**INFORMATIVE SPEECH**

**FOR**

**PAT PARRISH**

Hello everyone!! Welcome to this year’s Annual Community Appreciation Day. What a great day this is, and just as it’s been for the past **TWENTY-SIX** years, we celebrate each other, we acknowledge and thank the constituents for their dedication, loyalty, and enthusiasm, we applaud our fellow volunteers, and we focus our sites on our neighborhoods, neighbors, and the progress we have made over the past year... oh.. and... we also have some fun doing that!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). It’s so important that we understand that no matter what may happen around us, we, the collective constituents of the 30th Congressional District, acknowledge the **POSITIVES** in our lives and in our neighborhoods. Life is challenging... let’s take a few hours and **CELEBRATE**!!

One consistent, significant, and positive influence is.... and I don’t have to tell **any**

 of you this... Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, and we are so proud to call her **OURS**. Representative Johnson has had a long, fruitful, and impactful tenure in the House of Representatives and it is clear that by hosting a fun event like today’s, Representative Johnson shows that she cares deeply for all of us.... her neighbors and friends, She also cares about being an example... and as a paragon of character, with a lifetime of experience, a diversified background, and a unique list of accomplishments, she proves to be the compassionate and motivated leader we have come to trust. It’s not surprising that it is **OUR** privilege to honor, acknowledge and really express our appreciation to Eddie Bernice Johnson.

It’s been said that “The best way to keep charged up is to do what’s been nagging at you.” Based on that statement, can you just imagine what’s been going on in the heart, brains, and conscience of **OUR** Representative? Lucky for us, she doesn’t stop!!! (**Do you want to make a joke and say**)... she’s like our very own “Energizer Bernie!! (**And wait for the laugh**). The times in which we are living call for a new and creative, consistent response to the problems, issues and divisions we face in this country. It’s not too hard to get fired up with the passion of anger and pledge to do something inspired by the momentum of rage. Our Representative Johnson is a thinker **AND** a doer. She employs her unique experience and point of view to “follow the trail” and advocate for all of us, and whether she’s in Washington or here at home in her office in Dallas, Eddie Bernice is a force to be reckoned with...

While she is currently serving her **THIRTEENTH** term in Congress, Representative Johnson has consistently been involved and determined to address issues, confront problems and advocate for solutions from a vantage point informed by experience, intelligence and empathy.

Think about what Congresswoman Johnson has brought to the table...As the first nurse elected to the United States Congress, she demonstrates not only the ability to express compassion and truly empathize with people, she understands how to act and **react** in a crisis. She has established milestones in the Texas House of Representatives, and in Congress, Representative Johnson has chaired prestigious committees while blazing trails and setting a positive example as a role model and leader at times in which so many of us feel stuck in frustration and fear. Congresswoman Johnson gives us **HOPE**.

A wise person said, “Some people dream of worthy accomplishments while others stay awake and **DO** them. Lucky for us Congresswoman Johnson is a **THINKER** and a **DOER**. As a community advocate and organizer, I have had the privilege to work closely with our Congresswoman on many events and legislative bills that are vital and critical to our community. As one who is dedicated to serving our neighbors, I find it refreshing to be able to work with Congresswoman Johnson, observe her process, and do whatever I can, both individually and as part of a larger group, to support the causes and missions of this dynamic Representative.

I believe that all we need to know is usually right in front of our faces. And all we need to know about Congresswoman Johnson is right here as well.... the clues to who she is and how she believes in and supports others can be seen in the very structure of this event.... we have come together in fun... in friendship...with purpose. It’s an event that brings people together, showcases talents and resources, and encourages networking and connection.... no one is excluded.... there are activities for children as well as for families, young adults... seniors... you name it, they’re here! And all of that adds up to community building. It shows that **EVERY** member of our district deserves to be included. And most of all, we learn that government is a living, organic, entity.... one that does whatever necessary to bend with the times while demonstrating unwavering faith in the community

Thank you Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson....keep going.... and going,...and going!!

**Oh**. And one other thing... **Please** ... **don’t forget**... **VOTE**!! Make sure you are registered... and if you need assistance getting to your polling place, let’s see if we can help!! Thank you all!!