

CELEBRATING THE 87TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Republic of China on Taiwan on the 87th anniversary of the founding of their nation.

Under President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chan's leadership, the Republic of China continues its excellent record of economic growth and its historic democratization. Since I lived in Taiwan in the 1970's, we have seen a different Republic of China emerge. It is now a major trading nation, and its GNP is one of the world's largest. Its growth in per capita income has improved the lives of the 21 million hardworking men and women of Taiwan. Furthermore, the rapid democratization and constitutional reforms on Taiwan in recent years have made Taiwan a model for many nations.

I also applaud President Lee for resuming bilateral discussions between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland.

Happy Birthday to Taiwan.

HONORING RONALD L. MACE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Ronald L. Mace, a North Carolinian who worked to make the world a more accessible place for persons with disabilities. 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 and by removing architectural barriers.

Mr. Mace cannot be recognized enough for his contributions. His innovative ideas about incorporating accessible design into the North Carolina building code eventually became the backbone of many State and Federal accessibility laws, including the Americans With Disabilities Act. Mr. Mace coined the term "universal design" for his concept.

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. Life, to Mr. Mace, was to be lived with dignity and integrity. He believed that we should celebrate our differences and tear down the artificial barriers that place unnecessary constraints on our interactions with one another.

When Ronald L. Mace passed away on June 29, 1998, North Carolina and the Nation lost a great citizen. As Americans, we owe him a debt of gratitude because disabled and non-disabled alike benefit from his life's work. It is our responsibility to continue to work to-

ward making his vision of a world of accessible and comfortable environments a reality for everyone.

Dr. Carol Grant Potter, a colleague, friend, and protege of Mr. Mace who continues to be inspired by him, offered the following eloquent tribute to Mr. Mace in the Raleigh News and Observer. Dr. Potter, herself remarkable and born with phocomelia (shortening of the extremities), has contributed immeasurably to efforts to remove architectural barriers. She holds a doctoral degree in rehabilitation from Southern Illinois University, has served on the Governor's Study Commission on Architectural Barriers, was appointed by President Carter to serve on the national Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, and is currently a planner with the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities.

I encourage my colleagues to read Dr. Potter's moving tribute.

N.S.'S GIFT TO BARRIER-FREE LIVING

(By Carol Grant Potter)

Raleigh.—For once, the 5-year-old was tall enough to do whatever she wanted to do. She didn't have to stand on tiptoe or be lifted up to the "adult" height, as was usually the case. Some day she will know that the man who played a major role in making that happen was the man she was gazing at 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, dreamed of environments that are accessible and comfortable for everyone, regardless of age or ability. He coined the term "universal design" for the concept.

All of us at Ron's funeral could reach his body and share equally in the grief of his death and celebration of his life. We gathered as a community, people who use wheelchairs, guide dogs, interpreters and other means of accommodation, along with just as many folks who have no disabilities.

People came from everywhere to share memories filled with humor, tears, gratitude, respect and love for a man who touched so many lives.

I first met Ron when he consulted with Governor's Study Commission on Architectural Barriers in 1972. We on the commission gained tremendously from his innovative ideas about incorporating accessible design into the North Carolina building code. Who could have known then that his designs would shape the landscape of the entire country? Eventually they became the backbone of many state and federal accessibility laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Personally, Ron taught me a lot about living—really living—with a disability. He encouraged me, by example, to be a proud member of the disability community to contribute my individual strengths, whatever they may be, to the cause of disability rights.

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, artificial barriers. His life challenges 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.

REMARKS OF UN DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL LOUISE FRÉCHETTE AT RECEPTION MARKING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the signature of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was proclaimed on December 10, 1948, after its adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations without a dissenting vote.

Mr. Speaker, the Universal Declaration sets forth fundamental human rights for women and men everywhere, and it is "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations." It has become the most widely accepted international statement of fundamental human rights. It is frequently referred to in resolutions and covenants adopted by international organizations, in multilateral and bilateral treaties, and in laws and decrees of many nations.

Earlier this year, this House adopted H. Con. Res. 185, a resolution which I introduced with the support of our colleagues JOHN EDWARD PORTER of Illinois, the co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and CHRISTOPHER SMITH of New Jersey, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the House Committee on International Relations. That resolution notes the important 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights this year and recommitments the United States to the principles expressed in the Universal Declaration.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the distinguished Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Louise Fréchette, represented the United Nations and spoke at a reception here on Capitol Hill in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The reception was given by the United Nations in cooperation with the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. On that occasion, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Fréchette delivered an excellent statement.