

By: Laubenberg

H.R. No. 870

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In 2013, the Honorable Sam Johnson, a member of the
2 United States House of Representatives, commemorated the 40th
3 anniversary of his homecoming from Vietnam, where he endured nearly
4 seven years as a Prisoner of War; and

5 WHEREAS, This highly decorated war hero served his country
6 for 29 years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force; raised in Dallas,
7 he joined the military at the age of 20, shortly after graduating
8 from Southern Methodist University, and completed 62 combat
9 missions as a fighter pilot during the Korean War; he subsequently
10 flew with the elite Air Force Thunderbirds and directed the Air
11 Force Fighter Weapons School; and

12 WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson served two tours of duty in
13 Vietnam; on April 16, 1966, during his second tour, he was shot down
14 over North Vietnam while flying his 25th combat mission; ejecting
15 from his plane, he sustained a dislocated shoulder, broken arm, and
16 broken back; and

17 WHEREAS, After his capture, then Major Sam Johnson was held
18 at the notorious "Hanoi Hilton" prison camp, where he survived 72
19 days in leg stocks and 2-1/2 years in leg irons, as well as severe
20 beatings and starvation; identified by his captors as a "die-hard"
21 because of his refusal to cooperate, he was placed in solitary
22 confinement for 3-1/2 years; his ordeal finally ended with his
23 release from prison on February 12, 1973; he later wrote about his
24 experiences as a Prisoner of War in his book *Captive Warriors: A*

1 *Vietnam POW's Story*, which was published in 1992; and

2 WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson retired from the U.S. Air Force
3 with the rank of colonel in 1979; among the many military awards he
4 received were two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the
5 Distinguished Flying Cross, one Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple
6 Hearts, four Air Medals, and three Outstanding Unit Awards; and

7 WHEREAS, Following his return to civilian life, Congressman
8 Johnson established a home-building business and served for seven
9 years in the Texas House of Representatives; since 1991, he has
10 represented the Third District of Texas in the U.S. Congress, where
11 he is a member of the Committee on Ways and Means and the chair of
12 the Social Security Subcommittee; a dedicated advocate for the men
13 and women in the military, he was named by his peers in 2009 as the
14 "most admired" Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

15 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Sam Johnson has enjoyed the
16 love and support of his wife, Shirley; the couple have been blessed
17 with 3 children and 10 grandchildren; and

18 WHEREAS, A distinguished patriot, Congressman Johnson
19 continues to represent his country with extraordinary honor and
20 dedication, and he is truly worthy of special recognition for his
21 service; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
23 Legislature hereby honor Congressman Sam Johnson on the 40th
24 anniversary of his homecoming from Vietnam and extend to him
25 sincere appreciation for his deep devotion to this country and to
26 the cause of freedom; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Congressman Johnson as an expression of high regard by
2 the Texas House of Representatives.