

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



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Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
c/o Stamp Development  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300  
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Esteemed Committee Members:

I am writing today to encourage you to issue a commemorative postage stamp to honor the 65th Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the Borinqueneers, which was the only all-Hispanic unit in U.S. Army history. The 65th Infantry Regiment made significant contributions to the American efforts in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. Commemorating their valiant service with a U.S. postage stamp would effectively celebrate their accomplishments and educate the public of their many contributions.

Founded in 1899, the 65th Infantry Regiment made great sacrifices serving our nation. Like all soldiers, they left their homes and families and risked their lives to protect our nation's freedom. A segregated unit comprised primarily of Puerto Ricans, the 65th Regiment holds special historical significance. These soldiers followed every order of their commander-in-chief even though they did not have the opportunity to vote for him in a general election.

Their most illustrious achievements were made during the Korean War. Individual soldiers within the unit were awarded ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 421 Silver Stars and 156 Bronze Stars.

Thousands of Puerto Ricans have served in the military since the Borinqueneers first took up arms in 1899. Their contributions and sacrifices in protecting our safety and freedom must be remembered and celebrated, alongside the accomplishments of all American soldiers. A postage stamp that specifically recognizes the 65th Infantry Regiment would mark the respect and admiration that we all share for this Hispanic-segregated unit.

In Western New York efforts are currently underway toward constructing a Hispanic-American Veterans Memorial. The Borinqueneers stamp will compliment local efforts to commemorate the many contributions of Hispanic-American Veterans. I've also enclosed a copy of a resolution the New York State Senate recently adopted to call for the creation of the Borinqueneers stamp.

Sincerely,

  
Timothy M. Kennedy  
New York State Senator, 58th District