

By: McCall

H.R. No. 228

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Honorable Sam Johnson, United States  
2 representative for the Third Congressional District of Texas, is  
3 marking the 30th anniversary of his release as a prisoner of war in  
4 Vietnam and his return to the Lone Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, A career air force officer who flew with the Air  
6 Force Thunderbirds and was a veteran of 62 combat missions during  
7 the Korean War, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson was flying his 25th  
8 combat mission in Vietnam when he was shot down on April 16, 1966;  
9 ejecting from his plane, he sustained a dislocated shoulder, broken  
10 arm, and broken back; and

11           WHEREAS, Following his capture, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson  
12 was held at camps known as Alcatraz and the Hanoi Hilton; he endured  
13 72 days in leg stocks and 2-1/2 years in leg irons, as well as 3-1/2  
14 years in solitary confinement; he was ultimately released on  
15 February 12, 1973, having spent nearly seven years in captivity;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, This distinguished officer retired from the service  
18 with the rank of colonel in 1979; over the course of his 29-year  
19 career in the air force he received two Silver Stars, two Legions of  
20 Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, one Bronze Star with Valor,  
21 two Purple Hearts, four Air Medals, and three Outstanding Unit  
22 Awards; his book *Captive Warriors: A Vietnam POW's Story* was  
23 published by Texas A&M University in 1992; and

24           WHEREAS, In 1984, after a few short years in private life,

1 Congressman Johnson won election to the Texas House of  
2 Representatives, where he served three terms; he has represented  
3 the Third Congressional District in Washington, D.C., since 1991,  
4 and is now the highest-ranking Texan on the Ways and Means Committee  
5 and the Committee on Education and the Workforce; he also advises  
6 informally on issues regarding military readiness and serves on the  
7 Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; and

8 WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson's outstanding contributions to  
9 his country and his immeasurable sacrifice in its behalf represent  
10 the highest measure of patriotism, and it is a privilege to join his  
11 wife Shirley, his three children, and his 10 grandchildren in  
12 celebrating on February 17, 2003, the 30th anniversary of his  
13 return to Texas; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby honor Congressman Sam Johnson on the 30th  
16 anniversary of his release from the prisoner of war camps of North  
17 Vietnam and extend to him its profound appreciation for his  
18 lifetime of exemplary public service; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for Congressman Johnson as a token of high regard by the  
21 Texas House of Representatives.