

CONGRESSMAN KENNY MARCHANT



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A HERO AMONG US

Near the close of 2007, Sgt. Derrick Castleberry of Colleyville led a vehicle convoy over the dusty roads of a small Afghan village. His unit was conducting a presence patrol when, within seconds of spotting unidentified tracers nearby, Sgt. Castleberry's armed hummer was hit with a rocket propelled grenade (RPG). Severely injured, Sgt. Castleberry was quickly pulled aside for medical care.

Then the second ambush hit. Despite his wounds, and exhibiting admirable courage, Sgt. Castleberry grabbed his gear and reentered the scene to help defend his team.

An Army Ranger and member on the esteemed HALO team, Sgt. Castleberry was sent home for surgeries and rehabilitation. While participating in the Veterans History Project with my office, he said he returned to America with a new perspective, one of deeper gratitude to be alive and living in a free country. Upon exiting the military in 2008, Sgt. Castleberry fulfilled his childhood dream of joining Colleyville's respected law enforcement team.

The 24th District has a hero among us, and I had the honor to commend this valiant, distinguished soldier, as well as many others, at a recent Purple Heart Ceremony. To our Texas veterans, you are all heroes of liberty. It's important to me that not one of you goes unrecognized or your story untold for your service to our country.

For veterans in the 24th District interested in pursuing unclaimed medals or participating in the Veterans History Project, please contact my Irving office for details at (972) 556-0162.



Congressman Marchant with Sgt. Derrick Castleberry at a Purple Heart Ceremony.