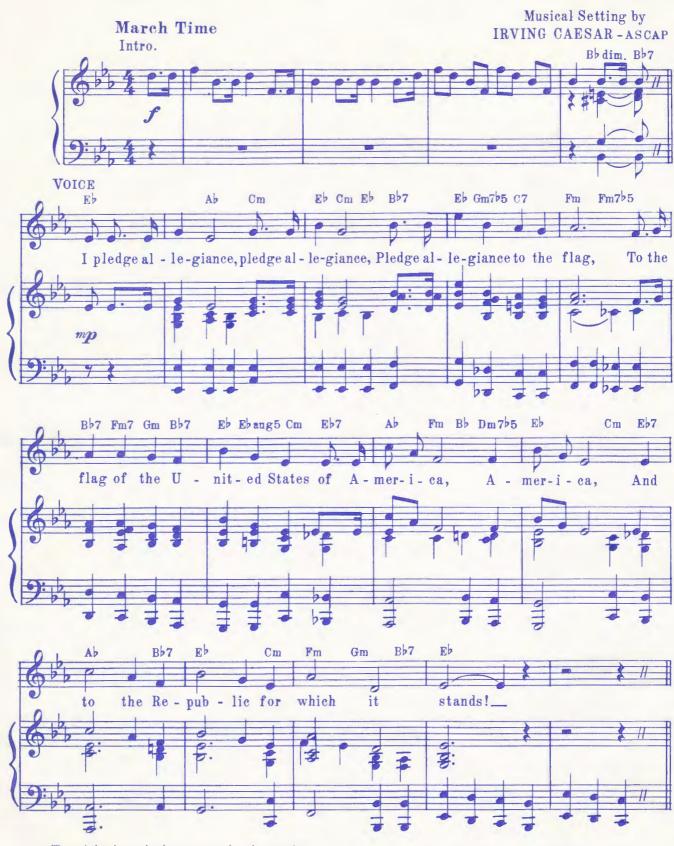


Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag *

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag



The musical setting to the above was created at the suggestion of Congressman Louis C. Rabaut whose House Resolution 243 was signed into law on Flag Day, June 14, 1954. The words "under God" were inserted in the Pledge as a result of Congressman Rabaut's resolution.

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History of the Pledge

THE original author of the pledge was Francis Bellamy, who was born at Mount Morris, New York, May 18, 1855, and died August 28, 1931. He was ordained in 1879 at the Baptist Church in Little Falls, New York. The pledge he wrote was first used at the dedication of the World's Fair Grounds in Chicago on October 21, 1892, the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, and has been recited from that day to this, with some changes, by school children throughout our land. Reverend Bellamy's original wording was altered slightly by the First and Second National Flag Conferences in 1923 and 1924 and his work was officially designated as the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by Public Law 287, Seventy-ninth Congress, approved December 28, 1945. On June 14, 1954, Flag Day, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law House Joint Resolution 243, introduced by Representative Louis C. Rabaut of Michigan, which added to the Pledge of Allegiance the compelling and meaningful words "under God".

The song "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag", composed by Irving Caesar, ASCAP, at the request of Representative Louis C. Rabaut, was sung for the first time on the floor of the House of Representatives on Flag Day, June 14, 1955, by the official Air Force choral group, the "Singing Sergeants", under the direction of Captain Robert L. Landers, AFRES, in special Flag Day ceremonies.

★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955 O-66319
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