



COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO FEDERAL AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION

June 24, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Reid and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, I write to urge you to support the passage of S. 1174, legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th 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 65th 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 65th 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. S. 1174 marks that sacrifice appropriately. I strongly support it, and I am hopeful that it can most swiftly through the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan E. Hernández". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Juan E. Hernández
Executive Director