

Secret Museum That Visitors Will Never See

今回は、アメリカ政府の秘密機関「シークレットサービス」が運営する特別な博物館の話題です。この施設は一般には公開されていませんが、歴史的な展示のほか、職務中に命を落とした職員たちを追悼する空間でもあります。「honor」は「敬意を表す」という意味で、honor one's memory（故人の功績をたたえる）や honor fallen heroes（殉職した英雄をたたえる）といった使い方をします。あなたの国にも、過去の人々を称えるために作られた場所がありますか？講師と話してみましょう。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

The capital city of Washington, D.C. is home to many famous museums in the United States. But there is one museum in the city that visitors will never get to see: the U.S. Secret Service Museum.

Placed inside the agency's headquarters, the one-room museum shows objects from the agency's history. It also honors the 40 men and women of the service who have died while performing their duty.

Mike Sampson is a historian and archivist at the U.S. Secret Service. He said the museum is only open to agency workers, their families, and some special guests. He added that concerns about security and lack of resources are the reasons the museum is closed to other visitors.

The Secret Service is probably best known for protecting U.S. presidents. But its first mission was to fight financial crime.

Jason Kendrick is another historian and archivist at the U.S. Secret Service. He said that on April 14, 1865, the treasury secretary at the time, Hugh McCulloch, suggested to U.S. President Abraham Lincoln to create an agency to fight counterfeit, or fake money.

“At the time, one-third of all the [currency](#) in the U.S. during and post-Civil War was counterfeit,” said Kendrick. So, on the same day that Lincoln approved the creation of the Secret Service, he was killed a few hours later at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C.

It was not until 1901, after the assassination of President William McKinley, that the Secret Service added the job of protecting the president. But the service’s work had expanded before then to fighting other kinds of crime. One reason is that other agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency, did not yet exist.

The Secret Service fought against activities such as illegal trade, crimes relating to land ownership, and spying. Kendrick explained that beginning in 1868, the Secret Service was permitted to fight any crime against the federal government.

Some exhibits in the museum show examples of counterfeiting. Others show the dangers of presidential life, such as the gun used during the 1975 assassination attempt on President Gerald Ford in San Francisco, California.

Now, the service also protects candidates for president, visiting heads of state, important foreign visitors, and special events related to national security. It also continues to fight financial crime and fight against school violence and other attacks.

Working those duties sometimes comes at a price for Secret Service members.

On display at the museum are objects from terrorist attacks in which Secret Service members were killed. These include the bombing of a government building on April 19, 1995, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. Sampson says this part of the museum is a way to respectfully honor those Service members.

The museum, Sampson said, “gives us an opportunity to [reflect on](#) the history of our agency, and also to show what we’re doing these days.”

I’m Andrew Smith.

Dora Mekouar wrote this story for Voice of America. Andrew Smith adapted this story for VOA Learning English.

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. honor (v.) to show respect for

We held a special dinner to honor the local volunteer firefighters.

2. duty (n.) a job or task that a person must do

The duty of a police officer is to protect the public.

3. agency (n.) part of a government that provides a service

The Environmental Protection Agency helps to keep the air and water clean.

4. currency (n.) a form of money used by a country

The Euro has been the currency for the European Union for over twenty-five years.

5. reflect on (v.) to think deeply about

At the end of the day, I like to reflect on what I have learned.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What is the purpose of the U.S. Secret Service museum?
2. Why was the Secret Service originally started? What does it do today?
3. What things are on display at the museum?
4. Do you know anything about other agencies like the Secret Service or the CIA?
What countries are they in? What do they do?
5. Are you interested in working for a government agency? If so, which one? If not, why?