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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2021

Statement of CSPC President and CEO Glenn Nye on the Passing of Secretary Madeleine K. Albright

As a democratic country in Europe is under unjustified attack from authoritarian Russia, the world needs more strong voices like Dr. Madeleine K. Albright's. Sadly, the world lost this champion of democracy, freedom, and justice. Her legacy will continue to inspire the students she taught, the civil society leaders she met with, the global citizens she spoke out for, the men and women she mentored, and the employees she led. I was lucky to be one of those employees at the Department of State when I was sworn in as a Foreign Service Officer in 1999. At the State Department she ushered in a strategy of "assertive multilateralism" wherein the United States would secure its national interests by working with international partners, while reserving the prerogative to go it alone when necessary.

Growing up in war torn Europe and fleeing communist Czechoslovakia for our shores shaped her belief in America as a force for freedom and democracy and gave her voice a unique resonance. Her character, determination, and leadership qualities guided her to the position of U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. and Secretary of State, breaking barriers in what had previously been largely a male-dominated foreign policy establishment.

Perhaps the clearest manifestation of Albright's impact on the world can be found among the people of Kosovo, who cheered her defense of their country and nicknamed her "Nona" (mother) for her role in Kosovo's independence and the pursuit of justice against Serbian war crimes.

CSPC will honor Secretary Albright's legacy by continuing our mission to strengthen American partnerships with likeminded allies and partners, acting in concert to champion democracy, freedom, and a more just world.

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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.