

2013-K55

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing the Congress of the United States to recognize the 65th Infantry Regiment known as the Borinqueneers and request they receive the Congressional Gold Medal

WHEREAS, Military heroes who served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake, should be recognized by the people of this great Nation, who should never forget the courage with which these soldiers fought; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize the Congress of the United States to recognize the 65th Infantry Regiment known as the Borinqueneers and request they receive the Congressional Gold Medal; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious honor, considered the most distinguished, is an award bestowed by the United States Congress and is, along with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States; it is given to persons who have performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as a major achievement in the recipient's field long after the achievement; the Borinqueneers are such individuals; and

WHEREAS, As mandated by Congress in 1899, the 65th Infantry Regiment, from Puerto Rico, was the only Hispanic-segregated unit ever in the United States Armed Forces that played a prominent role in American military history participating in three United States wars -- World War I, World War II, and most notably, the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, The Borinqueneers were willing to shed their blood, sweat and tears for democracy by enlisting in the United States Armed Forces on their own accord to defend the freedoms of others; and

WHEREAS, These brave men were the first infantrymen of the "Rock of

the Marne Division" (3rd Infantry Division) to meet the enemy on the battle fields of Korea fighting with determination and efficiency; and WHEREAS, The 65th Infantry Regiment served with distinction and valor, earning two Presidential Unit Citations, Army Unit Superior Award, Navy Unit Citation, two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations and Bravery Gold Medal of Greece; and

WHEREAS, The congressional honor would affirm that they are truly American heroes who served their country with distinction, fighting bravely even while enduring hardships of segregation and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, True American heroes, the Borinqueneers deserve to be recognized, commended, acknowledged and remembered by the people of the State of New York, as well as by all the citizens of this great Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to recognize the 65th Infantry Regiment known as the Borinqueneers, and request they receive the Congressional Gold Medal; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Congress of the United States from the State of New York, Javier Morales, President of the 65th Infantry Veterans Association in Puerto Rico, Frank Medina, National Chair, Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance, and Juan Varela, New York City Delegate, Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance.