



COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO  
PUERTO RICO FEDERAL AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION

June 24, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor  
Majority Leader  
H-329 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Democratic Whip  
1705 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Cantor, Leader Pelosi, and Whip Hoyer:

On behalf of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, I write to urge you to support the passage of H.R. 1726, legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, known as the "Borinqueneers," for the unit's venerable service to the protection and defense of the United States in countless military conflicts.

As you know, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was founded shortly after the Spanish American War, where, for the first time, Puerto Ricans were drafted into U.S. military units after Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States. The "Borinqueneers" served the United States in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War among other military conflicts.

During the Korean War the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment performed with particular courage, being among the first infantrymen to confront the Chinese People's Liberation Army and its North Korean allies on the battlefield. Because of their valor and sacrifice, the "Borinqueneers" were awarded 2,771 Purple Hearts, 606 Bronze Stars, 256 Silver Stars, and 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, among other many medals, awards and citations.

The Regiment experienced significant adversity, and the struggles of the soldiers demonstrate a dark period for the U.S. military. Now, as the full story has been told, we can honor these soldiers for their persistent efforts to defend the United States when the country needed it most. H.R. 1726 marks that sacrifice appropriately. I strongly support it, and I am hopeful that it can most swiftly through the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan E. Hernández".

Juan E. Hernández  
Executive Director