GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

American History Awaits You in Dallas

By Marcus C. Dunn, SSA Director, Government Relations

“Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

~ U.S. President John F. Kennedy

Like the Force in the Star Wars saga, government is all around us. As it is in Washington, D.C., it is true in Dallas—site of the 2016 SSA Spring Conference & Trade Show.

Well-known to all is the tragic assassination of our 35th president, John F. Kennedy. While many who are attending the SSA conference may not have been alive on November 22, 1963, let alone remember where they were 52 years and four months ago, attendees can explore this incredible historical event, just steps from the Hyatt Regency, and visit the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza as well as the plaza itself. The museum is said to feature oral histories, the Zapruder Film, a cell phone tour and other exhibits.

On a more positive note, Fort Worth, less than an hour’s drive away, is where one of six U.S. Mint facilities is housed. In this particular location, visitors can take a free tour and see the place where more than half of our nation’s paper currency is produced. Yes, that’s billions of dollars a year.

One of the more iconic structures in Dallas is the Santa Fe Federal Building, which was built in 1925. Described as an Art Deco-style structure, and just a 15-minute walk from the Hyatt, the building is an example of early skyscrapers. The federally-occupied facility has 10 stories of office space plus an additional nine stories that make up the office tower, which rises from the front. Interestingly enough, according to the General Services Administration (GSA), your federal government’s property manager, the tower is unoccupied and is used for storage by the tenant agencies.

The Dallas metropolitan area has a population of nearly 7 million, and the state itself has more than 4,640 storage facilities (not to mention the spaces kept by the GSA). Texas is by far the biggest state in the Union when it comes to the number of self storage properties.

While a trip to Austin to tour the state capitol might sound enticing, please be aware that Texas is one of four states whose legislature is not meeting this year. The place might be very quiet.

However, of the 46 states that are in session this year, your SSA is pursuing legislative changes to lien laws and tenant insurance provisions in more than a dozen. These issues arise from our ability to track the needs of our membership, but the system also relies on the active participation of individuals like you.

If you have an issue you would like to discuss, please call us here at the SSA; or even better, seek us out at one of the conferences. Together we can help our government be the best that it can be: attentive, responsive and responsible for the power we give her.

So, if you find yourself in the Big D at an industry conference in the near future, please take some time to absorb the history around you—and the enduring words of a man whose life was ended just steps from where you might be reading this.

Don’t Get Left in the Dark!

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