



An initiative of the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation

***This is a CALL TO PRAYER AND ACTION -
Every effort counts.***

What is this?

A Nationwide Campaign to Display our National Motto, “In God We Trust.”

The **U.S. House of Representatives** voted overwhelmingly (396-9) in **November of 2011** to reaffirm ‘*In God We Trust*’ as the **official motto of the United States**. The landslide vote sends a message that ‘*In God We Trust*’ is not only written in the halls of our federal buildings, but **it is a bedrock upon which our nation is built**. **Members of the U.S. House of Representatives have done their job, now we must do ours!** View the text of H.Con.Res. 13 [here](#).

The Resolution encourages the public display of our National Motto in every public classroom and government building. We are **equipping and mobilizing citizens to ‘Put Up’ our National Motto across America**. It is up to us; we must take this opportunity to see God restored to His rightful place in American culture; **anti-God groups have no defense against it!**

Why Is This Significant?

If, as some anti-religious activists hope, public acknowledgement of God were to be eliminated in the United States, it would by default place government and government alone in the position of the final arbiter of the moral order, the decider of what is right and what is wrong. **Publicly acknowledging that God exists and ultimately rules communicates that government is not God;** and no government leader is God.

What Do You Want Me to Do?

Join with citizens all over America who are taking **initiative to ensure our National Motto is prominently displayed in classrooms, city councils, courthouses, private and government buildings.**

1. **Display it** with plaques, signs, banners, posters, decals. Use whatever method or means you can OR **join our MILLION WINDOWS CAMPAIGN and purchase a \$5.00 removable decal to put up!** Go to www.InGodWeTrust.com.
2. **Contact school officials and government leaders** and request they display a plaque, poster or decal in every classroom and building. Go to www.InGodWeTrust.com to purchase displays they display the National Motto.
3. **Contact your local Police, Sheriff, Fire Department, or Emergency Personnel** and encourage them to join hundreds of other departments nationwide who are putting up “In God We Trust” on their patrol cars, vehicles, police stations, and fire houses! Stop by the [CPCF Store](#) to purchase your “In God We Trust” bumper sticker today.
4. **Use this packet of information and posters** from the “In God We Trust” store and ask your local business owners to display the posters in their store windows. Check out the [CPCF Store](#) to buy your posters now.



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5. **Spread the word** to friends, family, co-workers. Like and follow all “In God We Trust” social media. Find us on Facebook at “[In God We Trust](#)”, twitter at [CPCFoundation](#) and Instagram at [PrayUSA](#). Add your voice to the nationwide Million Window Campaign to put it up, and share our “*In God We Trust*” video on your social outlets!
6. **Tell us your stories!** Contact us at Info@CPCFoundation.com with your stories or a ‘selfie’ of you putting up your Window Cling! Send us pictures of you next to the display to encourage other to do the same.

Where Can I Get Resources?

- **H.CON.RES 13** - Download it from the www.InGodWeTrust.com
- **Where can I get ‘In God We Trust’ removable window clings?** www.InGodWeTrust.com

Does This Violate Separation of Church and State?

This campaign is supported by our national and state lawmakers who are encouraging individuals to simply express what has been established from the founding of our nation, the bedrock belief that America’s hope and trust is in God.

Public posting of the Motto is a way for Americans to declare that our civic life is not “all about me” and that our government is not God. It recognizes God’s primacy in all of life, including our civic life. **It also reminds us that our civic life—whether it is in schools or government—is not completely “separate” from God.** On the contrary, millions of Americans of all faiths acknowledge publicly and privately that God’s rule and purposes are primary.

Since 2006, both the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly re-affirmed our nation’s motto of “*In God We Trust*” in a landslide vote of 396/9. Support for the Motto is strongly bipartisan. This is not a Republican or Democratic issue, it is an American issue.

Despite the fact that the Motto has been prominently displayed on our national symbols for over a century, no court anywhere in the United States has ever held the public posting of “*In God We Trust*” to violate the Constitution.

On the contrary, the public and prominent display of our National Motto can hardly be unconstitutional. Only secular extremists think otherwise.

State Legislation:

Several states have passed legislation that requires the public display of our National Motto. In 2002, the Virginia General Assembly passed a law requiring public school districts to post the national motto “in a conspicuous place in each of their schools for all students to read.” The law says that under “In God We Trust,” the signs must say, “The National Motto enacted by Congress in 1956.” Here is the legislation (also attached): <https://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?021+cab+SC10417SB0608+SBG0V>

Text: *Requires all school boards to post the statement, “In God We Trust,” the national motto, enacted by Congress in 1956,” prominently and in a conspicuous place, in each of their schools for all students to read. “In God We Trust” is presently codified as the national motto of the United States pursuant to 36 U.S.C. § 186 (1999). This measure is identical to [HB 108](#).*



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The Law

- 36 USC § 302 Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies and Organizations is the federal codification of “In God We Trust” as the National Motto.

U.S. Constitution, Amendment 1

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states in relevant part: “The First Amendment (Amendment 1) to the United States Constitution prohibits the making of any law respecting an establishment of religion, impeding the free exercise of religion, abridging the freedom of speech, ...”

U.S. Supreme Court, Circuit Court and Federal Court have all held “In God We Trust” is not a violation of U.S. Constitution

- The Honorable Harold Baer, Jr. U.S.D. Judge in the District of New York held:

“The Supreme Court has repeatedly assumed the motto’s secular purpose and effect, and all circuit courts that have considered this issue – namely the Ninth, Fifth, Tenth, and D.C. Circuit – have found no constitutional violation in the motto’s inclusion on currency.”

The court cited numerous legal cases and the Supreme Court of the U.S. finding that the motto is a form of “ceremonial deism” “...protected from Establishment Clause scrutiny...”

- Most recent Supreme Court decisions that have affirmed this analysis are: *Van Orden v. Perry*, 545 U.S. 677, 699 (2005) (Breyer, J., concurring); *Elk Grove Unified Sch. Dist. V. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1, 37 (2004) (O’Connor, J. concurring) (“[C]eremonial deism’ most clearly encompasses such things as the National Motto (‘In God We Trust’),” whose “history, character, and context prevent them from being constitutional violations at all.”).
- When considering the use of religious references, including the National Motto, the Supreme Court and individual Justices have consistently and unequivocally determined those references to be constitutional. No member of the court, past or current, has suggested otherwise.
- In *Allegheny*, 492 U.S. at 602-03, Justice Blackmun, writing for the Court and joined by Justices Marshall, Brennan, Stevens, and O’Connor, referred directly to the constitutionality of the National Motto. The four other Justices in *Allegheny*, Chief Justice Rehnquist and Justices Kennedy, White, and Scalia, explained that striking down traditions like the National Motto would be a disturbing departure from the Court’s cases upholding the constitutionality of government practices recognizing the nation’s religious heritage.
- *Elk Grove Unified Sch. Dist. V. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1, 37 (2004) (O’Connor, J. concurring) *Id.* at 37-43 Justice O’Connor acknowledged the history of religious references such as “In God We Trust”. **She stated** that it was not surprising to find “...**a Nation founded by religious refugees and dedicated to religious freedom should find references to divinity in its symbols, songs, mottoes, and oaths. Eradicating such references would sever ties to a history that sustains this Nation even today.**”



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- Justice O’Conner also referenced *Id.* 35-36 the **numerous states that have religious reference on their license plates, state seals, flags and mottoes.** *Id.* at n.* “The oaths of judicial office, citizenship, and military and civil service all end with the (optional) phrase “[S]o help me God.” Many of our patriotic songs contain overt or implicit references to the divine, among them “America” (Protect us by they might, great God our King”); “America the Beautiful” (“God shed his grace on thee”); and “God Bless America.” O’Connor further rejected any claim of “coercion” by the use of ceremonial deism.
- Justice O’Conner held: “*It would be ironic indeed if this Court were to wield our constitutional commitment to religious freedom so as to sever our ties to the traditions developed to honor it.*”
- She also held: “*The Constitution does not guarantee citizens a right entirely to avoid ideas with which they disagree. It would betray its own principles if it did; no robust democracy insulates its citizens from views that they might find novel or even inflammatory.*”
- Supreme Court Justice Brennan, generally known to be strict on separation of church and state found that the National Motto was constitutional. He stated that the designation of “In God We Trust” ...can best be understood...as...ceremonial deism”, protected for Establishment Clause scrutiny...
- Justice Brennan also held “*Moreover, these reference are uniquely suited to serve such wholly secular purposes as solemnizing public occasions, or inspiring commitment to meet some national challenge in a manner that simply could not be fully served in our culture if government were limited to purely non-religious phrases. The practices by which the government has long acknowledged religion are therefore probably necessary to serve certain secular functions, and that necessity, coupled with their long history, gives those practices an essentially secular meaning.*” *Lynch*, 465 U.S. at 716-717
- Lower Courts have consistently held the same [I have references if you need them]
- The Supreme Court of New Hampshire, in *Opinion of the Justices*, 228 A.2d 161 (N.H. 1967) advised the New Hampshire Senate that a proposed resolution requiring all public schools to display in every classroom a plaque with the National Motto inscribed on it would “not offend the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.” *Id.* at 164.

Where do I get more information about the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation?

Feel free to contact Summer Ingram at 757-546-2190 x 703 or Summer@CPCFoundation.com.

The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-partisan organization designed to encourage and support the call of America back to prayer, to preserve our Judeo Christian heritage and protect religious liberty.

We are championed by hundreds of members of Congress and State lawmakers, effectively initiating a top-down, bottom-up offensive strategy to **push back the anti-faith groups** that are strategizing and seeking to silence praying government officials, citizens, and you! No funds or resources are used in support of political or campaign activities.



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112th CONGRESS, 1st Session

H.CON.RES. 13 - IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Reaffirming 'In God We Trust' as the official motto of the United States and supporting and encouraging the public display of the National Motto in all public buildings, public schools, and other government institutions.

Whereas 'In God We Trust' is the official motto of the United States;

Whereas the sentiment, 'In God We Trust', has been an integral part of United States society since its founding;

Whereas in times of national challenge or tragedy, the people of the United States have turned to God as their source for sustenance, protection, wisdom, strength, and direction;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence recognizes God, our Creator, as the source of our rights, '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, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.';

Whereas the national anthem of the United States says 'praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation and this be our motto: in God is our trust.';

Whereas the words 'In God We Trust' appear over the entrance to the Senate Chamber and above the Speaker's rostrum in the House Chamber;

Whereas the oath taken by all Federal employees, except the President, states 'I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.';

Whereas John Adams said, 'Statesmen may plan and speculate for Liberty, but it is Religion and Morality alone, which can establish the Principles upon which Freedom can securely stand.';

Whereas if religion and morality are taken out of the marketplace of ideas, the very freedom on which the United States was founded cannot be secured;

Whereas as President Eisenhower said and President Ford later repeated, 'Without God, there could be no American form of government, nor, an American way of life.'; and

Whereas President John F. Kennedy said, 'The guiding principle and prayer of this Nation has been, is now, and ever shall be 'In God We Trust.': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress reaffirms 'In God We Trust' as the official motto of the United States and supports and encourages the public display of the National Motto in all public buildings, public schools, and other government institutions.

Passed the House of Representatives November 1, 2011.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS, Clerk.