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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2021

Statement from CSPC President and CEO on the Passing of General Colin Powell:

“Our country has experienced a national loss with the passing of General Colin Powell. Powell dedicated his life to the national security of our country and became an icon in leadership and service. He was an inspiration to many in his career, breaking boundaries as the youngest and first black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. With his historic elevation to Secretary of State, he became a leading voice for the importance of diplomacy to match America’s great military strength. He was known for his uplifting leadership style, placing great value in the people who served under his commands at all levels. He took great interest in developing and empowering those who worked for him and understood the value of connecting elements of national service to the American people. I had the honor of serving as a junior officer in Secretary Powell’s State Department, where he encouraged us to spend time in our home communities across the country, visiting schools and civic leagues and talking to our hometown newspapers about the day-to-day work of diplomats abroad and how we served American interests, in order to build a stronger domestic constituency for diplomacy. As Secretary, he was known to walk unannounced into offices and conference rooms to meet and learn informally about the people working in the building and how he could support them.

Colin Powell was a man of high integrity who spoke truth to presidents and publicly owned his missteps. He was an exemplar in public service, both at the national and community level, and always kept his loyalty to the country over partisan interests. America will be well served if generations to come learn to live Powell’s values. He will be dearly missed.”

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The Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC) is a non-partisan think tank that addresses the key challenges facing our nation through studying the lessons of history, convening decision makers from government and the private sector, and educating the next generation of leaders.