asked what happened at school when they arrived there in the morning. They described to me, in great detail, and with strange solemnity, the Ritual of the Salute to the Flag. The children turn to the Flag, and with their hand across their heart, they repeat the words:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States and the Republic for which it stands; one nation, indivisible with liberty and justice for all".

They were very proud of the Pledge; and rightly so.

I don't suppose you fathers would have paid ^{as} much attention to that as I did. I had ^{one} the advantage over you. I could listen to those noble words as if for the first time. You have learned them so long ago, like the arithmetic table or the Shorter Catechism, something you can repeat without ~~consciousness~~ ^{realizing} what it all really means. But I could sit down and brood upon it, going over each word slowly in my mind.

And I came to a strange conclusion. There was something missing in this Pledge, and that which was missing was the characteristic and definitive factor in the "American Way of Life". Indeed, apart from the mention of the phrase, the United States of America, this could be the pledge of any Republic. In fact, I could hear little Muscovites repeat a similar pledge to their hammer and sickle flag in Moscow with equal solemnity, for Russia is also a Republic that claims to have overthrown the tyranny of kingship.

Russia also claims to be indivisible. Mr. Stalin admitted to Sir

Winston Churchill that the uniting of the peasants was the most difficult of all his tasks. (He did not mention the massacre of the three million Kulak farmers in this blood and iron unification).

Russia claims to have liberty. You will never understand the Communist mind until you realize this aberration of their judgment. KARL Marx in his dialectic, makes it clear that the Communist state is only an imperfect stage towards World Socialism. When that day comes, the State will wither away and true Socialism will reign forever. Utopia will have dawned. Until that day, there must be personal limitations. AS the Capitalist state limits freedom in the day of war, so must the workers of the world accept this form of restricted freedom. Besides, claims Marx, trouble arises when you give men their unrestricted freedom. Human freedom always degenerates into license and gives rise to greed and war. They might claim that their "servitude is perfect freedom".

Again the Communists claim, there is Justice in Russia. They have their law courts. They have their elections with universal suffrage. When pressed to the point, they will admit there is really only one candidate because the people are so unanimous about that way of life!

They call their way of life "Democratic". One of the problems statesmen find in dealing with Russia is one of semantics, of definition. Russia says she is Democratic and we are Fascist; we claim to be Democratic and call Russia Communist.

VI
What, therefore, is missing in the Pledge of Allegiance that Americans have been saying on and off since 1892, and officially since 1942? The one fundamental concept that completely and ultimately separates Communist Russia from the democratic institutions of this Country. This was seen clearly by

"One Nation"

Lincoln. "UNDER GOD this people shall know a new birth of freedom, and

"UNDER GOD" are the definitive words.

VII (b)

Now, Lincoln was not being original in that phrase. He was simply reminding the people of the basis upon which the Nation won its freedom in its Declaration of Independence. He went back to Jefferson, as he did in so much of his thinking. Indeed, Lincoln acknowledges his debt to Jefferson in a famous speech delivered at Independence Hall in Philadelphia on February 22, 1861, two years before the Gettysburg Address. "All the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn from the sentiments which originated and were given to the world from this hall, I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence".

Listen, again, to the fundamentals of this Declaration:

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness".

At Gettysburg, Lincoln posed the question: "How we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure".

That is the text of our day and generation also.

The tragedy of the Nineteenth Century Democratic Liberalism, when nation after nation set up parliamentary forms of government, was that two world convulsions shattered the illusion that you can build a nation on human ideas without a fundamental belief in God's Providence. Crowns in Europe toppled, not because of autocracy, but because the peoples had lost the vision of God.

(a)

We face, today, a theological war. It is not basically a conflict

between two political philosophies - Thomas Jefferson's political democracy over against Lenin's communistic state.

(b) Nor is it a conflict fundamentally between two economic systems between, shall we say, Adam Smith "Wealth of Nations", and Karl Marx "Das Capital".

(c) It is a fight for the freedom of the human personality. It is not simply, "Man's inhumanity to man". It is Armageddon, a battle of the gods. It is the view of man as it comes down to us from the Judae-Christian civilization in mortal combat against modern, secularized, godless humanity.

VII(a) The only point I make in raising the issue of the Pledge of Allegiance is that it seems to me to omit this theological implication that is inherent within the "American Way of Life". It should be "One nation, indivisible, Under God." Once "Under God", then we can define what we mean by "liberty and justice for all." To omit the words "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance is to omit the definitive character of the "American Way of Life".

Some might assert this to be a violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution. It is quite the opposite. The First Amendment ^{is} ~~states~~ concerned with the question of religion.

VIII(a) "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion"

Now "establishment of religion" is a technical term. It means Congress will permit no state church in this land such as exists in England. In England, the Bishops are appointed by Her Majesty. The church, by law, is supported by tithes or rent. The Church, therefore, can call upon the support of the law of the land to carry out its own ecclesiastical laws. What the Declaration says in effect, is that no state church shall exist in this land. This is separation of Church and State; it is not, and never was meant to be, a separation of religion.

and life. Such objection is a confusion of the First Amendment with the First Commandment.

VIII

If we were to add the phrase, "Under the Church", that would be different. In fact, it would be dangerous. The question arises, which Church? Now, I could give you good Methodists an excellent dissertation upon the virtues of the Presbyterian Church, and show you how much superior John Knox was to John Wesley! But the whole sad story of Church history shows how of all tyrants, often the Church could be the worst for the best of reasons. The Jewish Church persecuted unto death the Christian Church in the first decade of Christianity; and for 1200 years, the Christian Church persecuted the Jewish Church. The Roman Church persecuted the Protestants; and the Protestants, in turn, persecuted the Roman Church; the Presbyterians and the Episcopalians brought low the very name of Christian charity, both in Scotland and America. It is not for nothing that Thomas Jefferson, on his tombstone at Monticello, claimed that one of the three achievements of his life was his fight for religious freedom in Virginia - that even above the exalted office as President of these United States.

➤ No Church is infallible; and no Churchman is infallible.

VIII

Of course, as Christians, we might include the words 'Under Jesus Christ' or 'Under the King of Kings'. But one of the glories of this land is that it has opened its gates to all men of every religious faith.

The word of welcome to these shores is epitomized on the Statue of Liberty:

"Give us your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me;
I lift my lamp beside the golden door".

There is no religious examination on entering the U. S. A. - no persecution because a man's faith differs even from the Christian religion. So, it must be "UNDER GOD" to include the great Jewish Community, and the people of the Moslem faith, and the myriad of denominations of Christians in the land.

What then of the honest atheist?

Philosophically speaking, an atheistic American is a contradiction in terms. Now don't misunderstand me. This age has thrown up a new type of man - we call him a "secular"; he does not believe in God; not because he is a wicked man but because he is dialectically honest, ^{He} and would rather walk with the unbelievers than sit hypocritically with people of the faith. These men, and many I have known, are fine in character; and in their obligations as citizens and good neighbors, quite excellent.

But they really are "spiritual parasites". And I mean no term of abuse in this. I'm simply classifying them. A parasite is an organism that lives upon the life force of another organism without contributing to the life of the other. These excellent ethical seculars are living upon the accumulated Spiritual Capital of Judaic-Christian civilization, and at the same time, deny the God who revealed the divine principles upon which the ethics of this Country grow. The dilemma of the secular is quite simple.

He cannot deny the Christian revelation and logically live by the Christian ethic.

And if he denies the Christian ethic, he falls short of the American ideal of life.

In Jefferson's phrase, if we deny the existence of the "God who gave us life", how can we live by "the liberty he gave us at the same time"?

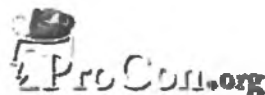
This is a God fearing nation. On our coins, bearing the imprint of Lincoln and

(W.B. Smith
imagination)

Jefferson, are the words, 'In God We Trust', Congress is opened with prayer, It is upon the Holy Bible the President takes his oath of office, Naturalized citizens, when they take their oath of allegiance, conclude, solemnly, with the words "so help us God".

This is the issue we face today: A freedom that respects the rights of the minorities but is defined by a fundamental belief in God. A way of life that sees man, not as the ultimate outcome of a mysterious concatenation of evolutionary process, but a sentient being created by God and seeking to know His will, and "Whose soul is restless till he rest in God".

In this land, there is "neither Jew nor Greek, neither bond nor free, neither male nor female", for we are one nation indivisible under God, and humbly as God has given us the light we seek liberty and justice for all. This quest is not only within these United States but to the four corners of the globe wherever man will lift up his head towards the vision of his true and divine manhood.



Under God in the Pledge

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Historical Timeline History of the US Pledge of Allegiance & the Phrase 'under God'		
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1887-1918

1887 - Early Campaign for Patriotism in Public Schools

George T. Balch, Auditor of the Board of Education of the City of New York and former Captain and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army, writes the handbook *Methods of Teaching Patriotism in the Public Schools*. His campaign includes the placing of US flags in all public schools, as well as the presentation of tiny US flags to student awarded for good citizenship. He promoted the use of the flag as a tool in the Americanization of foreigners.



George T. Balch. Source: [geordmace.army.mil](#) (accessed Sep. 18, 2013)

Scott Guenther, PhD ☆☆☆ *The American Flag, 1777-1924, 1990*

Oct. 1888 - *The Youth's Companion* Campaigns for US Flags in Public Schools

The Youth's Companion, the leading family magazine of the day with a circulation of over 400,000, began a campaign to sell American flags to public schools. "The magazine hoped that the 'Stars and Stripes [might] be hung upon the walls of every home, and of every school room in the land' so that 'patriotism and love of liberty [would] be unceasingly taught.'"

Richard J. Ellis, PhD ☆☆☆ *To the Flag, 2005*

Apr. 1891 - Francis Bellamy Hired to Organize National Public School Celebration



Francis Bellamy. Source: [mountmoores.com](#) (accessed Sep. 18, 2013)

"In 1891 Daniel Ford, co-owner of the *Youth's Companion*, hires Francis Bellamy. Bellamy had been the pastor of Boston's Bethany Baptist Church for six years but had run into difficulties with the church because of his increasingly radical economic views and heterodox religious views."

David Morris, PhD ☆☆☆ *The American Voice 2004: A Pocket Guide to Issues and Allegations*, Oct. 7, 2004

"In Apr. 1891... Bellamy announced his resignation [as pastor], and [Daniel] Ford, who admired Bellamy's command of language... agreed to hire Bellamy. Despite having no previous experience in publishing or business, Bellamy was assigned to work with [James B.] Upham in the premium department. Upham's most pressing need in the spring of 1891 was help organizing and publicizing the National Public School Celebration, which was mushrooming into a vast undertaking."

Richard J. Ellis, PhD ☆☆☆ *To the Flag, 2005*

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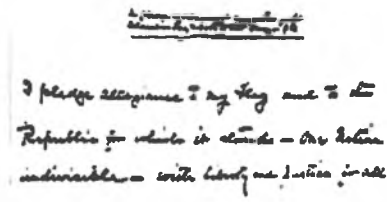
Sep. 1892 - Bellamy's Pledge of Allegiance is Published

Francis Bellamy writes the "Pledge of Allegiance" and a companion address for publication in the Columbus Day program contained in the Sep. 8, 1892 issue of *The Youth's Companion*. The published Pledge reads:

"I Pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All."

The Pledge was accompanied by instructions for a salute to be performed as part of the Columbus Day celebrations: "At the words, 'To the Flag,' the right hand is extended gracefully, palm upward, toward the Flag, and remains in this gesture till the end of the affirmation; whereupon all hands immediately drop to the side."

Scot M. Guentler, PhD ☆☆☆ *The American Flag, 1777-1824, 1990*



The Pledge of Allegiance handwritten by Francis Bellamy. Source: University of Rochester website (accessed Oct. 2, 2013)

Scot M. Guentler, PhD ☆☆☆ email to ProCon.org, Oct. 18, 2013

Bellamy, a socialist and Baptist clergyman, writes the "Pledge of Allegiance" to "reflect the views of his cousin, Edward Bellamy, author of *Looking Backward* and other socialist utopian novels."

Cable News Network (CNN) ☆☆☆ Oct. 14, 2003

[Editor's Note: In 1957, the US Library of Congress Legislative Reference Service affirmed Francis Bellamy as the author of the Pledge.]

Oct. 1892 - Pledge Publicized on Columbus Day

The Pledge first receives national publicity through the official program of the National Public School Celebration of Columbus Day in Oct. 1892. During the Celebration it was repeated by public school students across the nation.

Richard J. Ellis, PhD ☆☆☆ *To the Flag, 2005*

1895 - Balch's Flag Salute for Schools Published

George Balch's next writing project is published one year after his death. It is described as a patriotic primer, and is focused on teaching that "the first step in learning how to govern ourselves is to learn how to obey," and recommends training "us in such habits of behavior as will best fit us to become good members of civil society and patriotic American citizens."

The primer also includes "The American Patriotic Salute," which is considered "the first known organized flag salute designed for use in American public schools." In the salute espoused in the primer, "students touched first their foreheads, then their hearts, reciting together 'We give our Heads! - and our Hearts! - to God! and our Country!' Then... with their right arms outstretched and slightly elevated, palm down, in the direction of the flag, they completed the salute: 'One Country! One Language! One Flag!'"



Children performing the original flag salute used in US schools. Source: mentalflows.com, Jan. 7, 2012

Scot Guentler, PhD ☆☆☆ *The American Flag, 1777-1824, 1990*

1896-1898 - Custom of Rising for the Flag Begins

Patriotic fervor leading up to the Spanish-American War of 1898 spawns an informal custom for seated audiences to rise in the presence of the US flag when it passes by for review.

Scot Guentler, PhD ☆☆☆ *The American Flag, 1777-1824, 1990*

Apr. 22, 1898 - First Law Requiring Pledge Recitation in Schools Passed in New York

"The first flag salute statute [requiring children in public schools to recite the Pledge of Allegiance] was passed in New York in 1898 [introduced as Senate Bill 556 by New York State Senator Henry Coggeshall], the day after the United States declared war on Spain... [When New York's state superintendent came to draw up the required *Manual of Patriotism*, he included not one but five possible 'patriotic pledges' that teachers might use in their classes. One of these was Bellamy's," but it was placed fifth.

Richard J. Ellis, PhD ☆☆☆ *To the Flag, 2005*

1917 - World War I Increases Demand for US Flag

The United States enters World War I, triggering an unprecedented demand for flags. Between Apr. 1916 and May 1917 the price of flags increases 100 to 300 percent. Many new flag manufacturing companies are established. Flag events, such as school pageants featuring the flag and displays at sporting events, are designed to rife patriotic support. Business leaders join in by producing and distributing pamphlets celebrating the flag. Major league baseball begins playing "The Star Spangled

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Banner" at all games in support of the military.

Scott Guenter, PhD ☆☆☆ *The American Flag, 1777-1924, 1990*

1918 - Prosecutions for Flag Desecration

A few prosecutions began of individuals for desecrating or insulting the flag, in violation of some state laws. The Kansas Supreme Court rules such laws were legal. E.V. Starr is sentenced to 10 years in prison in Montana for making disparaging comments about the flag.

Scott Guenter, PhD ☆☆☆ *The American Flag, 1777-1924, 1990*

1919-1954 ProCon.org

June 14-15, 1923 - National Flag Code Adopted at National Flag Conference, Includes Pledge

Responding to the invitation of Garland W. Powell, the American Legion's Director of the Americanism Commission, the National Flag Conference begins on Flag Day (June 14) in Washington, DC. It consists of representatives of 89 civic, fraternal, business, veterans, hereditary, educational, religious, and labor organizations, as well as representatives of the Army and Navy. President Warren Harding addresses the group, which develops and adopts a Flag Code, declaring the flag "a living symbol of a living nation."

Bellamy's "Pledge of Allegiance" is included in the Flag Code [Title 4, United States Code, Chapter 1], although the words are amended from "I pledge allegiance to my flag" to "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States."

Most major American newspapers publish the Flag Code following the conference, and the American Legion distributes 300,000 copies throughout the nation. 51 additional organizations join the movement to distribute copies of the Flag Code throughout the United States.

Scott Guenter, PhD ☆☆☆ *The American Flag, 1777-1924, 1990*

1924 - Flag Code Gains Acceptance



Boy Scouts Official Handbook, First Edition, 1910. Source: troop87.net (accessed Sep. 19, 2013)

The 2nd (and final) National Flag Conference is held.

The Pledge of Allegiance is amended, changing the words "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States" to "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America."

The Boy Scouts publish the Flag Code in their official handbook (earlier editions had mentioned flag etiquette also). The American Legion has now distributed an estimated six million pamphlets on flag etiquette to schools, churches and public officials. In total, more than 14 million pamphlets have been distributed nationwide by various organizations.

28 states have by now accepted the Flag Code for school instruction.

Scott Guenter, PhD ☆☆☆ *The American Flag, 1777-1924, 1990*

1925 - Ku Klux Klan Endorses Flag Code

The Ku Klux Klan (with about four million followers) endorses the Flag Code, and instructs the adolescent members of its Junior Order in flag etiquette. Membership requires an oath of allegiance to the flag and the Constitution. The Klan marches over 40,000 members down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, carrying hundreds of American flags.

Scott Guenter, PhD ☆☆☆ *The American Flag, 1777-1924, 1990*

June 3, 1940 - Supreme Court Rules That Students Can Be Expelled for Refusing to Recite Pledge

The US Supreme Court rules (8-1) in *Minersville School District v. Gobitis* [\(PDF\)](#) (82 KB), that a local school board could expel [Hide/Show](#)

students who refuse to recite the Pledge. "Over the next two years a wave of anti-Jehovah's Witness hysteria developed because members of this religious group refused to recite the Pledge. The Jehovah's Witnesses believed that saluting the flag and reciting the Pledge were forbidden by the bible [Exodus, Chapt. 20]."

John W. Bear, DA, MBA ☆ 1982

June 22, 1942 - Flag Code Becomes Law

"On June 22, 1942, the U.S. Flag Code became the law of the land. A joint resolution passed by Congress made the code Public Law 829 (Chapter 906, 77th Congress, 2nd session). The law sets out the rules for use and display of the flag, conduct during the playing of the national anthem, and the words of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag (Bellamy's) to be recited. The flag code also contained the raised-arm salute (as prescribed during the 1924 Flag Day conference)."

Jeffrey Owen Jones and Peter Meyer, *The Pledge: A History of the Pledge of Allegiance*, 2010

[Editor's Note: The Flag Code stipulated that the flag salute "be rendered by standing with the right hand over the heart; extending the right hand, palm upward, toward the flag at the words 'to the flag' and holding this position until the end, when the hand drops to the side.]"



School children in Southington, CT pledging their allegiance to the flag in May 1942. Library of Congress, Inc.gov, May 23-30, 1942

Dec. 22, 1942 - Congress Changes Flag Salute to Hand over Heart Instead of Straight Arm Salute

Congress amends the Flag Code, substituting the original straight arm salute with the current salute of "the right hand over the heart. Congress apparently was embarrassed by the similarity between the original Flag salute and the Nazi salute."

The code now reads "The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag... should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute."

John W. Bear, DA, MBA ☆ 1982



School children performing the revised flag salute. Source: mentalpress.com, Jan. 7, 2012

June 14, 1943 - Supreme Court Rules That Children Cannot Be Forced to Recite Pledge

The US Supreme Court, in *West Virginia State Board of Education et al. v. Barnette et al.* (110KB), rules 6-3 that children could not be forced to say the Pledge of Allegiance in school. Justice Robert H. Jackson wrote in his opinion, "If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein."

Los Angeles Times ☆☆☆ latimes.com, Sep. 26, 2003

Feb. 12, 1948 - Sons of the American Revolution Chaplain Includes 'under God' in Pledge Recitation

Louis A. Bowman, a member of the Board of Governors of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and its Chaplain, leads the group in the Pledge of Allegiance with the words "under God" added. The National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution gives him an Award of Merit as "the originator of the [under God] idea."

John W. Bear, DA, MBA ☆ 1982

[Editor's Note: Bowman explains that the words "under God" were first used extemporaneously in Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, even though those words "do not appear in his written draft."]

Apr. 22, 1951 - Knights of Columbus Add 'Under God' to Pledge Recited at Meetings

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"The organized movement for adding 'under God' to the Pledge of Allegiance can be traced to a resolution adopted by the [Knights of Columbus] national board of directors in April 1951, at the height of the Korean War. The resolution called on all Knights to add the words 'under God' to the Pledge customarily recited at the openings of local meetings."

Richard J. Ellis, PhD ☆☆☆ To the Flag, 2005

1952-1954 - Hearst Campaigns to Add 'Under God' to Pledge

Louis A. Bowman repeats his revised Pledge at several other meetings of the Sons of the American Revolution. After one meeting in 1952, member John F. McKillip writes about the "under God" addition to his former employer, the newspaper tycoon William R. Hearst, Jr. The Hearst Newspapers begin a campaign to add "under God" to the US Pledge of Allegiance.

John W. Baer, DA, MBA ☆ 1982

1953 - House and Senate Introduce Bills to Add 'Under God' to Pledge

Federal legislators are lobbied by religious leaders from the Knights of Columbus, as well as the Hearst Newspapers and the American Legion, who are "worried that orations used by 'godless communists' sound similar to the Pledge of Allegiance." A bill to add "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance is introduced in the House by Rep. Louis Rabaut (D-MI), and in the Senate by Sen. Homer Ferguson (R-MI).

Los Angeles Times ☆☆☆ latimes.com, Sep. 26, 2003

May 11, 1954 - Library of Congress Makes Recommendation Concerning the Pledge

Congress considers three variations of the "under God" phrase:

1. "One Nation under God,"
2. "One Nation, under God," and
3. "One Nation indivisible under God."

Congress accepts variation #1 based on a recommendation from the Library of Congress, which states, "Since the basic idea is a Nation founded on a belief in God, there would seem to be no reason for the comma after Nation."

John W. Baer, DA, MBA ☆ 1982

June 14, 1954 - President Eisenhower Signs Law Adding 'Under God' to Pledge

The words "under God" are inserted into the Pledge. The legislation (Public Law 386, 83d Congress) is supported by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, "tearing an atomic war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union," who signs the bill. President Eisenhower says: "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war." The new Pledge reads:

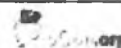
"I Pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
Source: biography.com (accessed Sep. 18, 2013)

Los Angeles Times ☆☆☆ latimes.com, Sep. 26, 2003

1955-1999



June 17, 1963 - Supreme Court States That Reciting Pledge May Not Be a Religious Exercise

The US Supreme Court in *Abington v. Schempp* ruled 8-1 that government mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional, but stated: "The reference to divinity in the revised pledge of allegiance, for example, may merely recognize the historical fact that our Nation was believed to have been founded 'under God.' Thus reciting the pledge may be no more of a religious exercise than the reading aloud of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, which contains an allusion to the same historical fact." (Id. at 303-04 - Brennan, J., concurring)

Abington v. Schempp (217 KB), June 17, 1963

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July 5, 1983 - Supreme Court Says 'Under God' Does Not Violate Establishment Clause

The US Supreme Court in *Marsh v. Chambers* ruled 5-3 that sessions of the Nebraska state legislature could begin with a prayer given by a publicly funded chaplain because, over time, the practice had become a communication of shared values rather than a decidedly religious practice. Justice William J. Brennan repeated his conviction that the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance did not violate the Establishment Clause because these words "have lost any true religious significance." (ID. at 818 -- Brennan, J., dissenting)

Marsh v. Chambers 3 (74 KB), July 5, 1983

Mar. 5, 1984 - 'Under God' Referenced in Supreme Court Nativity Scene Ruling

The US Supreme Court in *Lynch v. Donnelly* ruled 5-4 that the city of Pawtucket in Rhode Island could continue to display a nativity scene as part of its Christmas display. In this decision, the Court held that the city had not violated the Establishment Clause because the display depicted the historical origins of Christmas and had "legitimate secular purposes." Declining to take a "rigid, absolutist view of the Establishment Clause," the court declared that each case is to be independently checked to determine whether the intent is secular or religious. Religion in general may be advanced by the government in some cases so long as there is no administrative entanglement with religion. The Court listed many examples of our "Government's acknowledgment of our religious heritage," and included Congress' addition of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. (Id. at 676-77)

Lynch v. Donnelly 2 (84KB), Mar. 5, 1984

June 4, 1985 - Supreme Court Says 'Under God' Not Unconstitutional

The US Supreme Court in *Wallace v. Jeffree* ruled 5-3 to invalidate Alabama's moment of silence statute. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said the inclusion of the words "under God" in the Pledge is not unconstitutional because they "serve as an acknowledgment of religion with the legitimate secular purpose of solemnizing public occasions, and expressing confidence in the future." (Id. at 78 n.5 -- O'Connor, J., concurring)

Wallace v. Jeffree 2 (131 KB), June 4, 1985

Sep. 13, 1988 - US House Begins Pledge Recitations

Sonny Montgomery (D-MS) became the first Congressman to lead the US House of Representatives in citing the Pledge of Allegiance as a permanent part of its daily business operations.

During the 1988 US presidential campaign, candidate George Bush criticized candidate Michael Dukakis for his veto of a Massachusetts state bill to require the Pledge of Allegiance in all public schools in that state. House Republicans (then in the minority) surprised their chamber by offering a privileged resolution to require that each House day commence with the Pledge.

Then-Speaker Jim Wright (D-TX) came to the floor and chastised Republicans for using the Pledge of Allegiance to make a partisan point, saying, "I think it is very important that all of us recognize that the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag is something intended to unite us, not intended to divide us." However, with electoral sensibilities in mind, Speaker Wright then went on to announce he would call upon the chairman of the House Veterans' Committee, Sonny Montgomery (D-MS), to offer the Pledge when the House next met.

C-span ★★ o-open.org, May 19, 2000

July 3, 1989 - Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy References Pledge



US Supreme Court Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy.
Source: biography.com (accessed Sep. 19, 2013)

The US Supreme Court in *Allegheny County v. ACLU* ruled 5-4 (to strike) on the display of a crèche at a courthouse and 6-3 (to uphold) on the display of a menorah at a county building. Justice Kennedy, in his dissent, said "To be sure, no one is obligated to recite this phrase ["one nation under God"]... but it borders on sophistry to suggest that the 'reasonable' atheist would not feel less than a 'full member' of the political community every time his fellow Americans recited, as part of their expression of patriotism and love for country, a phrase he believed to be false." (Id. at 673)

Allegheny County v. ACLU 2 (170 KB), July 3, 1989

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Jan. 24, 1992 - Seventh Circuit Court Rules That Students May Opt Out of Reciting Pledge

The US Illinois Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, in *Sherman v. Community Consolidated School District 21*, ruled against plaintiff Robert Sherman, concluding that "that schools may lead the Pledge of Allegiance daily, so long as pupils are free not to participate."

Sherman v. Community Consolidated School District 21 (90KB), Jan. 24, 1992

June 24, 1992 - Supreme Court Declares School Prayers Unconstitutional

The US Supreme Court in *Lee v. Weisman* ruled 5-4 that prayers during school graduation violated the Establishment Clause.

In his dissent, Associate Justice Antonin Scalia stated that "since the Pledge of Allegiance has been revised... to include the phrase 'under God,' recital of the Pledge would appear to raise the same Establishment Clause issue" as the prayers. "If students were psychologically coerced to remain standing during the invocation, they must also have been psychologically coerced, moments before, to stand for (and thereby, in the Court's view, take part in or appear to take part in) the Pledge. Must the Pledge therefore be banned from the public schools (both from graduation ceremonies and from the classroom)?"

Lee v. Weisman (111 KB), June 24, 1992

June 24, 1999 - Daily Pledge Recitation Instituted in US Senate

Sen. Bob Smith (I-NH) introduced a resolution (S.Res. 113) to begin reciting the Pledge in the Senate. The resolution to amend the Standing Rules of the Senate and institute a daily Pledge was adopted by the unanimous consent of the Senate on June 23, 1999. The Pledge of Allegiance will be recited daily in the Senate by its Presiding Officer, or another Senator designated for that purpose.

C-Senah ☆☆☆ c-senah.org, May 10, 2000

2000-2009



Mar. 14, 2001 - Michael Newdow Files Suit Arguing That 'Under God' in Pledge is Unconstitutional

Michael A. Newdow, an emergency room physician who also earned a law degree from the University of Michigan, files a lawsuit arguing that having the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional.

Los Angeles Times ☆☆☆ latimes.com, Sep. 29, 2003

June 27, 2002 - Ninth Circuit Court Declares Pledge to Be 'Impermissible Government Endorsement of Religion'

"A panel of Ninth Circuit judges holds [in a 2-1 decision] that the phrase 'under God' violates the First Amendment's prohibition of government sponsorship of religion."

Judges:

- Alfred T. Goodwin - Opinion [Appointed by: President Nixon, 1971]
- Stephen Reinhardt - Concur [Appointed by: President Carter, 1980]
- Ferdinand F. Fernandez - Partial Concurrence and Partial Dissent [Appointed by: President Bush, 1998]

The majority opinion by Judge Alfred T. Goodwin states:

"[N]o official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein. The Pledge, as currently codified, is an impermissible government endorsement of religion because it sends a message to unbelievers that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community, and an accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders, favored members of the political community."

Newsweek ☆☆☆ July 8, 2002
 Newdow v. US (85 KB), June 27, 2002

Aug. 9, 2002 - Justice Department Appeals to Ninth Circuit for 'en banc' rehearing

The US Justice department files an appeal with the US Ninth Circuit. The appeal "requests an 'en banc' rehearing before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, meaning that an 11-judge panel is asked to consider the case as opposed to the [only] three judge panel that issued a 2-1 ruling."

Cable News Network (CNN) ☆☆☆ cnn.com, Aug. 9, 2002

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Oct. 30, 2002 - President Bush Signs Bill Supporting 'Under God' in the Pledge



President George W. Bush reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
Source: telegraph.co.uk, Mar. 25, 2004

US President [George W.] Bush signs a bill "reaffirming -- with a stip at the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals -- references to God in the Pledge of Allegiance and the national motto." The bill is approved unanimously in the Senate, with only five "no" votes in the House. The bill is, in effect, a show of support, and carries no legal weight.

Associated Press ☆☆☆ ep.org, Nov. 14, 2002

Feb. 28, 2003 - Ninth Circuit Rejects Bush's Appeal to Reconsider Constitutionality of 'Under God'

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals "rejected the Bush administration's request to reconsider its decision en banc that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional because of the phrase 'under God.'"

Cable News Network (CNN) ☆☆☆ enr.com, Feb. 28, 2003

Mar. 4, 2003 - Judge Issues Stay in 'Under God' Case

9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Alfred T. Goodwin, a President Richard Nixon appointee, "issued a 90-day stay, which allows schoolchildren in nine Western states to continue reciting the [under God] Pledge, pending a decision by the Supreme Court on whether it will review the case."

Los Angeles Times ☆☆☆ latimes.com, Mar. 5, 2003

Mar. 4, 2003 - US Senate Declares Support for Pledge

Senate Resolution 71 expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance passes by a 94-0 vote.

Senate Resolution 71, Mar. 4, 2003

May 20, 2003 - House Passes Resolution Challenging Ninth Circuit Decision

House Resolution 132 expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *Newdow v. United States Congress* is inconsistent with the Supreme Court's interpretation of the first amendment and should be overturned, passed by a vote of 400-7.

House Resolution 132, May 20, 2003

Oct. 14, 2003 - US Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Newdow Case

The US Supreme Court agrees to hear the case, and "arguments in the case will be heard next year, with a ruling expected by June."

Cable News Network (CNN) ☆☆☆ enr.com, Oct. 15, 2003

June 14, 2004 - Supreme Court Overturns Ninth Circuit Decision

"A unanimous Supreme Court ruled [8-0] yesterday that the phrase 'under God' may remain in the Pledge of Allegiance as recited in public school classrooms. But the Flag Day decision fell far short of the clear endorsement of the pledge's constitutionality that President Bush and leaders of both parties in Congress had sought.

While all eight justices who participated in the case voted to overturn a 2003

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federal appeals court decision that would have barred the phrase in public schools as a violation of the constitutional ban on state-sponsored religion, a majority of five did so exclusively on procedural grounds, ruling that the atheist who brought the case, Michael A. Newdow, lacked legal standing to sue.

Newdow had claimed that his right to influence his daughter's religious views was infringed by daily teacher-led recitations of the pledge in her Sacramento-area public school. But the five justices noted that the child is caught in the middle of a custody dispute between Newdow and Sandra Benning, who wants her daughter to recite the pledge...

...The ruling leaves the door open to another case challenging recitation of the pledge in the schools, but it would take years for such a case to work its way to the Supreme Court."

Washington Post ☆☆☆ "Justices Keep 'Under God' in Pledge," washingtonpost.com, June 15, 2004

Read the Supreme Court ruling, as well as other legal documents from this case.



Michael Newdow outside the US Supreme Court in 2004. Source: usatoday.com, Jan. 8, 2009

Sep. 23, 2004 - US House Passes Bill to Protect Pledge

The US House of Representatives voted 247-173 to pass the Pledge Protection Act 2004 (H.R. 2028). The introductory language of the bill states that its purpose is: "To amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance." The bill was passed to the Senate, but no further action was taken.

Pledge Protection Act 2004 (H.R. 2028), Sep 23, 2004

Jan. 6, 2005 - Newdow Files Second Lawsuit

"An atheist who sued because he did not want his young daughter exposed to the words 'under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance has filed another lawsuit - this time with other parents.

The plaintiff, Michael Newdow, won his case more than two years ago before a federal appeals court, which said it was an unconstitutional blending of church and state for public school students to pledge to God.

In June, the Supreme Court dismissed the case, saying Dr. Newdow could not lawfully sue because he did not have custody of his elementary-school-age daughter and because her mother objected to the lawsuit.

In the latest challenge, which was filed Monday in federal court in Sacramento, eight co-plaintiffs have joined the suit, and all are custodial parents or the children themselves, Dr. Newdow said...

'I want this decided on its merits,' said Dr. Newdow, a doctor and a lawyer, who again is the lawyer in the latest pledge case."

Associated Press ☆☆☆ nytimes.com, Jan 6, 2005

Sep. 14, 2005 - Federal Judge Rules in Favor of Newdow

Federal Judge Lawrence Karlton of the Eastern District of California ruled in favor of Michael Newdow that it was unconstitutional to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools because of its inclusion of the phrase "under God."

Associated Press ☆☆☆ ap.org, Sep 14, 2005

Sep. 29, 2005 - House Passes Resolution Calling for Supreme Court to Uphold Pledge

House Concurrent Resolution 245 expressing the sense of Congress that "the United States Supreme Court should at the earliest opportunity" recognize "the importance and Constitutional propriety of the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by school children." The resolution passed 383-31.

House Concurrent Resolution 245, Sep 29, 2005

July 19, 2006 - Pledge Protection Act Passes in House

Pledge Protection Act 2005 (H.R. 2369) that would amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance, passed 260-167.

The bill was introduced to the Senate as S.1048 but the 109th Congress (2006-2007) never voted on the issue.

Pledge Protection Act 2005 (H.R. 2369), July 19, 2006

Jan. 29, 2007 - 2007 Pledge Protection Act Introduced to House

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Representative Todd Akin (R-MO) introduces the 2007 Pledge Protection Act (H. R. 699) to the first session of the 110th Congress. The bill is referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, and then to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. No further action was taken.

2007 Pledge Protection Act (H. R. 699) (45 KB), Jan. 29, 2007

Dec. 4, 2007 - Ninth Circuit Hears Second Newdow Case

Following appeals to the Sep. 14, 2005 decision by Rio Linda Union School District, the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, and the United States of America, oral arguments for *Newdow et al. v. Rio Linda Union School District et al.* took place in front of a three-judge panel at the US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco, CA. The judges to hear the case were Dorothy W. Nelson, Stephen Reinhardt, and Carlos T. Bee.

Newdow et al. v. Rio Linda Union School District et al. (894 KB), Mar. 11, 2010

2010-present



Mar. 11, 2010 - Ninth Circuit Upholds 'Under God' in Second Newdow Case

"In Mr. Newdow's latest case against 'under God' in the Pledge, the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals panel ruled, in a 2-to-1 decision, that the schoolroom routine for millions of children is not a violation of the Constitution, but a historical reflection of the Founding Fathers' beliefs that 'serves to unite our vast nation.'

'Not every mention of God or religion by our government or at the government's direction is a violation of the Establishment Clause,' wrote Judge Carlos Bee for the majority in the opinion that was issued Thursday.

'Without knowing the history behind these words, one might well think the phrase 'one Nation under God' could not be anything but religious,' wrote Judge Bee. 'History, however, shows these words have an even broader meaning, one grounded in philosophy and politics and reflecting many events of historical significance.'

Christian Science Monitor, "Federal Court Approves 'Under God' in Pledge of Allegiance," [csmonitor.com](#), Mar. 11, 2010
Newdow v. Rio Linda Union School District (894 KB), Mar. 11, 2010

Sep. 4, 2013 - 'Under God' Challenged in Massachusetts Supreme Court

"Every attempt to eliminate the mention of God [in the Pledge] has thus far failed, but the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts will hear arguments on Wednesday (Sep. 4, 2013) seeking removal of the two words for a new reason: discrimination.

'This is the first challenge of its kind' said Roy Speckhardt, the executive director of the American Humanist Association, an atheist group arguing for the plaintiffs. 'We feel very confident that we have a strong case.'

That case, which was brought by an unidentified family of a student at a school in suburban Boston, will be argued on the premise that the pledge violates the Equal Rights Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution. It is the first such case to be tried on the state level: All previous attempts have been argued in federal court on the grounds that 'under God' was an unconstitutional violation of the separation of church and state."

Cable News Network (CNN) "Under God' Part of Pledge of Allegiance Under Review in Massachusetts," [cnn.com](#), Sep. 4, 2013

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FOR RELEASE May 27, 1954

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
By Gerald R. Ford, Jr., M. C.

Senator Homer Ferguson in February, 1954, introduced a Senate resolution (officially titled Senate Joint Resolution 126) to add the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Senate as a whole has approved Senator Ferguson's resolution and the House of Representatives will undoubtedly concur very shortly. When the Congress gives its final approval to this resolution the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag will remain unchanged except for the addition of the two words "under God."

At the time Senator Ferguson submitted this resolution to the Congress he made the following significant comments:

"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, belief in God.

"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.

"Communism, on the contrary, rejects the very existence of God.

"Spiritual values are every bit as important to the defense and safety of our Nation as are military and economic values.

"America must be defended by the spiritual values which exist in the hearts and souls of the American people. Our Country cannot be defended by ships, planes, and guns alone."

The concluding statements on the floor of the Senate by Senator Ferguson were equally appropriate.

"In fact, we have an infinite lead over the Communists, in terms of our spiritual and moral values because of our firm belief in God, and because of the spiritual bankruptcy of the Communists.

"Indeed, over one of the doorways of this very Chamber inscribed in the marble are the words 'In God we trust.'

"Unless those words amount to more than a carving in stone, our Country will never be able to defend itself. Those words must have a very real meaning in the heart of every American.

"The joint resolution I have introduced will give additional meaning to the spiritual defense of our Nation."



Your Congressman certainly endorses and supports the Joint Resolution initially sponsored by Michigan's senior Senator.

A few days ago President Eisenhower invited a small group of Congressmen to the White House for breakfast. It was my privilege along with Vice President Nixon to be among the guests. Attendance was somewhat of a problem. The night before the White House breakfast I had two speeches in Grand Rapids. After the last speech a friend drove me the 140 miles to the Detroit Airport where I caught a 2:30 a.m. plane to Washington which arrived at six in the morning. Following a quick change of clothes at our apartment with the family just awakening, I hurried to the White House for the 7:45 a.m. breakfast with Ike, the Vice President and my House colleagues. With only two hours' sleep, and that on the plane, I must admit I did more listening than talking as we enjoyed eggs and bacon in one of the White House dining rooms.

The President was most anxious to hear the comments and suggestions from the House members who were his guests. Most of the discussion revolved around the situation in Indo China, the President's legislative program and the Army-McCarthy hearings. As always, this close-up contact with President Eisenhower was a great inspiration. He is most sincere, always constructive, very fair, completely honest and frank, and above all, dedicated to the best interest of the United States and all its citizens.

A year or so ago the House Committee on Un-American Activities published a report entitled "100 Things You Should Know About Communism." It is an excellent document and well worth reading. I have a few copies available for distribution. Drop me a line and you will receive a copy of this excellent information booklet on the Communist Party and its diabolical conspiracy against the United States.

The Senate recently passed by the required two-thirds vote a constitutional amendment designed primarily to prevent Supreme Court packing. The amendment would set the membership of the Supreme Court permanently at nine, prohibit lifetime federal judges serving beyond their 75th year and confirm the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction over constitutional questions. If the proposed change in the Constitution clears the House Committee on the Judiciary, prospects are excellent for concurrence by the House as a whole. The amendment then goes to each state for action.
