In his role as non-executive chairman of Ally Financial, Fritz Hobbs has overseen the survival and turnaround of the financial services giant formerly known as GMAC, drawing on tremendous creativity, grace, and grit to get the job done.

“Fritz’s leadership has been consistently exceptional throughout the Ally turnaround. He has done tenfold the work of a ‘normal’ director,” says fellow Ally director and Gannett Chairman Marge Magner.

Mr Hobbs has guided the company through several life-threatening events, ticking off critical milestones including a CEO change, the sale of international operations, and a strategic bankruptcy, all while dealing with shareholders with very different goals.

“He works through obstacles – often thrown up by Ally’s many regulators – and minimizes their impact on the rest of the board whenever possible,” says Ms Magner.

Career Highlights
- CEO of investment bank Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin from 2002 to 2003
- Worked at Dillon, Read & Co. from 1972 to 1997, serving as CEO from 1992 to 1997, and ultimately as Chairman of UBSWarburg following a series of mergers between Dillon Read and SBC Warburg, and later Union Bank of Switzerland
- Previously served on the Board of Overseers of Harvard University