

By: Davis

H.R. No. 2308

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson of Dallas  
2 retired as dean of the Texas congressional delegation in January  
3 2023, concluding a noteworthy tenure spanning 15 terms in office;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Admired as a trailblazer, Representative Johnson  
6 became the first Black woman ever elected to public office in Dallas  
7 when she won a seat in the Texas House in 1972; twenty years later,  
8 she earned distinction as the first registered nurse ever to serve  
9 in Congress; she became the first Black woman to chair the House  
10 Science, Safety, and Technology Committee in 2019; and

11           WHEREAS, Representative Johnson was an ardent champion of  
12 STEM education for girls and minority students, and she helped  
13 secure passage of the CHIPS and Sciences Act to increase production  
14 of semiconductor chips in the United States; moreover, she played  
15 an important role in the development of The University of Texas  
16 Arlington and Dallas campuses as Tier One Research facilities; and

17           WHEREAS, Benefiting transportation and the economy in North  
18 Texas, Representative Johnson was instrumental in passage of the  
19 law repealing the Wright Amendment, which had imposed flight  
20 restrictions on Dallas Love Field; throughout her tenure, she  
21 worked tirelessly to bring federal funding for Dallas Area Rapid  
22 Transit; her efforts also proved key in legislation that helped  
23 enable construction of AT&T Stadium in Arlington; she excelled in  
24 forging positive relationships across the aisle to achieve results

1 for her constituents; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Johnson was born in Waco in 1935, and  
3 after graduating from A. J. Moore High School, she earned her  
4 nursing certificate from St. Mary's College at the University of  
5 Notre Dame; she went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Texas  
6 Christian University and a master of public administration degree  
7 from Southern Methodist University; while employed by the Veterans  
8 Administration hospital in Dallas, she was a psychotherapist and  
9 chief psychiatric nurse; following three terms in the Texas House,  
10 she served as an administrator for the United States Department of  
11 Health, Education, and Welfare; she then became a business owner  
12 and served in the Texas Senate from 1987 to 1993; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the course of her long and distinguished career  
14 in public service, Eddie Bernice Johnson demonstrated a deep  
15 understanding of the needs of her constituents and an unyielding  
16 commitment to building a brighter future for all Americans; now,  
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby honor Eddie Bernice Johnson for her exemplary  
20 service as a United States congresswoman and extend to her sincere  
21 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for Representative Johnson as an expression of high regard  
24 by the Texas House of Representatives.