

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