John Goodwin Tower ‘53 led a remarkable life of leadership and public service. From 1961 to 1985, he served as a U.S. senator from Texas, his tenure culminating in the chairmanship of the Committee on Armed Services. After his Senate service, he served as a member of the U.S. arms negotiation team in Geneva and chairman of the Tower Commission in 1987 investigating the Iran-Contra scandal. Senator Tower served as a member of the SMU Board of Trustees from 1968 to 1987. He and his daughter Marian G. Tower died in the crash of a commercial aircraft near Brunswick, Georgia, on April 5, 1991. His legacy of service and leadership lives on through the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies, which carries out the commitment of the late U.S. senator and SMU alumnus to educate and inspire a new generation of thoughtful leaders.
Membership in the SMU Tower Center Forum gives you exclusive access to a range of programs facilitated by the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies, the premier academic center for public and international affairs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The Tower Center for Political Studies was created to commemorate the late U.S. senator whose life was dedicated to public service and education. In the spirit of John Tower’s commitment to educate and inspire a new generation of thoughtful leaders, the Tower Center seeks to bridge the gap between the world of ideas, scholarship and teaching, and the practice of politics.

**The Tower Center**
- shapes tomorrow’s leaders by empowering students to lead and serve
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- meet and engage with scholars, political leaders and major figures in international affairs
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**Learn more about the Tower Center Forum:**
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