It is our responsibility to continue to work to benefit from his life's work. Mr. Mace instilled confidence and respect and love for a man who touched so many lives.

Ron's life was not about heroism or inspiration, but about making his vision of a world of accessible and comfortable environments a reality for everyone. Mr. Mace was an architect who envisioned environments that were accessible and comfortable for everyone. He was a pioneer in the fight for the rights of millions of disabled Americans.

Mr. Mace was a mentor to thousands of persons with disabilities, himself disabled by polio at the age of 9. By his example and through his work, Mr. Mace instilled confidence and purpose and encouraged many to be proud members of the disability community and to contribute to the cause of disability rights. Mr. Mace was an architect who envisioned environments that were accessible and comfortable for everyone, regardless of age or ability. He coined the term "universal design" for his concept.

When Ronald L. Mace passed away on June 29, 1998, Mr. Mace became a community together once again. Like the 5-year-old girl, I also gazed at the man in the casket, set on a low-bred stand a foot off the floor. As the child touched the man's shirt lightly, her mother directed her attention to the side of the casket. "See his wheelchair, honey. That's how he got around. It's motorized and it can go fast!"

Ronald L. Mace, the Raleigh architect and disability rights leader who died June 29, 1998, dreamed of environments that were accessible and comfortable for everyone, regardless of age or ability. He coined the term "universal design" for his concept. Mr. Mace was an architect who envisioned environments that were accessible and comfortable for everyone, regardless of age or ability. He coined the term "universal design" for his concept.

Ron reached out to thousands of people with disabilities, instilling confidence and purpose by sharing his knowledge and expertise with everyone. Being a mentor was second nature to him, although he probably never realized he was "mentoring." He had a way of promoting others rather than himself, a quality that made him a leader in the truest sense of the word. Ron's life was not about heroism or inspiration. It was about having the courage to be true to your beliefs and experiences, living with integrity, dignity and respect for everyone, and celebrating differences among us without the constraints of unnecessary, architectural barriers. His life called us to continue building community among people with disabilities and our families, and use our collective strength for the common good.

As Ron did, we who are older must share our disability experience, both the struggles and victories, with the next generation who will be tomorrow's disabilities rights leaders. Finally, Ron would expect us to keep the Americans with Disabilities Act strong and meaningful in North Carolina and our nation so that everyone benefits—disabled and non-disabled alike.

At Ron's funeral, parked on the street was a long line of modified, accessible vans, some with wheelchair lifts extended, bringing the community together once again. Like the 5-year-old girl, I also gazed at the man in the casket and felt deeply the blessing of his life. I didn't have to stand on tiptoe or be lifted up to tell him goodbye. That day, the little girl and I could do what we wanted to do.
E2042 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks October 10, 1998

Louise Fréchette has had a distinguished diplomatic career in her native country of Canada. Prior to her appointment as Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Mme. Fréchette served as the Deputy Defense Minister of Canada and played a particularly important role in Canada’s participation in a number of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Mme. Fréchette’s speech be included in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give it careful and thoughtful attention.

The first article of the Declaration is quite simple. Let me quote it to you: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Nobody personified that spirit of brotherhood better than Raoul Wallenberg. That fact was acknowledged here in Washington 17 years ago and 13 years ago.

Wallenberg became the third foreigner to be given honorary citizenship of this country—thanks to legislation written by, Congressman [TOM] LANTOS.

Wallenberg’s life and achievements highlighted the vital difference an individual can make amidst conflict and suffering. His interaction gave hope to victims, encouraged them to fight and resist, to hang on and bear witness.

Remembering his life should be an inspiration for others to act; for future generations to act; for all of us to act.

Congressman LANTOS, I know that you owe much to Raoul Wallenberg. But I also know we owe much to you, to your indefatigable work in the cause of human rights and in keeping his legacy alive. You, like him, provide an example to us all.

And the work of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus is a powerful example of what can be achieved when we join forces to achieve common goals. Such partnerships strengthen immeasurably the work of governments and the United Nations.

For although the United Nations is an association of sovereign states, the rights it exists to uphold and defend belong to people. It follows that people everywhere have a responsibility to speak up for those rights, whenever they see them threatened, wherever they know them to be violated. For whenever they see them threatened, wherever they know them to be violated. For where they know them to be violated.

You may not agree with all that we do. But I want you to know that we do it with respect for, and compliance with, international human rights standards.

Mr. Speaker, for the United Nations, that makes all the more compelling our duty to translate into practice our commitment to human rights.

In the 1990s, the emphasis has shifted to implementation. Human rights monitors are often attached to peacekeeping operations. We run advisory services to strengthen the judicial and exchange of ideas on a scale never seen before. Those nations which fail to uphold basic principles of acceptable behavior can no longer hide behind their borders.

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For decades, the primary focus in human rights was on establishing international norms and standards. That work was largely successful.

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Hand in hand with human rights come issues related to good governance. Increasingly across the world, it has become an established norm that military coups by self-appointed juntas against democratically-elected governments are simply not acceptable. The United Nations is receiving more requests for electoral assistance than ever before.

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The United Nations helps teams of international observers assess the legitimacy of an electoral process and its outcome. We guide, monitor and sometimes run elections in various countries.

The Declaration of Human Rights is not a legally binding document. Yet, it has been a fundamental source of inspiration for nations and international efforts to promote and protect human rights and freedoms.

The main principles of the Declaration have inspired the constitutions of many countries which have become independent since it was written. Conceived as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, the Declaration has become a yardstick by which to measure the respect for, and compliance with, international human rights standards.

Mr. Speaker, the sight is all too familiar in urban and rural America: boarded-up homes, abandoned lots, blighted communities. These sights demonstrate that the dream of homeownership is fleeting for some and that these dreams can become nightmares when financial hardship occurs. While often unspoken in discussing this issue is the fact that some of these abandoned properties were purchased under federal mortgage programs intended to help middle- and low-income Americans.

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Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will restore the dream of homeownership to middle- and low-income families.

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