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Sen. Hutchison Congratulates Silver Star Recipient on 65th Anniversary of D-Day

SPC David Hutchinson Becomes Fifth Army Reserve Soldier to Receive Silver Star

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, on the 65th anniversary of D-Day, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas' senior Senator, praised Army Reserve Specialist David Hutchinson for his courage and valor. Born in Humble, Texas, David Hutchinson enlisted in the Army Reserve in December 2005 after graduating from Brenham High School. While deployed to Afghanistan with the 420th Engineer Brigade, SPC Hutchinson displayed extraordinary valor under fire when he attacked and destroyed an enemy machine gun nest, killed five enemy combatants, and saved the lives of 17 fellow Soldiers.

“Today, we reflect on the events that took place 65 years ago and recognize the bravery of those who participated in that extraordinary undertaking,” said **Sen. Hutchison**. “It is fitting that Specialist Hutchinson is honored on this anniversary with the Silver Star for his valor and courage under fire. He represents the same high ideals as the men who stormed the beaches of Normandy on that fateful day: courage, loyalty, and a steadfast resolve to protect his friends and fellow soldiers at the risk of his own life. I commend Specialist Hutchinson for his courageous actions which earned him this high honor and thank him for his remarkable service to our country.”

On the morning of May 21, 2008, SPC Hutchinson and 17 of his fellow Army Reserve Soldiers of the 420th Engineer Brigade Personal Security Detail were traveling through the mountains of Afghanistan in a convoy of four Humvees when they were attacked in a coordinated ambush by 20 enemy insurgents. The enemy attempted to destroy the convoy with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), small arms fire, and a nested PKM machine gun.

The enemy had fire superiority until SPC Hutchinson engaged and destroyed the machine gun nest. SPC Hutchinson's fire was so effective in disrupting the enemy's efforts that the enemy shifted their attack to concentrate on him and his mounted MK-19 machine gun.

SPC Hutchinson held his position under intense fire, continuing to place fire on the remaining enemy in total disregard of his own peril. Other soldiers later counted over 100 bullet holes in the turret of his Humvee.

SPC Hutchinson destroyed the machine gun position and killed five enemies before he was seriously wounded by shrapnel from an RPG. Even after collapsing from his wounds, he calmly administered first aid to another fallen soldier as the convoy moved out of the combat zone. SPC Hutchinson's actions were the primary disruptor of the enemy, and his actions contributed to the safety of 17 of his fellow soldiers.

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