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U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson files for re-election

Today U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson (3rd Dist.-Texas) officially filed paperwork to run for re-election in November to represent the people of the Third Congressional District of Texas. A 29-year Air Force veteran and former Prisoner of War in Vietnam, Johnson will campaign on some of his top priorities, like combating illegal immigration, fighting global terrorism, and strengthening Social Security.

"It would be an honor if the people of the Third District re-elect me to Congress. There is so much I want to do to help make America a better place. I've worked hard to foster bipartisan relationships to get things done in Congress. I hope to build on my accomplishments," said Johnson.

Johnson's congressional successes include drafting the original legislation to end the Wright Amendment, fighting for – and securing - a federal courthouse in Plano, creating a Congressional Youth Advisory Council and authoring the measure to end the so-called earnings limit on seniors who wanted to work past retirement.

For years Johnson has worked tirelessly to control the porous border and stem the tide of illegal immigration. "It's down right maddening to me that folks want to grant illegal immigrants instant American citizenship. Illegal immigrants broke the law to be in America...why on earth would we give law breakers the privilege of being a citizen of the United States? I will stand up and be counted as a vehement opponent to blanket amnesty," continued Johnson.

A Texas native and a graduate of SMU, Johnson fought in both Korea and Vietnam. During his second tour of duty in Vietnam, Johnson was shot down on April 16, 1966. Johnson spent nearly seven years as a Prisoner of War in Vietnam, more than half of that time in solitary confinement.

A decorated war hero, Johnson earned two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, one Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple Hearts, four Air Medals, and three Outstanding Unit Awards.

"As a Prisoner of War in Vietnam for nearly seven years, I can not and will not let another generation of military men and women put their lives on the line while inept congressional leaders put petty partisan politics first," said Johnson. "We will bring our troops home soon and safely – when the time is right. We're making great strides in Iraq and some folks in Congress want to pull the plug on our guys on the ground. I won't let our men and women serve in combat without the money they need to finish the job and come home safely to their loved ones," continued Johnson. Earlier this year, Johnson drafted legislation to ensure that Congress would fully fund our men and women serving in harm's way.

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As the highest-ranking Republican on the Social Security Subcommittee, also known as the Ranking Member, Johnson strives to bolster the Social Security system while there is still more money going into the system than going out. Since 2004 Johnson has introduced his own legislation to create personal retirement accounts for younger workers as a way to shore up the system.

Since working in a Democrat-controlled Congress, Johnson's had two bipartisan measures pass, one regarding health care and the other focusing on retirement savings. "When it comes to doing what's right for America, I'll do anything to get the job done," concluded Johnson.

Married to the former Shirley Melton, they have three children, 10 grandkids, and three great-grandchildren. The Johnsons reside in Plano.

The Third Congressional District includes portions of Dallas and Collin Counties.

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