

2011-K1602

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Borinqueneers, the only all Puerto Rican unit in United States military history

WHEREAS, The 65th Infantry Regiment, created in 1899 as the only all Puerto Rican unit in United States military history; and

WHEREAS, The 65th Infantry Regiment became better known as the Borinqueneers from the word Borinquen, the name by which the native Taino Indians called Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, The Borinqueneers, throughout their service in World War I, World War II, and most notably the Korean War, served with distinction, participated in nine major campaigns, and earned the respect and admiration of their fellow soldiers and military authorities, most notably General Douglas MacArthur; and

WHEREAS, The 65th Infantry Borinqueneers earned two United States Presidential Unit Citations, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations, and individual members earned ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 421 Silver Stars, and 156 Bronze Stars; and

WHEREAS, More than 20,000 Puerto Ricans have served courageously as Borinqueneers since World War I; and

WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee is currently considering a commemorative stamp in honor of the Borinqueneers; and

WHEREAS, As Americans, it is our responsibility to ensure that our history is documented and reverence is given to our war heroes; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that we, the benefactors of the sacrifices and courageous acts of the men and women who served and continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their service to our great nation;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Borinqueneers, the only all Puerto Rican unit in United States military history; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ruben Estrada, Co-Chairman, The Borinqueneers Stamp Committee.