



Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator, 1993-2013
U.S. Ambassador to NATO, 2017-2021

September 1, 2026

Christopher Mammen
Dee Howard Foundation
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San Antonio, TX 78259

Dear Friends at the Dee Howard Foundation,

It is a great pleasure to congratulate the Dee Howard Foundation on the 10th Anniversary of the San Antonio Aviation & Aerospace Hall of Fame.

One of the greatest joys of my years serving in the United States Senate was having the opportunity to work with leaders in San Antonio on the future of Kelly Air Force Base. Alongside General Joe Robles and many dedicated civic and business leaders, we worked to preserve the extraordinary aerospace capabilities and skilled workforce that had made Kelly such an important part of our national defense. General Robles, working with my Senate team during the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure process, assured that the language of the report would allow the Kelly facility to remain open for future aviation repair and maintenance and that it would not be limited in doing other important services.

What followed was nothing short of remarkable. Rather than allowing the closure of Kelly to become an economic loss for San Antonio, our community came together to transform the former base into a new center of opportunity. Today, Port San Antonio stands as one of the nation's most successful examples of military-base redevelopment, supporting aerospace, defense, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, logistics and other industries while preserving the proud aviation legacy that began at Kelly more than a century ago.

That history makes the work of the Dee Howard Foundation particularly meaningful. The Hall of Fame is a wonderful tribute to those who have helped make San Antonio an aerospace leader—and an investment in those who will lead it into the future.

With warmest congratulations and best wishes for many more years of success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay Bailey Hutchison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kay" being particularly prominent.

Kay Bailey Hutchison