

October 19, 2021

The news of Colin Powell's death felt particularly personal to the cable industry, with his son Michael Powell leading NCTA – The Internet & Television Association for the past 10 years. The family said the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State under George W. Bush died of complications from a breakthrough case of COVID-19. Powell was 84. He was fully vaccinated, according to the family, and reportedly immunocompromised with a form of blood cancer.

Comcast Cable President & CEO and NCTA Board Chair Dave Watson issued condolences on behalf of NCTA's staff and board. "Today, America lost a trailblazing leader who always put his country first and led with compassion, dignity and grace. We join with the rest of America in mourning the loss of this remarkable human being," Watson said.

Other industry organizations expressed their sympathy. "All of us at WICT send our heartfelt condolences to NCTA CEO Michael Powell on the passing of his beloved father, American icon, Colin Powell. General Powell, first Black U.S. Secretary of State and youngest Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, serves as a role model for generations of individuals who aspire to greatness," WICT said in a statement. ACA Connects President & CEO Matt Polka added his condolences, saying Americans will remember Powell "for a long time as a model soldier, diplomat, White House advisor and a voice of wisdom and reason who reassured the country that it can meet any challenge by living up to its best ideas." Powell's passing comes less than two weeks after his son Michael spoke during a virtual Walter Kaitz Foundation gathering, urging attendees to encourage COVID vaccinations. *(Cablefax)*

"America mourns the loss of General Colin Powell, a great American soldier and statesman," [tweeted Todd Eachus, BCAP President](#). "General Powell will always be remembered for his courage, leadership, civility and compassion. He set an example that we would all do well to follow. We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family of General Powell, including NCTA President and CEO Michael Powell."

LightReading

Verizon, AT&T dial back promotions amid cable onslaught

Both Verizon and AT&T have in recent days taken a step back from their aggressive smartphone promotions. The moves come as Charter Communications and Comcast – two of the nation's biggest cable companies – get more belligerent in the mobile industry. Overall, the situation has led some analysts to begin warning of a major clash between the wireless and cable industries.

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Wall Street Journal

U.S. Lawmakers Step Up Efforts to Adopt Tougher Tech Laws

Legislation to curb the influence of big technology companies, including putting new restrictions on online content, is starting to gain traction in Congress as lawmakers narrow their targets and seek to build on public attention.

A bipartisan group of senators including Amy Klobuchar (D., Minn.) and Chuck Grassley (R., Iowa) came out last week in favor of legislation that would prohibit dominant platforms from favoring their own products or services, boosting similar efforts already under way in the House.

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