COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CAPITOLBUILDING

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the United States Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the veterans of the courageous 65th Infantry Regiment, the only all-Hispanic unit in the history of the United States Army.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

As provided by an act of Congress on March 2, 1899, the 65th Infantry Regiment was the only Hispanic-segregated unit in Army history that played a prominent role in American military history, participating in three wars in which the United States has been involved.

The order passed by Congress authorized the recruitment of male volunteers to create a battalion that would protect Puerto Rico. Initially, the 65th Infantry Regiment was part of the National Guard. It was composed of four companies, each of which recruited 100 men, and was nicknamed the "Volunteers' Regiment".

The 65th Infantry Regiment started as a dual unit, part of both the Puerto Rico National Guard and the active duty Army. During World War II, it was assigned to the United States Army 3rd Infantry Division, but it remained in Puerto Rico until January 1943. Subsequently, the 65th Infantry Regiment was transferred to Panama and, later, to France in September 1944.

After its assignment to the 3rd Division and its incorporation into the active duty Army, the Regiment became known, and is still known today in the Armed Forces, as the "Borinqueneers," which replaced the nickname of "Volunteers."

The unfavorable image that this Unit initially had before the eyes of the Army changed in 1950, when the Regiment prevented the 3rd Division of the United States Army from advancing during a training exercise. This event was recognized as an important achievement, given that a Regiment was able to resist an entire division. At that moment, the 65th Infantry Regiment was assigned to and became the main regiment of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

On August 25, 1950, only seven months after the training exercise that distinguished these Puerto Ricans within the Armed Forces, the Regiment received orders to go to Korea. The men assigned to such Regiment were the first to arrive to this

distant country. Their mission was to find the enemy on the battlefield. Taking advantage of their country's climate during the winter, Koreans made several attempts against the Regiment, trying to catch them off guard. However, the Regiment fought resolutely and efficiently, resisting the attacks from the Korean army.

The 65th Infantry Regiment attained most of its achievements during the Korean War. During said war, the Regiment established a reputation for always being present and remaining where the battle was most intense. From the beginning of the war, the 65th Infantry Regiment engaged in nine campaigns: UN Defense-1950, UN Offense-1950, CCF Intervention-1950, 1st UN Counterattack Offensive-1951, UN and CCF Spring Offensive-1951, UN Summer-Fall Offensive-1951, 2nd Korean Winter 1951–52, Korean Summer-Fall-1952, and 3rd Korean Winter-1952-53. More than three thousand soldiers of the regiment were wounded and over 700 were killed in action. Its members have individually earned Distinguished Service Crosses, Silver Stars, Bronze Stars, and over 2,700 Purple Heart medals for their serve in the Army.

The 65th Infantry Regiment, in Korea, was inactivated in 1956, and transferred to the 92nd Infantry Brigade of the Puerto Rico National Guard, where it still serves.

Moreover, in addition to the aforementioned accolades, it would be an honor for the 65th Infantry Regiment to join the list of other minority veterans who served in segregated units and who, in turn, have been awarded the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal. These are: the Navajo Code Talkers, the African-American Tuskegee Airmen, the Japanese-American Nisei, and the African-American Montford Point Marines.

For all of the foregoing, and for their great achievements, this Legislative Assembly, on behalf of the People of Puerto Rico, not only remembers and recognizes the historical and heroic actions of the members of the 65th Infantry Regiment, but also formally urges the United States Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the veterans of the courageous 65th Infantry Regiment.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.-The Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico hereby urges the United States Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the veterans of the courageous 65th Infantry Regiment, the only all-Hispanic unit in the history of the United States Army.

Section 2.-A certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution shall be translated into English and sent to the members of the United States Congress by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico.

Section 3.-This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval.

We, ***AYLEEN FIGUEROA-VÁZQUEZ****, Clerk of the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico,* ***TANIA BARBAROSSA-ORTIZ,*** *Secretary of the Senate of Puerto Rico hereby*

CERTIFY:

That this is a true and exact copy of House Concurrent Resolution 28, to urge the United States Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the veterans of the courageous 65th Infantry Regiment, the only all-Hispanic unit in the history of the United States Army.

AND, TO BE DELIVERED *to the Members of the United States Congress, we certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the House Concurrent Resolution 28, passed by the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly, and on file in my office at The Capitol, San Juan, Puerto Rico, given under our hand and the great Seal of the House of Representatives and the Seal of the Senate of Puerto Rico, this 10th day of July of 2013.*

Ayleen Figueroa-Vázquez
Clerk of the House of Representatives

Tania Barbarossa-Ortiz
Secretary of the Senate

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