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## **Press Release**

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### **United States - New Zealand Council Mourns the Death of Council Founder and Chair Emerita, Anne Martindell, Former US Ambassador to New Zealand**

**Washington DC** – The United States – New Zealand Council mourns the death of its founder, Ambassador Anne Martindell, who passed away yesterday in Princeton, New Jersey at age 93. Anne Martindell served as US Ambassador to New Zealand from 1979 to 1981. She established the Council in 1986 to “foster and strengthen relations between the two countries in all areas” and remained a true champion of the US-NZ relationship, bringing energy, resolve, and creative leadership to the work of the Council. She had many friends in New Zealand and returned often, most recently to attend the US-NZ Partnership Forum in Auckland in September 2007, where Prime Minister Helen Clark and other participants paid special tribute to her significant contributions to US-NZ relations.

In announcing Ambassador Martindell’s passing to Council members and friends, Council President John Mullen said Anne “exemplified courage and dignity in every aspect of her life.” Mr. Mullen said “Anne was an inspiration to all of us. She employed her keen intellect with charm, grace, wisdom, wit, tenacity and great effectiveness. She faithfully attended Council meetings and events and took great pride in its accomplishments.”

Paul Cleveland, former US Ambassador to New Zealand and Malaysia and current Chairman of the Council said “I have lost a wonderful friend. Her determination to get Auckland last September at age 93 was typical of Anne and a real tribute to her courage, will, loyalty and character. But in addition to inspiring the distinguished US delegation, it also allowed her to hear the many expressions of admiration and affection from New Zealand and American friends as well as the consensus conviction of both governments that the relationship is the best in decades.”

Anne Martindell’s determination and *joie d’vivre* so well known to Council members was epitomized by her drive to complete her degree at Smith College at age 87, studies she had left decades earlier to become a wife and mother. When she learned of Ambassador Martindell’s death last evening, NZ Prime Minister Helen Clark said “Anne was a great American who exemplified a generosity of spirit and a genuine affection for New Zealand that made all New Zealanders warm to her. We have lost a very dear friend.” The Council mourns this remarkable woman and dear friend and extends its deepest sympathy to her family. - End