

By: Leach

H.R. No. 1316

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For nearly seven decades, the Honorable Sam Johnson  
2 has served his state and nation with courage and distinction, first  
3 as a highly decorated officer in the United States Air Force, then  
4 as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, and since 1991,  
5 as a United States congressman; and

6           WHEREAS, Born in San Antonio in 1930 and raised in Dallas, Sam  
7 Johnson attended Southern Methodist University; shortly after  
8 graduating at the age of 20, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force,  
9 beginning a distinguished 29-year career; he flew 62 combat  
10 missions as a fighter pilot during the Korean War, and he went on to  
11 fly with the elite USAF Thunderbirds squadron and to serve as  
12 director of the USAF Weapons School before returning to duty as a  
13 combat pilot during two tours in Vietnam; and

14           WHEREAS, On April 16, 1966, Major Johnson was shot down over  
15 North Vietnam while flying his 25th mission, and he sustained a  
16 dislocated shoulder, a broken arm, and a broken back while ejecting  
17 from his plane; captured by the North Vietnamese, he survived  
18 nearly seven years of torture and deprivation in the infamous Hanoi  
19 Hilton prison camp before being released on February 12, 1973, and  
20 he later published an inspiring account of his imprisonment,  
21 *Captive Warriors: A Vietnam POW's Story*; and

22           WHEREAS, Despite his ordeal, this heroic Texan continued to  
23 serve in the U.S. Air Force until his retirement at the rank of  
24 colonel in 1979; his decorations include two Silver Stars, two

1 Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star  
2 with "V" device, two Purple Hearts, four Air Medals, and three Air  
3 Force Outstanding Unit Awards; and

4 WHEREAS, After leaving the armed services, Mr. Johnson  
5 started a home-building business in North Dallas, and he began his  
6 career as an elected official by serving for seven years in the  
7 Texas House of Representatives; in 1991, he was elected to the U.S.  
8 House of Representatives, and he has served the constituents of the  
9 Third District of Texas with great distinction ever since; and

10 WHEREAS, In his role as chair of the Ways and Means Social  
11 Security Subcommittee, Congressman Johnson has worked tirelessly  
12 to ensure the solvency of the Social Security system and to  
13 safeguard its account holders from identity theft; he has also  
14 worked to address the long-term water needs of his district by  
15 helping to expedite the federal permitting process for the Lower  
16 Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir; and

17 WHEREAS, This proud veteran has been a passionate advocate  
18 for current and former military personnel; he passed a bill to  
19 authorize a wall of remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial  
20 and helped to establish a community-based Veterans Administration  
21 outpatient clinic in Plano, and he tirelessly works in behalf of the  
22 families of those Vietnam War service members who remain missing in  
23 action or unaccounted for; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2016, Congressman Johnson received the inaugural  
25 Congressional Patriot Award from the Bipartisan Policy Center for  
26 placing the interests of the nation above all else, and that same  
27 year, he was also presented with the Distinguished Public Service

1 Award from the U.S. Air Force; he is a recipient of the National  
2 Patriot Award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and in  
3 2009, his peers named him the most admired Republican in the U.S.  
4 House of Representatives; and

5 WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson shared a rewarding marriage of  
6 65 years with the former Shirley Melton until her passing in 2015;  
7 they became the parents of three children, and the family has grown  
8 to include 10 grandchildren; and

9 WHEREAS, A courageous warrior and a gifted public servant,  
10 Congressman Sam Johnson has devoted his life to serving his fellow  
11 citizens, and his commitment, integrity, and patriotism have  
12 inspired countless people in Texas and throughout the United States  
13 of America; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby commend U.S. Representative Sam Johnson for his  
16 exemplary leadership as a military officer and a legislator and  
17 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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