

Eddie Bernice Johnson

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It was from her mother, Lillie Mae (white) Johnson, that Congresswoman Eddie Bernice first learned the qualities of leadership.

“My mother was always well informed on practically any issue that came before us,” Johnson said. “I admired that about her.”

Johnson was elected to her first term in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, polling 74 percent of the vote and becoming the first African American woman to represent Texas in Congress since Barbara Jordan in the 1970s.

During her eight terms as U.S. representative for Texas's 30th Congressional District, Johnson has gained the reputation of being a stateswoman on U.S. foreign policy, working to improve human rights around the globe through her internationally recognized initiative “Women for World Peace.”

Johnson began her political career in the Texas House of Representatives, from 1972-1977, after earning a B.S. in nursing from Texas Christian University and a master's in public administration from Southern Methodist University. She was the first African American woman ever elected to public office in Dallas County. In 1977,



President Jimmy Carter appointed Johnson a regional director of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. She was elected into the Texas Senate in 1986.

Johnson is the founder of the Eddie Bernice Johnson and Associates, a business consulting firm. She has been awarded six honorary degrees from colleges and universities in Texas.