

By: West

S.R. No. 116

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to honor and commemorate the life of Eddie Bernice Johnson, who died on December 31, 2023, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Bernice Johnson was born on December 3, 1934, in Waco; a graduate of A. J. Moore High School, she studied nursing at Saint Mary's College and later went on to earn a nursing degree from Texas Christian University and a master's degree in public administration from Southern Methodist University; and

WHEREAS, Upon moving to Dallas in the late 1950s, she experienced the blatant racism and discrimination that helped to inspire her commitment to activism and advocacy, and she went on to lead an exceptional career of public service that helped to transform the city and improved the lives of people across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Bernice Johnson began her career as a chief psychiatric nurse, and in 1972, she became the first Black woman elected to represent Dallas County in the Texas House of Representatives, where she earned a reputation as a champion for women and children and was admired for her bipartisan and no-nonsense approach to policymaking; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, she accepted an appointment to serve as a regional director of the United States Department of Health,

Education, and Welfare under President Jimmy Carter; after a period of time with the federal government and in the private sector, she returned to Texas, and in 1986, she became the first Black person since Reconstruction to represent Dallas in the Texas Senate; she brought her state service to a close in 1992, when she was elected to the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Johnson led many committees and subcommittees that effected progress in such areas as human rights, STEM education, transportation, environmental policy, and foreign relations; widely recognized as one of the most effective legislators in Congress, she was responsible for authoring and co-authoring more than 175 enacted bills; and

WHEREAS, Her distinguished career in public service included 15 terms of leadership representing the 30th Congressional District of Texas, and she continued serving her Dallas community while tirelessly supporting human rights in the United States and around the globe; an esteemed Democratic leader and a woman of great courage and strength, Eddie Bernice Johnson was a devoted mother to her son, Kirk Johnson, whom she raised by loving example; she was a proud grandmother to her three grandsons and to her great-grandchildren, who all enriched her life immeasurably; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Bernice Johnson's extraordinary leadership and dedication to public service will long be remembered by the people of the Lone Star State and by citizens and leaders throughout our great nation; her remarkable life and her outstanding achievements are a source of inspiration to

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countless people, and her enduring legacy is a shining example to current and future generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Eddie Bernice Johnson; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Eddie Bernice Johnson.