



Honor The Past – Build The Future

The American Flag Foundation, Inc.

HISTORY OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TIMELINE	
September 8, 1892	The Boston-based “The Youth’s Companion” magazine published anonymously though authored by Francis Bellamy (an ordained minister, magazine writer, and Freemason) a few words for students to repeat on the 400 th Anniversary of Columbus Day. <i>“I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands – one nation indivisible – with liberty and justice for all.”</i>
October 12, 1892	The words were reprinted on thousands of leaflets and sent to public schools across the country. On the quadri-centennial of Columbus’ arrival, more than 12 million children recited the pledge to the Flag, thus beginning a popular school-day ritual.
June 14, 1923	During the first National Flag Conference in Washington, D.C., a change was made. For clarity, due to the number of immigrants now living in the United States, the words, “ <i>the Flag of the United States</i> ” replaced “my flag.”
June 14, 1924	The words “of America” were added to read “ <i>the Flag of the United States of America.</i> ”
June 22, 1942	After 50 years of daily recitation by children, the United States Congress officially recognizes the pledge by including the Pledge to the Flag in the <i>United States Flag Code (Title 36)</i> .
June 1943	The Supreme Court rules that school children could not be forced to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
June 14, 1945	The Pledge to the Flag receives its official title as, “ <i>The Pledge of Allegiance.</i> ”
June 14, 1954	President Dwight D. Eisenhower approves an amendment, House Joint Resolution 243, to add the words, “ <i>under God,</i> ” giving us the Pledge of Allegiance as it still reads today. As he authorized this change, he said, <i>“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.”</i>

Sources:

“The Story of the Pledge of Allegiance,” The Scottish Rite Journal of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction USA; Volume CIV, Number 7, July 1996.

“The Pledge of Allegiance,” Our Flag – The Story of Old Glory. Clearwater, FL; 2001.

“The Pledge of Allegiance,” www.homeofheroes.com; November 3, 2005.

“The original Pledge of Allegiance,” www.usflag.org; July 11, 2005.