



Honoring the Life and Legacy of Former Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

January 4, 2024—The Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), which includes 63 national nursing organizations, mourns the loss of one of our great champions, former Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, who passed away at the age of 89. Throughout her career Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson was a trailblazer, leading the way as the first female African American Chief Psychiatric Nurse serving our nation’s veterans in Dallas, Texas, a leader in the Texas House and Senate, and then as the first nurse to be elected to the United States Congress.

The NCC had the privilege of working with her in Congress as she recognized National Nurses Week, served on the Congressional House Nursing Caucus, underscored the importance of science and technology, and advocated for nursing on Capitol Hill. As we reflect on her lifelong dedication to public service, we honor her as a nursing icon and know that her legacy, including elevating the work of our current and future nurses, will continue to be an inspiration to all.

The Nursing Community Coalition includes 63 national nursing organizations that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. Collectively, the coalition represents registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, nurse leaders, boards of nursing, researchers, and students, who are all vital in addressing the public health challenges facing our communities. The coalition is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care.