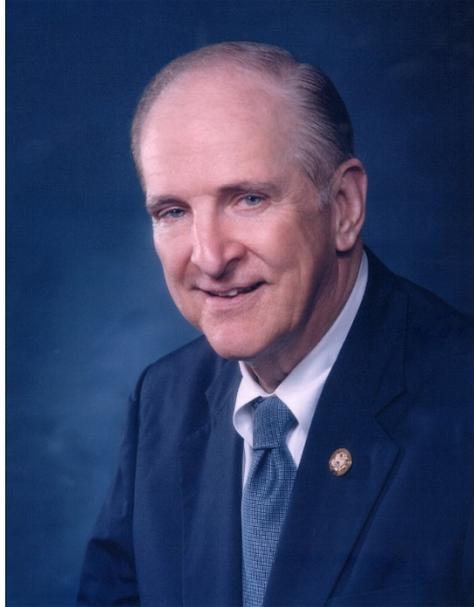


For Immediate Release

October 22, 2018

Council Votes to Name Senior Recreation Center for U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson



Plano City Council members tonight unanimously approved the renaming of the Senior Recreation Center when it opens next year. It will now be called Sam Johnson Recreation Center For Adults 50+.

The new name honors Plano's Sam Johnson, decorated war hero and native Texan who ranks among the few Members of Congress to fight in combat. During his 29-year career in the U.S. Air Force, Representative Johnson flew combat missions in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He endured nearly seven years as a Prisoner of War in Hanoi, including 42 months in solitary confinement. Following his distinguished military career, Sam established a home-building business in North Dallas from scratch and served in the Texas State legislature.

The Council's approval comes after a committee recommended the name change. The Committee consisted of 2 council members appointed by the mayor, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Angela Miner and Council Member Rick Smith along with Robin Reeves, Director of Parks and Recreation and Paul Gerber, Chairman of the Senior Advisory Board.

The committee recommended naming the facility after Sam Johnson. They added "for adults 50+" because national senior organizations and professional recreation organizations highly recommend omitting the use of the word "senior" when naming or describing an older adult recreation center. Studies by these organizations show that today's generation of individuals 50 and older find the word senior offensive and tend not to patronize such facilities.

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Editor's Note: Go to the City's [Media Center](#) for comprehensive information about the City of Plano.

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About Plano

Plano, Texas, is the largest city in Collin County with a population of 281,390 as of January 2018. Incorporated in 1873, the city is located 20 miles north of Dallas. Niche and AreaVibes recently named Plano as one of the Best Cities to Live in America. Forbes designated Plano one of America's safest cities. The City offers a high quality of life that includes nationally recognized schools, award-winning parks, and sustainability initiatives and a wide variety of multi-cultural neighborhoods appealing to families, young singles and retirees. Plano is home to the headquarters or regional operations of major corporations such as Toyota, Liberty Mutual, JPMorgan Chase Boeing Global Services, Fannie Mae, FedEx Office, JC Penney, Keurig Dr Pepper, Rent-A-Center, Cinemark Holdings, Denbury Resources and Alliance Data Systems. Our dynamic community features excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping and entertainment venues, a lively historic downtown district and active local arts scene. Easy access to DART light rail and major highways makes Plano a convenient place to live, work and visit. To learn more about Plano, go to our website at plano.gov.