



SPRING Weekly

Reader

Volume 244, Issue 309, June 14th, 2018

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Yosemite, CAM!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jun 14th
Bruce Heller
"Shelter Box"

Jun 21st
Summer Kickoff Meeting & Trivia

Contest
Please wear your favorite summer
themed shirt

Jun 28th
TBD



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Charles Milby	Jun 07
Blair Ritchey	Jun 08
Mark Waterbury	Jun 08
Mark Geller	Jun 09
Bradley Keith	Jun 12
Bob Bauer	Jun 19



FULL to the brim, we were, with well-wishers for U.S. Rep. **Sam Johnson**, retiring from the House of Representatives. The Larger-than-Life war hero and 27-year veteran of Congressional District 3 drew not only a big crowd but also standing ovations. Fortunately, there was room for all: VIPs, guests, and Rotaries in Plano.



The Master of Ceremonies duties were shared by many Rotary Presidents. The first to preside was **Mano Mahadeva** (*Plano Metro*) who called upon **Jan Sullivan** (*Plano East*) for the Invocation and **George Elking** (*Plano Sunrise*) for the Pledge.

Marianne Elwell (*North Texas Pioneers*) introduced VIPs who included

- **Rick Grady**, Plano City Council
- Supt. **Sara Bonser**, **Karla Oliver**, and **Nancy Humphrey**, *PSD*
- **Keith Self**, Collin County Judge
- **Duncan Webb**, Commissioner
- **Jeff Leach** and **Matt Shaheen**, State Representatives
- **Bob Collins** and **Steve Matthews**, Collin College Board
- **Jeff Beckley**, Plano Chamber
- He, Karla & Nancy (*Plano Rotary*)

President Mahadeva credited **Rick Horne** and **Olin Jaye** (*Plano Rotary*) with proposing and structuring this tribute to Rep. Johnson. He called upon Rick Grady who told us that Sam was awarded 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. Sam's F4 was shot down over North Vietnam in 1966, and he spent 7 years in confinement there (suffering torture, a broken back and arm). "The City is humbled by his accomplish-

ments" especially his promotion of veterans' causes, including two local clinics. Rick then read the City of Plano Proclamation:

Special Recognition Plano City Council Certificate of Commendation CONGRESSMAN SAM JOHNSON

Whereas, Sam Johnson began his political career in 1985, serving in the Texas State House of Representatives until he was elected the U. S. Representative from Texas 3rd Congressional District. He has made veterans and Social Security issues key tenets of his legislative career.

Congressman Johnson served in the U.S. Armed Forces for 29 years, seven of them being held as a POW during the Vietnam War. During his service, he received:

Two Silver Stars	Two Legions of Merit
Distinguished Flying Cross	Bronze Star with Valor
Two Purple Hearts	Four Air Medals
Three Outstanding Unit Awards	

Throughout his military career, Congressman Johnson has been known for tackling the big issues that can make a difference in people's lives. Local veterans are thankful for his work in securing the approval for two new Veterans Health Clinics in Plano that provide health care closer to home.

On this special occasion we want to thank Sam Johnson, U.S. Texas Representative for the 3rd Congressional District. We commend you for your hard work and dedication, not only to Texas residents but also to all city, county, state and national citizens. We wish you an enjoyable retirement and have earned it!

Therefore, I, Harry Lakoski, Mayor of the City of Plano, Texas, do hereby extend our gratitude on behalf of the Plano City Council.

Harry Lakoski
Office of the Mayor
Plano
City/County

Rick lauded Sam for "tackling the Big Issues," commended him for his "hard work and dedication" and wished him an enjoyable retirement.



Keith Self apologized, saying he had "no excuse" for walking in late. He then invited Sam to look over Collin County governance, and, noting that "each of us have their own story about what's he's done for the country," proceeded to give us his.

He and Rep. Johnson "shared a dais" on a cold day while a military band played on. "The congressman was looking at me for a long time," and infantrymen have a low opinion of air force men that haven't mud to contend with.

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Finally, Sam spoke, “‘You’re not supposed to shiver.’ No, ‘Hello.’ No ‘How’re you doin’?” He issued a simple command as to “*how to conduct myself in front of people.*”

Keith said that he admired Sam for his “*titanium backbone,*” and yielded the floor to PISD Superintendent Sara Bonser.

Sara said that one of the first calls she got when first on the job was from Sam. “*He asked, ‘What is going on with PISD?’*” The congressman “*takes great care of children.*” His is “*a legacy to model.*”

The she read a Resolution from the school district.



Resolution

Whereas Congressman Sam Johnson's name is synonymous with Plano, Texas, and he has maintained a decades long relationship with the Plano Independent School District.

Whereas he is regarded as a pioneer in earning a reputation for excellence for the City of Plano and Collin County

Whereas he has served his country in the Korean and Vietnam wars, and dedicated a lifetime of valiant support for service men and women in the U.S. military, police and emergency response professionals while placing immense value on the moral obligation of volunteerism

Whereas his professional and personal support of the Plano Independent School District has set an example for the community to become intensely involved citizens and custodians of their local school district with a genuine appreciation for educators.

Whereas with his service as volunteerism, he has touched the hearts of Plano ISD students as a role model, delivering a guaranteed handshake with words of encouragement for their bright futures ahead.

Whereas he has brought living history into countless classrooms and served as a sculptor of young minds through storytelling, explaining the intricacies of government and instilling patriotism and love of country.

Now, therefore, he is resolved that we honor Congressman Johnson for his experience and his willingness to share the full history of his military and civic service.

Be it further resolved in the waning days following the Memorial Day weekend, let us continue to recount Congressman Johnson's contributions to Plano, Texas, to the 2018 graduates and the service of graduates who came before them who were influenced by his example.

Let it be known Congressman Sam Johnson has solidified in the creation of the reputation of excellence shared by our community and school district. May we strive to protect and celebrate the legacy of this great man.

May 30, 2018



Sara made way for Bob Collins, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Collin College. Bob identified Sam as a “*supporter of the College*” and presented him with a Resolution from the Collin College Board.

Rep. Jeff Leach struggled, as had all the speakers, with a microphone that cut in and out. He said that Sam is up there in his mind with the “*big, historic names*” like **George Washington** and, more recently, **John McCain**. Jeff claimed he recognizes two role models in his life: “*My Dad and you!*” He recalls his Dad writing Sam a letter when he began his 1st term. It was a complaint



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Congressman Sam Johnson, a distinguished and decorated war hero and native Texan, has provided exemplary service to the 3rd Congressional District of Texas since 1991, **AND**

WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson has provided leadership as one of the few Deputy Whips, as a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means where he serves as the Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee and sits on the Health Subcommittee, and where in the 112th Congress House leaders appointed him to the Joint Committee on Taxation, **AND**

WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson has been an avid supporter of the residents of Collin County bringing programs to the community such as the Congressional Veteran Commendation Ceremony to recognize local veterans for their sacrifice and continued commitment to service to their communities, and the Internal Revenue Service Free Tax File Briefing, **AND**

WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson was instrumental in securing approval of two Veterans Health Clinics in Plano, thus allowing local veterans to receive proper health care closer to home, **AND**

WHEREAS, Congressman Johnson has been a friend and unwavering supporter of the students, administrators, faculty, and staff of Collin County Community College District, **AND**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees and District President H. Neil Matkin recognize the tremendous impact of Congressman Sam Johnson's service to Collin County Community College District, **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Collin County Community College District recognizes the exemplary contributions to the students, administrators, faculty, and staff of Collin County Community College District and to the citizens and communities of Collin County and beyond, and offers its utmost appreciation and gratitude for Congressman Johnson's 27 plus years of stellar service and visionary leadership.

Presented this thirtieth day of May in the year two thousand eighteen.

about traffic gridlock: “*One issue you didn't get to.*” Nevertheless, it may be only appropriate that a busy highway (75) be named for Sam Johnson! And, he declared that “*no individual carries more name recognition than Sam Johnson.*” The business of the House “*stops for the day to honor Sam Johnson.*”



Sam then rose to a standing ovation to make a few remarks of his own.

He told us his mantra, “*Sam; don't give a damn.*” But he generously thanked us all for our support. He appreciates “*everyone who had a hand in*” this event. He declared our Rotaries to be “*pillars of the community*” and lauded the way they plan and work together to “*look for local needs and find solutions.*” We make Plano one of the “*best places to live.*” **Shirley** and I make this our home.”



For those of us who had not heard the story, he recalled his 25th bombing mission in Vietnam where he and his copilot were on a napalm run, flying fast and low. They took on enemy fire, and *"the guys saw one parachute. My family didn't know if I was alive or dead for two years."* Shirley founded a support group for Shutdown Wives. *"They took a stand all over the country...Shirley was my hero."*

After 7 years of support and prayers during his captivity, he was finally released to a *"big parade."* Sam couldn't get into his home because *"the house was full of kids welcoming me."*

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve in the House and the military. God continually blesses this community and America." Then he sat down to another standing ovation.

He was followed by Plano West President **Glen Thornton**. Glen touted our Sam's Gift 1st Annual summer food drive. While most food drives concentrate around the fall and winter holidays, the summer, when the kids are out of school, provides a strong need for feeding families. He also mentioned the \$1500 given by the six Plano clubs to provide transportation for former POWs.



Glen gave Sam a plaque saying that he embodied the Spirit of Rotary: Service Above Self, and vacated the podium in favor of Plano Rotary President Rick Horne.

Rick told Sam, *"There aren't resources for us to thank you enough."* And he thought of Sam's Gift as a perpetual tribute to a great American, even though he flew with the *Thunderbirds...almost as good as the Blue Angels.* He asked the assembled crowd, *"What are you going to do to measure up to Sam?"*

Addressing the potential Rotarians in the room, he said that Rotary had clubs conveniently spread out among the days and hours of the week: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Rick mentioned the Food Drive meets to gather and transport food items from the *Williams High School* parking lot at 9 am the following Saturday.

He then led us in the Four-Way Test, and closed the proceedings at 12:40.



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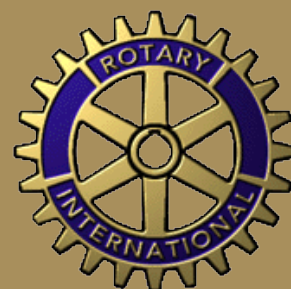
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with a
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to Rotary**

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