

House Resolution No. 1739

Whereas, it is with tremendous respect and admiration that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives solemnly pause in their diverse legislative endeavors in order to acknowledge the exemplary service so freely rendered by military veterans during their time on active duty; and

Whereas, Private Henry Lincoln Johnson will be posthumously recognized for his Distinguished Service Cross on Thursday, April 10, 2003, at a ceremony to be conducted at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City by the Liberty Memorial Association in cooperation with the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and

Whereas, after learning of the historic military accomplishments of Private Henry Lincoln Johnson, State Representative Sharon Sanders Brooks contacted the Kansas City Star and the Star printed a story which appeared on February 13, 1997, informing the Kansas City metroplex of this heroic deed; and

Whereas, a true war hero, Private Henry Johnson was on night sentry duty with the 369th Regiment during World War I when he and a fellow soldier were attacked by a component of the German military; and

Whereas, although suffering from three grenade and gunshot wounds, Private Henry Johnson returned fire, inflicted casualties on the advancing Germans, and resorted to hand-to-hand fighting with his knife when he and his comrade were close to capture; and

Whereas, eventually driving back the German raiding party, Private Henry Johnson was the first American to receive the Croix de Guerre, France's highest medal of honor, and was one of more than six thousand recognizable faces to appear in the original Pantheon de la Guerre, a mural more than 402 feet long and 50 feet high which was painted by 128 French artists during the period 1914 to 1918 and now resides in a reduced format on the north wall of Memory Hall at Liberty Memorial; and

Whereas, Private Henry Johnson's Distinguished Service Cross was accepted by his son, Herman Johnson of Kansas City, on behalf of the family on February 13, 2003, an event which will be commemorated at the Liberty Memorial ceremony by a host of dignitaries, including former Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver, Mayor Pro-Tem Alvin Brooks, State Representative Sharon Sanders Brooks, Chairman Karen Daniels of the Board of Parks and Recreation, and John Howe of the 369th Veterans Association:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to salute the late Private Henry Johnson and to convey to his surviving family members this legislative body's most heartfelt commendation of his heroic activities during World War I and our sincerest congratulations at the posthumous awarding of his Distinguished Service Cross; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Private Henry Lincoln Johnson, World War I hero.

Offered by _____
Representative Sharon Sanders Brooks
District No. 37

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of
Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First

Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 1739, adopted .

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker