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Hero Street, U.S.A.: The Story of Little Mexico's Fallen Soldiers

Marc Wilson

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Marc Wilson : Hero Street, U.S.A.: The Story of Little Mexico's Fallen Soldiers before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hero Street, U.S.A.: The Story of Little Mexico's Fallen Soldiers:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Pedro Solis Excellent reading of possible ancestors. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An invaluable reminder of the contributions and sacrifices Mexican-Americans have made for this great nation By Midwest Book Review Second Street in Silvis, Illinois, was an

impoverished neighborhood; during the Great Depression, it became home to Mexican immigrants escaping a revolution in their homeland. During World War II, it suffered the highest per-capita casualty rate, and was renamed "Hero Street" to reflect the ultimate sacrifice made by its citizens. In "Hero Street USA", journalist Marc Wilson examines the true story of these Mexican-Americans who fought and died in World War II, drawing upon soldiers' letters, interviews with relatives, firsthand combat accounts, and more. Examining the struggles of nearly eighty men from three dozen Second Street homes who volunteered to fight for their nation in World War II and Korea, Hero Street USA is an invaluable reminder of the contributions and sacrifices Mexican-Americans have made for this great nation. Highly recommended. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A winner By J. Quick Writing a book is no easy task. Writing a book of this magnitude with all its emotional undertones and inherent sadness is even more difficult. I know the author labored long and hard to tell a story that needed to be told and to recognize the sacrifice of these families. I enjoyed the book and would recommend it to anyone. A beautiful story, well told.

The first book-length account of a story too long overlooked Claro Solis wanted to win a gold star for his mother. He succeeded?as did seven other sons of "Little Mexico." Second Street in Silvis, Illinois, was a poor neighborhood during the Great Depression that had become home to Mexicans fleeing revolution in their homeland. In 1971 it was officially renamed "Hero Street" to commemorate its claim to the highest per-capita casualty rate from any neighborhood during World War II. Marc Wilson now tells the story of this community and the young men it sent to fight for their adopted country. Hero Street, U.S.A. is the first book to recount a saga too long overlooked in histories and television documentaries. Interweaving family memories, soldiers' letters, historical photographs, interviews with relatives, and firsthand combat accounts, Wilson tells the compelling stories of nearly eighty men from three dozen Second Street homes who volunteered to fight for their country in World War II and Korea?and of the eight, including Claro Solis, who never came back. As debate swirls around the place of Mexican immigrants in contemporary American society, this book shows the price of citizenship willingly paid by the sons of earlier refugees. With Hero Street, U.S.A., Marc Wilson not only makes an important contribution to military and social history but also acknowledges the efforts of the heroes of Second Street to realize the American dream.

From Publishers Weekly Second Street in the railroad town of Silvis, Ill., was known as Little Mexico. Its people had fled Mexico during its revolution almost 100 years ago and found work with the railroads, seeking to survive, to move in from society's margins. We all wanted to be Americans, recalled one resident. Nobody knows how patriotic we Mexican Americans were. Seventy-eight men from 35 small houses, shacks and converted boxcars served in WWII and Korea. Eight died—reportedly the highest per capita rate of any neighborhood—but despite this service, Second Street remained unpaved for years. Its veterans were blackballed by the local VFW, which feared the Mexican Americans would take the post over.... But recognition of the community's sacrifices came in 1968 when a grateful legislature renamed Second Street Hero Street. Journalist Wilson, founder of the International Newspaper Network, tells the stories of these families with a clarity that never lapses into sentiment or pity. Things are very different now, affirm relatives and descendants. All the more reason to remember by name the young men from Little Mexico who were killed in action fighting for their country. 15 bw photos. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From the Publisher Marc Wilson is a veteran journalist, reporter, and news executive for the Associated Press and founder and CEO of the International Newspaper Network. He has been a reporter for the Rocky Mountain News, the Denver Post, and the Boulder Daily Camera. The Montana Newspaper Association honored him in 2004 as a Master Editor-Publisher for his work at the Bigfork Eagle. About the Author Marc Wilson is a veteran journalist, reporter, and news executive for the Associated Press and founder and CEO of the International Newspaper Network. He has been a reporter for the Rocky Mountain News, the Denver Post, and the Boulder Daily Camera. The Montana Newspaper Association honored him in 2004 as a Master Editor-Publisher for his work at the Bigfork Eagle.