

LAZARD



In Memory of Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

1935 – 2021

On March 1, 2021, Lazard lost our long-time partner and colleague, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. The following is a memo to the firm from our Chairman and CEO, Kenneth M. Jacobs:

With deep sorrow, I regret to inform you that Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. died last evening, while at home with his family. The world has lost an exceptional man; we have lost an irreplaceable friend, colleague and inspiration.

A Lazard partner since 1999, Vernon was integral to our standing and growth as a public company. He was a trusted advisor to clients, an ambassador for the firm, and a wise counsel to his colleagues, in all matters.

Vernon made a difference. He lived an extraordinary life, establishing his place in history as a civil rights leader, a successful attorney and businessman, and an advisor to United States Presidents of both political parties. His achievements were doubly remarkable considering the obstacles he overcame as a Black man rising from the virulent racism of America's segregated Deep South.

Vernon burned brighter than the rest of us, with a vitality amplified by his imposing frame and resonant voice. With humor, curiosity, wisdom and a knowing smile, he formed personal connections easily. People from a wide swath of society sought his advice and assistance: CEOs and senior statesmen, young and old, accomplished or aspiring. With a great and generous spirit, he was never too busy for anyone.

During this time of upheaval, we feel his loss even more acutely. It is reassuring to know that Vernon was a man of deep faith. As a lifelong fighter for justice, he was no stranger to setbacks, and he found solace in the church that shaped his upbringing.

Alongside his family and legions of those whose lives he touched, we grieve for his passing.