



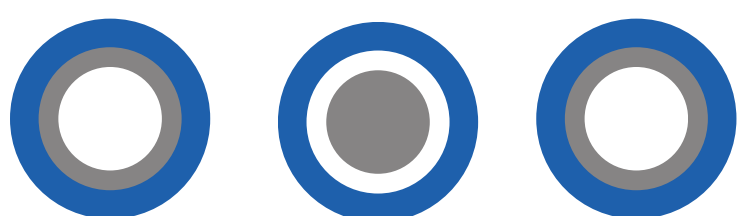
Eric and Mary Kay Mace

Eric and Mary Kay Mace were unwillingly inducted into the fraternity of families who have survived the death of a loved one in a mass shooting. Their daughter, Ryanne, was the youngest of the five fatalities in the shooting that occurred on February 14th, 2008 in Cole Hall on the campus of Northern Illinois University. Since that time, both have become active in various ways.

Mary Kay has been a tireless advocate for common sense firearms legislation by volunteering with organizations such as It Can Happen Here, Moms Demand Action, Everytown for Gun Safety, among others. She has also spoken publicly about her experiences on many occasions, including testifying at Illinois' legislative committee hearings for the Firearms Restraining Order Act that was enacted in 2018, and has been frequently interviewed for both print and television media.

Eric has been involved in the formation of the National Compassion Fund and served as a victims advocate in the direction of donations resulting from the Henry Pratt shooting in Aurora, IL. He has also advocated for the adoption of family bereavement leave for U.S. workers. He also advocates for common sense gun legislation at the state and national level.

Together, Eric and Mary Kay created the Ryanne Mace Memorial Scholarship Fund at NIU Foundation. This fund is fully endowed and will provide monetary awards to individuals who are studying psychology with plans to become counselors. It is their belief that even though Ryanne is no longer with us, the work she was called to do still must be done if there is ever to be a hope of stopping mass shootings.



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