It is with great sadness that I inform you Stephen Straus, a Financial Advisor in our Chicago office, was among the seven individuals killed in the tragic mass shooting in Highland Park, Illinois, on July 4.

Steve began his career in 1968 and joined the Stifel family in 1998. He continued to serve his valued clients at age 88, not because he had to, but because he wanted to, commuting to the office each morning by train.

He was always willing to share ideas — an ambassador of the office. He was kind and gentle, warm hearted, and had a great sense of humor. "Steve looked out for the whole family," said his niece, Cynthia Straus. "He was like a big, big oak tree, an umbrella of well-being for all of us. It's a big loss." He will be missed by all.

Our thoughts are with the Straus family, as well as with the families of the other victims.

## Ron Kruszewski Chairman and CEO



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