

events, this high school junior still finds the time and energy to hit the books and earn As and Bs on her report cards.

Ashley's tenacity, hard work, and dedication have truly made her community and the state of Colorado proud. It is my privilege to bring her example to the attention of my colleagues here in this body today. Ashley embodies the old maxim, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Ashley not only tried again, but has developed into an outstanding athlete and an inspiration to us all. I congratulate her on her success and wish her the best with all of her future endeavors.

HONORING OFFICER MARYANN
COLLURA OF THE FAIR LAWN
POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday April 29, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Officer MaryAnn Collura of the Fair Lawn Police Department in Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, it pains me to report that on Thursday, April 17, 2003, at the age of 43, MaryAnn Collura was killed in the line of duty. Officer Collura is only the fifth female to be killed while serving as a police officer in the State of New Jersey. Her loss has sent shockwaves through the members of her department, the people of Fair Lawn, and the entire State of New Jersey.

MaryAnn Collura was borne in New York City, the youngest daughter of Pasquale and Helen Collura. MaryAnn was a lifelong resident of the Borough of Fair Lawn, New Jersey. She lived in the same home on Morlot Avenue in Fair Lawn where she and her siblings had grown up. She attended the same church where she had been baptized as a baby and taken her first holy communion as a young girl. The streets that MaryAnn patrolled each day as a police officer were the same streets that she ran as a child. Fair Lawn was home in every sense of the word.

MaryAnn was known for her devotion to the community and to its people. So, it came as no surprise when MaryAnn decided to join the Fair Lawn Police Department in 1985, after serving for two years as a special officer. MaryAnn broke new ground in the department, becoming the first female officer in the town's history.

It was her compassion for her neighbors, combined with her courage and skill as an officer, that made MaryAnn an inspiration to other young women and men who wished to dedicate their lives to becoming officers of the peace. MaryAnn cared about the details of her community. She went as far as to initiate a program for children to carry glow sticks on Halloween to make them more visible to cars. It goes without saying that MaryAnn was well liked and well respected, both by the members of her community and by her fellow police officers. But more importantly, during her eighteen years on the force, MaryAnn made a difference.

Although I am not the Representative in Congress for the community of Fair Lawn, the loss of Officer Collura is one that hits particularly close to home. MaryAnn Collura was the

aunt of my longtime staff member and campaign manager, Scott Snyder. To Scott, I would like to take this opportunity to say that the thoughts and prayers of the entire Pallone family and the Pallone staff are with you and your family in your time of loss.

Mr. Speaker, it is at these times that we are reminded of the sacrifice that police officers and their families make in the name of community service. To a police officer, each call presents dangers and threats that we cannot begin to imagine. To the outside world, a police officer's uniform represents unwavering and selfless dedication to the protection of our community and the defense and enforcement of our nation's laws. This is something that all police officers understand, and something MaryAnn died upholding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the life and work of Officer MaryAnn Collura. I urge my colleagues to take a moment and recognize the bravery and selflessness of all of our nation's police officers, and all of our heroes in uniform.

To MaryAnn's family; her mother, Helen; her siblings Paul, Patricia, and Linda; and to Scott and his entire family—please know that MaryAnn's commitment and sacrifice will never be forgotten by the people of Fair Lawn, the State of New Jersey or by the Congress of the United States.

HONORING LIEUTENANT THOMAS
A. PETRELLA, UNITED STATES
NAVY

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, during this time of war, our thoughts are constantly with our active duty military personnel overseas, and also with all of the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military through the years. I rise today to honor an individual who will retire this month following a long tour of service to this country.

Lieutenant Thomas A. Petrella enlisted in the United States Navy in 1980 and served as an intelligence specialist aboard four different aircraft carriers, a cruiser, and a nuclear attack submarine. Thom served 10 great years of commissioned service using his knowledge and extensive experience to better his community.

Throughout his successful 23-year career, Thom focused on his duties to aid our Nation and the United States Navy. He concludes his spectacular career as a Vietnam War analyst at the Department of Defense where he analyzed cases of Americans missing from the Vietnam War, including that of Captain Arnold Holm, a resident of Connecticut's Second District of whose greatness I have spoken here before.

Lieutenant Petrella epitomizes the type of person we would like to have serving in our Armed Forces, someone who believes in this country, in its values, someone who believes in faith and family and hard work, and someone who has a great appreciation for the blessings of freedom and who worked during his years to promote the values that have made this country a great place to be.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Lieutenant Thomas Petrella

for his dedicated and committed service to this Nation. Your best years are still to come. I would also like to extend these wishes to his wife Renee and their children Kara, Ryan and Cody.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM T. "BILL"
ROBINSON

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate William T. ("Bill") Robinson III for receiving the prestigious Themis Award. The criteria for this award is "Extraordinary service by an attorney to the Cincinnati Bar Association, the legal profession and/or the general community, which displays a high level of commitment, dedication or courage." Bill Robinson has certainly met this criteria.

Bill currently serves as Chair of the Finance Committee and Member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association (ABA). He has served as State Delegate to the ABA Nominating Committee, President of the National Caucus of State Bar Associations, member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Bar Presidents and is chairing the ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services and the ABA Standing Committee on Substance Abuse. Bill served as 50th President of the Kentucky Bar Association, founding Chair of the Kentucky IOLTA Fund, President of the Kentucky Bar Foundation, Co-Founder & President of the Salmon P. Chase American Inn of Court. Bill is a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers, a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, a Sustaining Member of the American Bar Foundation, Member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference, and a Sustaining Member of The American Law Institute.

In addition to his significant accomplishments in his chosen profession, Bill has a distinguished history of serving our local business community. As a co-founder of the Metropolitan Growth Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, he played a key role in the creation of the "Gallis Report" which has become a catalyst for a multi-jurisdictional, regional approach toward a wide range of strategic policy, planning and development initiatives throughout our Tri-State region. Bill also was a Founding Board Member and Secretary/Treasurer of the Tri-County Economic Development Corporation, the Vice Chair for Economic Development for the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, and the Chair of the Partnership for Greater Cincinnati, a multi-million dollar initiative for economic development in the region; and a Founding Board Member of CINCY-TECH USA, the new economy initiative of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber. Bill is the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Finance Committee Board of Directors of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport where he has served on the Board and helped direct the airport's emergence as one of the world's most modern and efficient airports.

Bill grew up in Cincinnati, was educated at the Athenaeum of Ohio and St. Gregory Seminary, Thomas More College and the College of Law at the University of Kentucky. He

is an educator and serves on the Board of Mount St. Joseph College. He has served on the Board of Thomas More College, the Board of the Athenaeum of Ohio, the Board of Covington Latin School and on the Board of the Greater Cincinnati Literacy Task Force, the Visiting Committee at the College of Law, University of Kentucky, the Visiting Committee at Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University, Adjunct Professor at Chase, and President of Redwood School and Rehabilitation Center where he is currently Chair of the Dorothy Wood Foundation.

Bill has served and continues to serve the legal profession, the community, and the Cincinnati Bar Association with the highest level of dedication, professionalism, and commitment. Bill can be proud of the positive impact that he has had on the quality of life in our regional community and I commend him on his many accomplishments.

DONALD JOHNSTONE FINNIE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of an outstanding resident of my state. Mr. Donald Johnstone Finnie of Lakewood, Colorado passed away recently at the age of 84. As we mourn his passing, I think it is fitting to remember this outstanding husband, father, and friend who spent a lifetime in service to others.

Mr. Finnie, like so many members of his great generation, contributed to the Allied victory in World War II. He fought for our country in New Guinea and Germany before returning home to Colorado, where in 1948 he joined the El Jebel Shrine, which does charity work with the Shriners Hospitals. He became president of the Jefferson County Shrine Club a decade later. Mr. Finnie and his beloved wife Doris also participated in a number of youth programs in support of their two daughters, including the Jefferson County YMCA and the Campfire Girls.

Donald Finnie knew the meaning of the word dedication. In his 43-year association with the Rotary Club, Mr. Finnie never missed a meeting. His good works also extended into the political arena as district chairman of the Republican Party and as a founding father of the city. In 1968, Mr. Finnie served on the incorporation committee for Jefferson City, which later changed its name to Lakewood.

Mr. Speaker, we are all saddened by the loss of Donald Johnstone Finnie, but take comfort knowing that our grief is overshadowed by the legacy of courage, selflessness, and generosity he left with all who knew him. Donald's life embodies the virtues that helped make this country great, and I am deeply honored for the opportunity to pay tribute to him today. Donald Johnstone Finnie will be missed by his family, friends and the many people in his community who were fortunate enough to have known him.

FAIRNESS FOR AMERICA'S
HEROES ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the "Fairness for America's Heroes Act."

Currently, there are more than 37,000 non-citizens on active duty in our military and each year approximately 7,000 new non-citizens join the armed forces.

These brave men and women are willing to die defending our nation, and it is imperative that we recognize their selflessness and spirit—not only when someone is killed in battle, but from the moment they are called up for combat duty.

We need laws that reflect non-citizen soldiers' heroism and their patriotism. That say we are grateful for your sacrifice; we understand the risks and dangers of combat duty; and to honor your dedication and devotion, we are granting you citizenship. This is a right that these men and women have earned and deserve.

Throughout history non-citizen soldiers have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with native-born Americans in defense of our nation. They fight with vigor and valor to protect the American dream, and they risk their lives everyday for the safety and security of our country.

All of those who serve—regardless of race, regardless of gender, regardless of country of origin—are without hesitation recognized as America's heroes. The legislation I am introducing today will allow them, rightfully and justly, to also be recognized as Americans. This is a distinction they have certainly earned and deserve.

The "Fairness for America's Heroes Act" grants citizenship automatically to non-citizen soldiers assigned to combat duty.

The legislation says that no soldier will ever again have to come home in a body bag to be recognized as an American. No soldier's family will ever again have to sort through mounds of paperwork so their loved ones can receive citizenship posthumously. It also says that no soldier will ever again have to be preoccupied or worry what will happen to their family's immigration status if they are killed in battle.

It enables immediate family members of servicemen and servicewomen to receive expedited processing of their immigration status, and, perhaps most important, it honors the enormous contributions immigrants make to our military and to our society every day.

To understand these contributions, you have to look no further than the young men who heroically and valiantly served their adopted country in the war against Iraq: Lance Corporal Jose Gutierrez, Corporal Jose Garibay, Private First Class Francisco Martinez-Flores, Lance Corporal Jesus Suarez del Solar.

These brave young men, barely in their twenties, died fighting for our country, but the ideals and principles they fought for must not.

Those ideals can be summed up most eloquently with the words of Lance Corporal Gutierrez' brother, who said that Jose joined the Marines "to pay a little back of what he'd gotten from the U.S."

These young men, many of whom left war-torn, war-ravaged countries, understood that

America is the type of place that permits you to dream as big as your heart will allow. They were willing to fight and die for that dream, and our immigration system should reflect and respect that sacrifice.

You see, Mr. Speaker, immigrants' presence in our military is nothing new. Immigrants have fought in every war since the American Revolution. In fact, immigrants account for 20 percent of the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In Silvis, Illinois, just west of Chicago, Ill., there is a street called Hero Street U.S.A. This street stands as a tribute to honor eight young Latino men who lost their lives courageously defending our country during World War II and Korea. They went to war without hesitation even though people often ignored them or treated them as second-class individuals. The sacrifice and strength of these young men sparked an unrivaled and unmatched wave of service in their community.

The Department of Defense has documented that no street of comparable size has sent as many men and women to serve in the Armed Forces.

While tributes like these are important, and speeches are moving, we must back up our rhetoric with action. The swift passage of this legislation is an important place to begin.

It will say to these heroic young servicemembers that we recognize and respect your contributions; we honor your spirit and your service; and that you personify the pride and patriotism that makes this Nation so great.

I urge my colleagues to properly recognize these brave men and women by supporting the "Fairness for America's Heroes Act."

TRIBUTE TO JAMES L. FERMAN,
SR.

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the late James L. Ferman Sr., a pillar in the Tampa Bay society, whose devotion to his company was second only to his dedication to family and his remarkable commitment to strengthening his community.

A native of Tampa, Ferman joined the Navy in 1942 after graduating from H.B. Plant High School and Emory University. After serving his country in both the Atlantic and Pacific as an intelligence officer and commander of a submarine chaser, James Ferman Sr. came home to oversee the expansion of his father's automobile company. Under his watch, Ferman Motor Car Company became the oldest continuously operating dealership in the country and one of the biggest dealerships in the state.

Today Ferman Motor Car Company employs almost 1,000 people in four counties, and James Ferman Sr., the father of this company, was known for treating these employees like his own family. The integrity with which he led Ferman Motor explains why so many employees have stayed with the company for decades.

James Ferman Sr. was also known for his work outside of the company. The 1966 Civitan Club's Citizen of the Year dedicated