



SJ0018

LRB102 15511 ECR 20874 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to honor those who have  
3 bettered the State of Illinois through public service; and

4 WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson was born in Champaign to  
5 Robert and Margaret Evans Johnson on July 23, 1946; he spent  
6 his childhood in Urbana and graduated from Urbana High School;  
7 he attended the University of Illinois, graduated Phi Beta  
8 Kappa, and was honored with the Bronze Tablet, the  
9 University's highest undergraduate honor; he was accepted to  
10 the University of Illinois College of Law and graduated with  
11 high honors and was elected to the Order of Coif, the national  
12 legal honor society, in 1972; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1971, while still in college, Congressman  
14 Johnson began his long career in public service by winning a  
15 seat on the Urbana City Council, representing the same Ward  
16 that his father had represented; in his four years on the city  
17 council, he demonstrated to people throughout Central Illinois  
18 that he had a gift for crafting sound policies and taking care  
19 of the day-to-day needs of the people he represented; and

20 WHEREAS, Upon urging by community leaders, Congressman  
21 Johnson decided to run for a seat in the Illinois State  
22 Legislature; in 1976, he won a seat in the Illinois House by

1 besting five other Republicans in a tough, but civil, primary;  
2 he held that seat in the Statehouse for more than two decades;  
3 he resigned as State Representative from the 104th District on  
4 November 13, 2000, one week after being elected to the United  
5 States House of Representatives to serve the 15th District of  
6 Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson established a strong record  
8 of constituent service and was known for walking the Capitol  
9 hallways with a cell phone pressed to his ear as he talked to  
10 constituents, asking their opinions and addressing their  
11 problems; and

12 WHEREAS, While responding to the needs of his District  
13 residents was a top priority, Congressman Johnson was also a  
14 strong and independent voice on Capitol Hill and pushed for  
15 lower taxes, fought to bring federal dollars home to Illinois  
16 universities, was a strong advocate for civil liberties, voted  
17 consistently to protect our First, Second, and Fourth  
18 Amendment Rights, and voted to protect our environment; and

19 WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson was a leading advocate for  
20 the expansion of the use of bio fuels and paid special  
21 attention to the needs of veterans; he continued his tradition  
22 of opposing tax increases, promoting fiscal responsibility,  
23 and upholding conservative, common sense values in the United

1 States Congress; most of all, he wanted to rekindle the spark  
2 in the nation's agricultural economy that is vital to the  
3 health of the region, nation, and world; and

4 WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson retired from Congress at the  
5 end of his term in 2013; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF  
8 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the  
9 section of Interstate 57 from I-74 South to Exit 232 as the  
10 "Congressman Tim Johnson Highway"; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
12 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
13 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
14 giving notice of the name "Congressman Tim Johnson Highway";  
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent  
17 to Congressman Tim Johnson, the Mayor of Champaign, and the  
18 Secretary of Transportation.