

By: Leach

H.R. No. 1136

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Sam Johnson, the United States  
2 Representative for the Third Congressional District of Texas, is  
3 marking the 42nd anniversary of his release from a North Vietnamese  
4 prison camp in 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, A graduate of Southern Methodist University, Sam  
6 Johnson entered the United States Air Force at the age of 20 and  
7 carried out more than 60 combat missions as a fighter pilot in the  
8 Korean War; he went on to join the prestigious Air Force  
9 Thunderbirds and to direct the Air Force Fighter Weapons School;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, On April 16, 1966, during his second tour of duty in  
12 Vietnam, then Major Johnson was flying his 25th combat mission over  
13 North Vietnam when his plane was shot down; he was able to eject  
14 from the cockpit and sustained a dislocated shoulder, broken arm,  
15 and broken back; for nearly seven years, the enemy held him captive  
16 in the notorious "Hanoi Hilton," where he endured beatings,  
17 starvation, solitary confinement, and other grievous abuse; and

18 WHEREAS, His ordeal finally ended with his release on  
19 February 12, 1973; this distinguished Texan continued to serve in  
20 the military, attaining the rank of colonel before his retirement  
21 in 1979; over the course of 29 years in the air force, Congressman  
22 Johnson received numerous decorations, including two Silver Stars,  
23 two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star  
24 with Valor, two Purple Hearts, four Air Medals, and three

1 Outstanding Unit Awards; he later published a memoir, *Captive*  
2 *Warriors: A Vietnam POW's Story*; and

3 WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson began his career in public  
4 service as a member of the Texas House of Representatives; since his  
5 election to Congress in 1991, he has been one of that body's  
6 foremost champions of the men and women in the military, and for his  
7 efforts in their behalf, he was awarded in 2009 the National Patriot  
8 Award, the highest civilian accolade conferred by the Congressional  
9 Medal of Honor Society; that same year, his colleagues named him the  
10 "Most Admired" Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

11 WHEREAS, Few can claim such a long and distinguished record  
12 of service to this nation, and the courage, strength of character,  
13 and love of country that Congressman Johnson has so abundantly  
14 demonstrated have earned him the esteem of every American; now,  
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby honor Congressman Sam Johnson on the 42nd  
18 anniversary of his homecoming from Vietnam and express lasting  
19 appreciation for his exceptional contributions in both time of war  
20 and time of peace; and, be it further

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