

USISPF Statement: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Frederick W. Smith, Founder of FedEx

USISPF is deeply saddened by the passing of Frederick W. Smith, the founder, executive chairman, and long-time chairman and CEO of FedEx Corporation.

Fred was a towering leader and an industry pioneer who not only revolutionized the express delivery sector but also redefined the global logistics and supply chain landscape. He epitomized the “hub and spokes” system and built FedEx into a global colossus, an economic bellwether whose efficiency and innovation empowered countless businesses and industries worldwide.

Fred’s relentless pursuit of excellence and innovation made FedEx one of the most iconic enterprises in modern history.

Along with being a blue-chip company, FedEx commanded significant soft power, becoming a globally recognized household name and a symbol of reliability in logistics.

A former U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Fred was a true American patriot who often credited his time in the Marines as having taught him more about leadership and running FedEx than his time at an Ivy League Institute. His service to the country extended far beyond business. His unwavering commitment to philanthropy, education, public service, and veterans’ affair truly set him apart and made a profound impact on communities around the world.

As a proud son of Memphis, Fred was deeply invested in the city’s growth and well-being, with FedEx serving as a key economic engine for the region. But his influence transcended geography. Fred’s leadership and global impact are being mourned not only in Memphis, but by business, civic, and policy leaders across the world who admired his contribution to innovation and global economy.

On behalf of the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum and our Board of Directors, we extend our deepest condolences to Fred’s family and friends, the entire FedEx family, and Raj Subramaniam, President & CEO of FedEx and Vice Chair of USISPF, who succeeded Fred in 2022.

Fred’s life and legacy will continue to shape global business and inspire generations to come.