

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 1775

Sponsors: Representatives Thompson; Alexander, Allen, Allred, Arnold, Baker, Barbee, Barefoot, Barnhart, Black, Blust, Bowie, Boyd-McIntyre, Brubaker, Buchanan, Capps, Carpenter, Church, Clary, Coates, Cole, M. Crawford, Creech, Culp, Davis, Decker, Dedmon, Edwards, Ellis, Esposito, Fox, Gibson, Gillespie, Goodwin, Gulley, Harrington, Hilton, Holmes, Howard, Jarrell, Jeffus, Johnson, Justus, Kiser, Lucas, McComas, McLawhorn, Mitchell, Morgan, Morris, Nye, Pope, Preston, Rayfield, Russell, Setzer, Sexton, Sherrill, Shubert, Smith, Starnes, Sutton, Teague, Underhill, Walend, Walker, Warner, Warren, Warwick, Weatherly, Weiss, West, C. Wilson, and G. Wilson.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

June 27, 2002

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF
2 ALLEGIANCE.

3 Whereas, this country was founded on religious freedom by founders, many
4 of whom were deeply religious; and

5 Whereas, the First Amendment to the Constitution embodies principles
6 intended to guarantee freedom of religion both through the free exercise thereof and by
7 prohibiting the government establishing a religion; and

8 Whereas, the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist
9 Minister, and first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of the Youth's Companion;
10 and

11 Whereas, Congress in 1954 added the words "under God" to the Pledge of
12 Allegiance; and

13 Whereas, the Pledge of Allegiance has for almost 50 years included
14 references to the U.S. flag, the country, to our country having been established as a
15 union "under God" and to this country being dedicated to securing "liberty and justice
16 for all;" and

17 Whereas, the Congress in 1954 believed it was acting constitutionally when it
18 revised the Pledge of Allegiance; and

19 Whereas, this House of Representatives believes that the Pledge of
20 Allegiance is not an unconstitutional expression of patriotism; and

1 Whereas, House Rule 2 provides that at the convening hour on the first day of
2 each legislative week, the Speaker or his designee, shall lead the members in the Pledge
3 of Allegiance to the American Flag; and

4 Whereas, patriotic songs, engravings on U.S. legal tender, engravings on
5 federal buildings also contain general references to "God"; and

6 Whereas, in accordance with decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, public
7 school students cannot be forced to recite the Pledge of Allegiance without violating
8 their First Amendment rights; and

9 Whereas, the Congress expects that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth
10 Circuit will rehear the case of *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*, en banc; Now, therefore,

11 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

12 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives expresses its collective outrage
13 at the Court of Appeals' decision, urges all appropriate action be taken to reverse this
14 decision, and encourages our Attorney General to file an amicus brief urging reversal.

15 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.