



THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM
AT DEALEY PLAZA

For Immediate Release

CONFLICTING CONCLUSIONS PROGRAM TO FEATURE KEY MEMBERS OF WARREN COMMISSION AND HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

DALLAS, TX – September 26, 2018: The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza is presenting an unprecedented event on Monday, October 29. *Conflicting Conclusions: The Government Assassination Investigations* will provide unique firsthand insights into the Warren Commission (1964) and the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations (1979) reports, the two key government investigations into the November 22, 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Museum is honored to host a conversation between Howard P. Willens, Assistant Counsel on the staff of the Warren Commission, and G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Staff Director for the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations. The October 29 program will mark the first time these two highly respected members of the legal profession will sit down together to publicly discuss the context of these investigations which were conducted 15 years apart, including their findings and why questions remain still today.

“As the intense subjects of discussion and debate that continue today, these government investigations reflect the evolution of the memory and mood of the nation, from a desire for closure in the immediate aftermath of the assassination to heightened cynicism and mistrust of the government more than a decade later,” said Nicola Longford, Chief Executive Officer of The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. “It is apropos that this conversation takes place at The Sixth Floor Museum, as the Museum strives to be a haven for differing perspectives, ongoing discourse and a shared journey of scholarship and discovery. The combined hearings and exhibits of these two investigations provide invaluable resources to inspire new generations of researchers toward a continued study of the Kennedy assassination.”

One week after the November 22, 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, President Lyndon B. Johnson established The President’s Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. Chaired by Chief Justice Earl Warren, this prestigious investigative body, commonly known as the Warren Commission, presented its Final Report to President Johnson on September 24, 1964, concluding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone and finding no evidence of a conspiracy.

Following a wave of critical literature by independent researchers about the assassination investigation, amplified by the skepticism and social unrest of the 1960s and the Watergate scandal in the early 1970s, public trust in the Warren Commission Report significantly dropped.

In 1975, the Abraham Zapruder film that captured the assassination was broadcast for the first time on network television, leading to increased interest in the circumstances surrounding the death of President Kennedy. Further fueled by revelations that government agencies had withheld information from the Warren Commission, in September 1976, the U.S. House of

Representatives established the Select Committee on Assassinations to investigate the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. While several scientific studies commissioned by the House Select Committee corroborated some findings of the Warren Commission and they concurred that Oswald killed President Kennedy, acoustical analysis of a Dallas police dictabelt recording led the Committee to conclude in their Final Report issued in 1979 that the President “was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy.”

Conflicting Conclusions: The Government Assassination Investigations will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 29 on the Museum’s seventh floor. Program tickets are \$25, and are available for advance purchase at jfk.org.

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About Howard P. Willens

An attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Justice Department in 1963, Howard P. Willens served as Assistant Counsel on the staff of the Warren Commission. He is the author of *History Will Prove Us Right: Inside the Warren Commission Report on the Assassination of John F. Kennedy* (2013).

About G. Robert Blakey

A longtime law professor at Notre Dame and Cornell Law School, G. Robert Blakey was appointed Chief Counsel and Staff Director to the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations from 1977 to 1979. He is co-author of *The Plot to Kill President Kennedy* (1981).

Contact Information

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About the Museum

Mission Statement: The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza chronicles the assassination and legacy of President John F. Kennedy; interprets the Dealey Plaza National Historic Landmark District and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza; and presents contemporary culture within the context of presidential history.

Vision Statement: To be an impartial, multi-generational destination and forum for exploring the memory and effects of the events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, through sharing his legacy and its impact on an ever-changing global society.

Located at 411 Elm Street in downtown Dallas, the Museum is open Monday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesday – Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Audio guides for the permanent exhibit are included with admission and available in eight languages, including ASL. For more information, visit jfk.org or call 214.747.6660.

Admission: \$16 Adult, \$14 Senior, \$13 Youth (children aged 5 and under are free).