

19 April 2009

*Remarks delivered by*

**George F. Russell, Jr.**

Since she arrived at NBR in 1994, Brigitte has been a big part of my association with nearly everything NBR. As NBR Chairman, I worked with her on every board meeting, every major event I participated in, and the development of NBR as an institution.

Brigitte was a great professional. I love to see people undaunted by problems, and Brigitte might hesitate for a second, but never failed to accept a crisis as a challenge to be tackled—even an opportunity to be grasped. And she had an amazing personal touch. Just like my late wife Jane was the “heart & soul” of the Russell Company, Brigitte was the “heart & soul” of NBR. She mentored interns, fellows, and young staff members at NBR as readily as she traveled the globe talking with corporate leaders. And she relished bringing me and others along to think we had a great idea, when in fact it might be her own. And boy did she have a tremendous sense of humor! We were fortunate to be able to visit her in the hospice, where she literally continued to toil away on NBR business, often notepad in hand. For all these reasons she earned my very deepest professional respect. She defined loyalty and dedication and can-do.

Most importantly, she became a dear friend, a thoughtful, vibrant friend to Dion and me, and to so many Russell Company and Russell 20-20 colleagues. Brigitte was not one of those people you forget when you leave the job. And she did not forget you. How many times did I open a card or note congratulating me on this or that milestone!

Her determination was evident in all her accomplishments not only at NBR, but throughout her life.

The number of people she has touched extends far beyond the doors of NBR. Her passion for people and her love of life is evident in the many and heart-felt pictures you see around you today.

Her strength challenged us, her character encouraged us, and she leaves an enduring legacy that we all can cherish.

Brigitte M. Gort-Allen Memorial Service

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So today we truly celebrate her. Brigitte built an enviable track record of living her life to the fullest. Her thirst for learning and her desire to experience life took her all over the globe. And I have no doubt that without her NBR would not be the organization it is today.

She always called me “boss”, but more often than not I felt she was the one who was truly the “boss.”