

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 606

WHEREAS, The Honorable Sam Johnson, a distinguished legislator who served four terms at the Texas Capitol as a state representative followed by a 26-year tenure as a member of the United States House of Representatives, has rendered extraordinary service to our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, An alumnus of Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas, Sam Johnson graduated with a degree in business administration from Southern Methodist University in 1951, and soon thereafter, at the age of 20, he entered the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, After completing 62 combat missions as a fighter pilot during the Korean War, Mr. Johnson went on to become a member of the elite Air Force Thunderbirds and the director of the Air Force Fighter Weapons School; in 1966, while flying his 25th combat mission during the Vietnam War, his plane was shot down over North Vietnam, and he was eventually taken captive and held at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison camp; he ultimately endured nearly seven years in the facility before being returned to his homeland in February 1973, and he later chronicled his experiences in his autobiography, *Captive Warriors: A Vietnam POW's Story*; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson concluded his exemplary 29-year career in the United States Air Force in 1979, retiring at the rank of colonel; his numerous military commendations and accolades include two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple Hearts, four Air Medals, and three Outstanding Unit Awards; moreover, he was retroactively awarded the Prisoner of War Medal following its creation in 1985; and

WHEREAS, In his civilian life, this esteemed Texan founded a home-building business, and he was elected in 1984 to the first of four consecutive terms in the Texas House of Representatives; since 1991, he has represented the Third District of Texas in the United States Congress, where he serves on the Committee on Ways and Means; throughout his career in Congress, he has made the welfare of the men and women in the military one of his foremost priorities, and his recent efforts in their behalf include securing approval for two new veterans health clinics in his district; in 2009, he was awarded the National Patriots Award, the highest civilian accolade conferred by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and he also had the distinction of being named by his peers as the "most admired" Republican in the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Sam Johnson fought for his country with the utmost valor and has since worked with equal commitment to advance the interests of his constituents, and he remains to his fellow Texans a role model of the highest order; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby honor Congressman Sam Johnson for his lifetime of service and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Congressman Johnson as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Taylor of Collin

Bettencourt	Hinojosa	Perry
Birdwell	Huffines	Rodríguez
Buckingham	Huffman	Schwertner
Burton	Hughes	Seliger
Campbell	Kolkhorst	Taylor of Galveston
Creighton	Lucio	Uresti
Estes	Menéndez	Watson
Garcia	Miles	West
Hall	Nelson	Whitmire
Hancock	Nichols	Zaffirini

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 11, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate