

Our National Motto: "In God We Trust"

July 2016

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This month marks the 60th Anniversary of "In God We Trust" becoming the official National Motto of the United States, established by a law passed by the 84th Congress and approved by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on July 30, 1956.

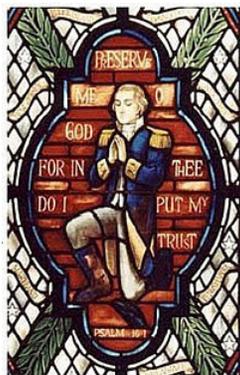
However, the sentiment, "In God We Trust," has been an integral part of American culture since its settling and founding and is expressed in a number of biblical texts (e.g., Psalm 4:5; 16:1; 20:7; 22:4-5; 40:3; 91:2; Prov. 3:5-6). For example, the psalmist petitions:

Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. (Psalm 16:1 NKJV)

In fact, a special Congressional Prayer Room was added to the Capitol in 1954 with a kneeling bench, an altar, an open Bible, and the words of Psalm 16:1 in an inspiring stained-glass depicting George Washington kneeling in prayer. In several recorded statements, Washington placed his trust in God for victory in the War for Independence. The sentiment also appears in the fourth verse of our National Anthem, which declares: "praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation . . . and this be our motto: in God is our trust."

The actual words "In God We Trust" are inscribed over the south entrance to the United States Senate Chamber and above the Speaker's rostrum in the United States House of Representatives, so that our elected officials see those words as they deliberate and make laws.

The National Motto began appearing on coins in 1864 and paper currency in 1955 by acts of the U.S. Congress.



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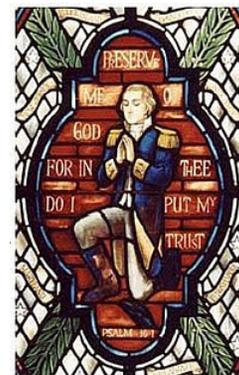
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In a Proclamation for a National Day of Prayer given on March 19, 1981, President Ronald Reagan declared:

“Our Nation’s motto – “In God We Trust” – was not chosen lightly... Throughout our history, Americans have put their faith in God, and no one can doubt that we have been blessed for it. The earliest settlers of this land came in search of religious freedom. Landing on a desolate shoreline, they established a spiritual foundation that has served us ever since. It was the hard work of our people, the freedom they enjoyed and their faith in God that built this country and made it the envy of the world. While never willing to bow to a tyrant, our forefathers were always willing to get to their knees before God. When catastrophe threatened, they turned to God for deliverance. When the harvest was bountiful, the first thought was thanksgiving to God... We as a nation should never forget this source of strength.”



Action Steps:

- 1. Defend the National Motto:** President Obama has not only chided Congress for passing the resolution, he has misquoted the official Motto as: “E Pluribus Unum,” creating confusion to the point that others have followed his lead.
- 2. Display the National Motto:** Defend the Motto by displaying it. FRC is partnering with the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation to provide ways that we can display our National Motto with pride. Visit www.FRC.org/IGWT.
- 3. Direct Congress to make law in light of the National Motto:** Ask your officials to consider “In God We Trust,” especially when laws impact the freedom to believe and live according to those beliefs. Call (202) 224-3121.
- 4. Decide how to vote based on the National Motto:** Ask which candidates best exemplify the Motto, acknowledge God, and uphold biblical values.
- 5. Depend on the God of the National Motto:** We need to put the Motto into practice as individuals, families, communities, and as a nation. Let’s trust God!



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