

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison publishes her third book

Leading Ladies: American Trailblazers

The Texas primary for the 2008 presidential election is March 4, and among the Democratic frontrunners could be the country's first female president. Hillary Clinton is one of 62 women profiled in U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's latest book *Leading Ladies: American Trailblazers*. The book devotes a chapter to first ladies, but also includes biographical portraits of women who've achieved great accomplishments in the military, in journalism, in medicine, in science, and in the civil rights era. "In every field," the author writes, "the opportunity has been won, not given."

In 1993, Hutchison won the opportunity to complete U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bensten's term, becoming the first, and to date only, woman to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate. A year later, she was reelected to a full term and in 2000, she was reelected again, receiving 4 million votes – the highest number of votes ever cast in Texas for a non-presidential candidate. (President George W. Bush received 4,526,917 votes in 2004.)

Will Hutchison run for president? "I really don't want to do that," she told *Plano Profile*. But perhaps the 64-year-old senator from Galveston, Texas, could if she wanted to. *Ladies Home Journal* named Hutchison

one of "The 30 most powerful women in America." And as the chairwoman of the Republican Policy Committee, she is the fourth-highest ranking Republican senator in the 110th Congress. So, what has been her greatest accomplishment as a "leading lady"?

"Well, first of all, I don't think of myself as a woman senator," she said. "But when I got to the Senate, my first major accomplishment for women – because I had experience that only a woman would have – was to assure that women who worked inside the home, as well as outside the home, could have an IRA. I was a working, young single woman and started an IRA, but when I moved to Dallas to marry my husband,

I was not employed for a while, so I couldn't contribute to my IRA anymore. I said, That's not right. Women go in and out of the workplace, more than men, and they don't get the same retirement security. Now, women are able to have IRAs. I thought that was a very important accomplishment."

The senator said she believes women today have come to the forefront in all areas of leadership, from political and corporate roles to volunteering. "I think women now are accepted by what they do and not the fact that they are women," she said.

But there are still "areas we need to work on," like pension equity. Hutchison explained that if an unemployed mom raises her child for six years before he or she attends school, she is at a "significant disadvantage in pensions."

Leading Ladies sheds light on many disadvantages women have been dealt in their pursuit toward equality. "I have a chapter on the first women to win the Nobel Prize in science," said Hutchison. "I talk about their obstacles to get into the best [academic] programs, but they were so brilliant, they could not be denied. Gerty Cori set the standard and the pace."

Gerty Cori was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize. She and her husband, Carl Cori, made important discoveries about sugar metabolism, which led to a greater understanding of diabetes.

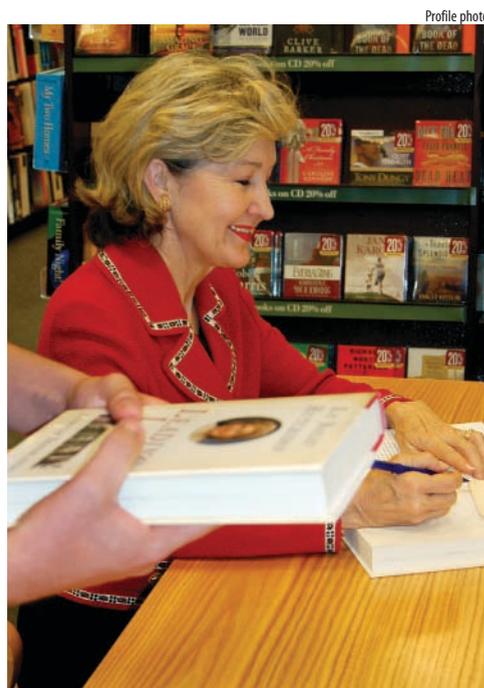
"Also the first woman to get a medical degree in America was Elizabeth Blackwell," Hutchison continued. "She attended Geneva Medical College and was accepted into the program as a joke. They thought it was a

prank that a woman had actually applied."

The students, faculty, and community were appalled, but Blackwell graduated at the top of her class on January, 11, 1849.

Hutchison graduated in 1967 from University of Texas (UT) School of Law. She was a cheerleader and sorority sister of Pi Beta Phi. After college, she worked as a legal and political reporter for KPRC-TV in Houston covering the Texas Legislature.

What she used to report on, she now represents. In June of 2000, Hutchison and her colleagues wrote *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate*. (There were nine women in the Senate at the time. Now, there are 16.) In 2004, she released *American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country*.



Signing copies of *Leading Ladies* at Barnes & Noble.

When *Plano Profile* asked the senator who her role models are both in the political world and in her personal life, she responded, "Margaret Thatcher in the political world. I just think she is wonderful. She's very creative. She had new ideas for Great Britain and believed that it was the entrepreneurship of Americans that made our country so far ahead of the European countries. She tried to emulate much of that."

Margaret Hilda Thatcher served as Great Britain's Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990 and led the Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990, being the first and only woman to hold either post.

"In my personal life," Hutchison continued, "my mom and dad. They gave me so many opportunities. Also, my husband is so supportive ... long-suffering I have to say, with all of the things that I have done. I really admire and respect him."

The senator and her husband, Ray, married in 1978. They adopted two children, Kathryn Bailey and Houston Taylor, and call Dallas home, but the senator has a second house in Virginia when Congress is in session.

Will Hutchison run for governor in 2010? She told *Plano Profile*, "If everything goes the way it's going now, I'm going to."

Excerpt from Chapter 2

"First Ladies: The Hardest Unpaid Job in the World"

When our founding fathers were constructing the new democracy for America, they took great care to differentiate between the egalitarian standards they sought and the trappings of royal families they eschewed. As our first president, George Washington set the tone, avoiding an overly grand inauguration.

However, the president and First Lady have evolved, through the years, as representatives of the American people. Their every move is watched and chronicled. First Ladies attract attention in every respect, even though they are not elected. During campaigns, one of the factors the public seems to consider is the question: How will this family represent America? Will their conduct reflect what is best for our country?

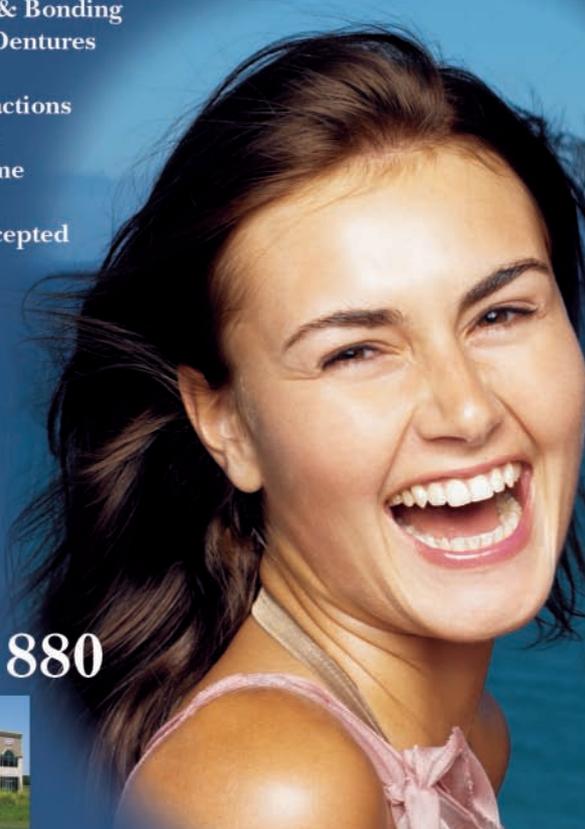
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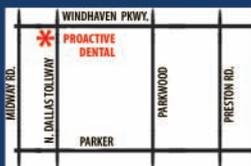
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Licensed Professional Counselor
National Certified Counselor
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist