



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

September 12, 2025

Warm greetings to those gathered in San Antonio today, and congratulations to Joseph Krier; Juan Solis; Tullos Wells, and my good friend of more than 30 years, Jose Villarreal on being inducted into the San Antonio Aviation and Aerospace Hall of Fame. This well-deserved honor is a testament to their visionary leadership during the transition of Kelly Air Force Base to Port San Antonio.

The recommendation to close Kelly Air Force Base in 1995 could have devastated this community, but what happened afterwards—and the enduring success of Port San Antonio 30 years later—is a testament to the power of hard work, perseverance, and cooperation.

As President, I was committed to protecting jobs, and proud to stand with the workers and families at Kelly Air Force Base who had made critical contributions to America's security, and who demonstrated unwavering patriotism and professionalism in the face of uncertainty. I'm grateful to everyone who has played a role in making Port San Antonio a thriving example of military privatization.

I also want to congratulate Kathryn Bolish and Wayne Fagan on their Hall of Fame induction and thank them for their contributions to the aerospace industry in San Antonio. Best wishes for a wonderful celebration, and many more to come.

*Bill Clinton*