

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 551

Supporting the national motto of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2000

Mr. SHOWS (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. LIPINSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Supporting the national motto of the United States.

Whereas the national motto of the United States is “In God we trust”;

Whereas the national motto was adopted in 1956 and is codified in the laws of the United States at section 302 of title 36, United States Code;

Whereas the national motto reflects the traditional sentiment that we are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being;

Whereas the sentiment “In God we trust” is deeply interwoven into the fabric of our civil polity;

Whereas the content of the motto is as old as the Republic itself and has always been as integral a part of the first

amendment as the very words of that charter of religious liberty;

Whereas the Founding Fathers believed devotedly that there was a God and that the unalienable rights of man were rooted in Him, a belief clearly evidenced in their writings, from the Mayflower Compact to the Constitution itself;

Whereas our national life reflects a religious people who earnestly pray that the Supreme Lawgiver guide them in every measure which may be worthy of His blessing;

Whereas the national motto serves the secular purpose of expressing confidence in the future and encouraging the recognition of what is worthy of appreciation in society;

Whereas the national motto appears on all coins and currency issued by the United States Government; and

Whereas the words “In God We Trust” appear over the entrance to the Chamber of the Senate and are prominently engraved in the wall above the Speaker’s dais in the Chamber of the House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) finds repugnant all misinterpretations and
3 misapplications of the Constitution that disregard
4 those references to God that are well within the
5 American tradition and outside constitutional pro-
6 scription;

7 (2) finds that acknowledgment of our need for
8 the superintending care of the Supreme Being does
9 not intrude upon the freedom of conscience;

1 (3) rejects the notion that the laws and Con-
2 stitution of this Nation require the exclusion of God
3 from matters of government and public life;

4 (4) supports and encourages the public display
5 of the national motto in all public buildings, public
6 schools, and other government institutions estab-
7 lished or maintained at taxpayer expense; and

8 (5) affirms its support for the national motto.

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