Frances Perkins devoted her life to the cause of human rights. As a social worker, government official and teacher, she championed the protection of rights and improvement in the quality of life of American working men and women. During her twelve years as Secretary of Labor in the Cabinet of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Frances Perkins was the moving force behind much of the New Deal's far-reaching social and labor legislation which made our country a better place to live. In wartime and peace, in depression and recovery, she articulated the hopes and dreams of working people and sought untiringly and effectively to make those hopes and dreams a reality.

Her life was unique and she was in every way equal to the challenges it brought. She personally witnessed the human deprivation and suffering of people caught up in the machinery of an expanding industrial society. Through the force of her moral courage, intellect and will to bring about sweeping changes in our national laws and practices, she forever changed our society for the better. It is entirely appropriate that the U.S. Department of Labor Building should bear her name with the same pride as our nation bears the enduring mark of her inspiring legacy to us all.