



## CENTER FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY

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### **The Honorable Carole L. Brookins**

March 24, 2020

The world lost a giant last night from COVID-19. Although just over five feet tall, The Honorable Carole L. Brookins could fill a room with her intellect, vibrancy, and deep knowledge of policy – and at the same time her warmth and caring. She worked tirelessly to help foster a world filled with freedom, peace, reason, fairness, and economic vibrancy for all. Carole was a founding Advisory Board Member and Member of the Board of Trustees at the Center for Financial Stability (CFS) as well as cherished friend.

Carole was a pioneer in many ways. Her career in finance began as a trainee underwriter of municipal bonds in Chicago, earning less than half the salary of a male trainee, but that was no deterrent to a formidable career in the private sector and government. She worked at the Chicago Board of Trade and the commodity department at EF Hutton before founding and serving as the Chairman and CEO of World Perspectives Inc. – a commodity research company which exists to this day.

Carole served from 2001 to 2005 as the World Bank Group Executive Director representing United States. She earned praise for her interactions with many Board members from developing nations as well as her work with members of senior management at the International Monetary Fund. She contributed to many corporate and nonprofit boards in highly effective ways carrying on the mission of the World Bank with a market-oriented twist. Her recent board activities included serving as a member of the American Financial Exchange (AFX) Board of Directors, Nieuw World Capital Management's Advisory Board, the AIM-listed holding company Climate Exchange plc (CLE) and the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), Chairman of the North American Advisory Board of NTR plc, member of the Rabobank North America Agribusiness Advisory Board, and a Trustees of E-4 Impact-a UK-based non-profit that accelerates African energy access through SME's. She also served on the U.S. President's Export Council and State Department Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy. She was awarded the Merit Agricole by the Government of France.

Most important to Carole was her beloved The First Alliance Foundation (TFA), where she was the Founder and Founding Chairman. In only one year, TFA awarded its first grants to coincide with commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Paris (August 1944) to enhance the French-American strategic alliance for the common benefit. Carole was especially proud of TFA's organizing confidence building and bilateral thought-leadership exchanges between current and future French and American military leaders.

Carole loved history and she loved living history – while also keeping a keen eye toward the future. After President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico and Carole spoke on leadership and vision at the final dinner of the CFS Bretton Woods conference in 2014, Carole invoked a quote from



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General Charles de Gaulle. The leader of the Free French and future President of France noted that,

***"Nothing great will be achieved without great men (people), and men (people) are great only if they are determined to be."***

Carole L. Brookins was such a person. We have lost a great friend, colleague, and business partner. Yet, Carole's spirit, energy, and devotion to humanity and all that knew her will be with us forever.