

SAM JOHNSON
THIRD DISTRICT, TEXAS

1211 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4303
(202) 225-4201

www.samjohnson.house.gov

1255 WEST 15TH STREET
SUITE 170
PLANO, TX 75075
(469) 304-0382

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4303

July 26, 2013

COMMITTEES:
WAYS AND MEANS

CHAIRMAN:
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL SECURITY

DEPUTY WHIP

JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION

COMMISSIONER:
U.S.-RUSSIAN JOINT
COMMISSION ON POW/MIAs

REGENT:
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Fellow American,

Imagine coming home from a bloody and brutal war only to learn that your country did not acknowledge your service. Disappointingly, that's more or less what happened to the estimated 1.7 million brave men and women who served in the Korean War.

As a fighter pilot who flew 62 combat missions in Korea, I want to start off by humbly asking you to never allow for this to happen again.

May we never forget we are the land of the free *because* of the brave. We continue to be the beacon of freedom, liberty and democracy around the world *because* of the selfless men and women who answer the call of duty. Our troops, our veterans and their families deserve our unwavering support and heartfelt gratitude 110 percent of the time.

Some have called the Korean War the "Forgotten War." The conflict fell between the end of World War II and the start of Vietnam. Spanning from 1950 to 1953, the Korean War represents America's first efforts to thwart the growth of Communist rule in Asia.

In many ways, Korea was the first reminder that America must remain the world's leading force for peace, prosperity, and freedom. I like to constantly encourage each generation of Americans to learn, recognize and appreciate the sacrifices of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. We must honor our heroes every day as they protect our freedoms every day both at home and abroad.

I believe the Korean War is a remembered war, not forgotten. Korean War veterans carried out their duties with honor, integrity, dignity and respect - and today, the people of South Korea are reaping the benefits of freedom and democracy. This success is the fruits of the labor of our Korean War veterans.

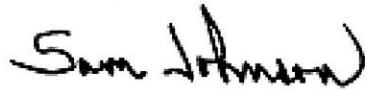
As South Korean President, Park Geun-hye graciously stated during her recent joint address to Congress, "Let me express - on behalf of the people of the Republic of Korea - our profound gratitude to American's veterans. Their blood, sweat and tears helped safeguard freedom and democracy."

We must be proud of our veterans and their contribution to this legacy of victory for the people of the Republic of Korea. The world is a better place because of it.

Additionally, in 2008 Korean War veterans finally received the recognition they deserved here at home by the creation of a federal charter for the Korean War Veterans Association. This national charter to Korean War veterans put them in the same echelon as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. This was truly a mark of distinction.

To the esteemed Korean War veterans: I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are not forgotten. To young descendents of Korean War veterans: stand tall, be proud and admire their service and sacrifice today and always. God bless you and I salute you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress