

# SBE Remembers Senator Dianne Feinstein

By Leslie Ann McMillan

To the people of San Francisco, Dianne Feinstein was an elected supervisor for nine years, then the city’s trailblazing first woman mayor for another nine years.

To the people of California, Dianne Feinstein was the state’s first woman United States senator, serving for more than thirty years—longer than any previous senator from California, and longer than any other woman in senate history.

To the people of the United States, Dianne Feinstein was a respected senator who championed the Democratic party’s key issues as the chair or a member of various senate committees throughout the decades.

During her fifty years of public service as an elected official, until the day of her recent passing at age ninety, Senator Feinstein was also known as a leader who sought to work with people of differing political views in order to solve problems and accomplish significant public policy goals. Among the many bipartisan issues that Senator Feinstein

cooperated across the aisle to address were matters of national security, crime, justice, natural resources, environmental protection, and immigration.

To Small Business Exchange (SBE), founded in San Francisco in 1984, Dianne Feinstein was an active, accessible, caring mayor who visited every neighborhood and attended countless events. Mayor Feinstein tackled tough issues. She also provided steady support to the concerns that continue to motivate SBE’s service to small, disadvantaged businesses from coast to coast.

In October 1995, Senator Feinstein sent a kind letter to Gerald Johnson, who is the co-founder of SBE, along with his wife and business partner, Valerie Voorhies Johnson. Senator Feinstein wrote: *Dear Gerald:*

*I am pleased to join the Black Business Association in recognizing and congratulating you for being honored with the Outstanding Entrepreneur Award.*

*Your work as the founder of the Black Business Administration in San Francisco and as an advocate for minority contractors in the public and private sector has been truly inspirational.*



The doors that you have helped to open for African Americans in the contracting business has helped pave the way for future leaders to follow. Everyone has benefitted from your hard work and dedication and I commend you on receiving this

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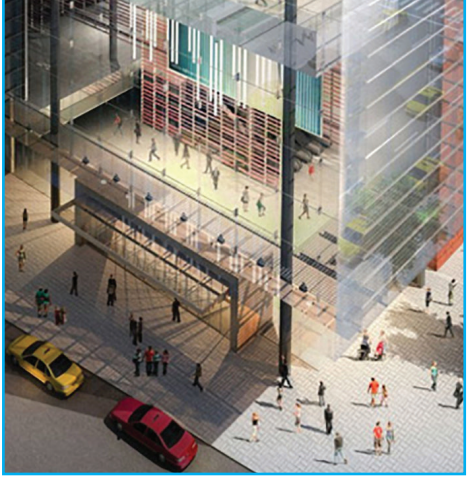
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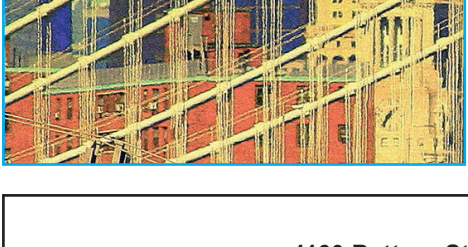
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If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska’s Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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COMPANY PROFILE

Edwards Unlimited is an award-winning media production and leadership development business enterprise. Our company is dedicated to helping corporations, entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations celebrate their successes and share their vision with the world through high quality video production, media/ presentation training and strategic communications. President & CEO Janice Edwards is an award-winning talk show host, Emmy-nominated producer, co-author of the international best-seller *Step Into Your Brilliance*, an in-demand MC, and an acclaimed contributor to community empowerment through her media work.

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For more info contact  
Valerie Voorhies at  
[vvv@sbeinc.com](mailto:vvv@sbeinc.com)

NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2023

**8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar**  
Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 10:30 am–11:30 am  
Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, [illinois.do@sba.gov](mailto:illinois.do@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required  
Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

**Selling to the Federal Government Webinar**  
Thursday, October 26, 2023, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm  
Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, [george.tapia@sba.gov](mailto:george.tapia@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required  
Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

**SBA and SOS Monthly Webinar**  
Thursday, November 2, 2023, 9:00 am–11:00 am  
Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division  
Contact: Miguel Moralez, 603-225-1601, [miguel.moralez@sba.gov](mailto:miguel.moralez@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required  
Starting a new business? Looking for capital and finance options? Looking for general advice on starting or maintaining your business? Hear from representatives from the local SBA office and the New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division. This workshop (currently held online during the pandemic) is offered on the first Thursday of every month. To join this free webinar, copy and paste the link below into your browser, then register for tickets for the date of your choice to receive the access code. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/secretary-of-state-quickstart-and-small-business-administration-programs-tickets-262004180557>

