

Resolution No. 2013-02

On a Congressional Gold Medal for the "Borinqueneers" – U.S. Army 65th Infantry Regiment, December 10, 2013

WHEREAS the 65th infantry Regiment is the only segregated Puerto Rican military unit in U.S. history¹, and;

WHEREAS the 65th infantry Regiment has a long and distinguished service history, fighting in World War I, World War II and the Korean War, and;

WHEREAS during the Korean War alone, the Borinqueneers earned 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, 256 Silver Stars, 606 Bronze Stars, and 2,771 Purple Hearts², and;

WHEREAS veterans of the 65th Infantry Regiment selflessly gave their time, effort and lives while they were segregated and subjected to institutionalized racism, sometimes by their own officers³, and;

WHEREAS Ohio is home to the 10th-largest Puerto Rican population in the United States⁴, and;

WHEREAS Ohio Latinos frequently serve in the U.S. armed forces and Ohio is home to more than 11,000 Hispanic veterans⁵, including Miguel Berlingerie and Juan Montez, both veterans of the 65th, and;

WHEREAS The Congressional Gold Medal is, along with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, and;

WHEREAS Congressional Gold Medals are occasionally given to military units for their outstanding service – often in the face of hardship, including to the Navajo Wind Talkers, the Tuskegee Airmen, the Nisei Soldiers and the Montford Point Marines⁶, and;

WHEREAS, House Resolution 1726 and Senate Bill 1174 do not yet have the requisite number of cosigners⁷, and;

WHEREAS only four of Ohio's 18 delegates to the 113th Congress are among those cosponsors, and;

WHEREAS the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is statutorily obligated to advise state government on particular issues impacting Ohio Latinos and to illuminate the contributions of Ohio's Hispanics⁸, therefore be it

RESOLVED THAT: The Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs calls upon Ohio's congressional delegation to acknowledge the outstanding service of the 65th Infantry Regiment and highlight the regiment's story by cosponsoring H.R. 1726 and S. 1174, and;

FUTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs urges Ohio's Governor and General Assembly to formally recognize the outstanding service of the 65th Infantry Regiment.

[Handwritten signatures of Michael Florez, Luis "Tony" Ortiz, Mary Santiago, and another official over horizontal lines]



Michael Florez, Chair
Cincinnati

Mary Santiago, Vice-Chair
Lorain

Luis "Tony" Ortiz, Secretary
Dayton

Iris Martinez Juergens
Dayton

V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Cincinnati

Jose Feliciano Jr.
Aurora

Emanuel Torres
Columbus

Mike Robinson
Loveland

Dan Ramos
State Representative
District 56 ~ Lorain County

Matt Lynch
State Representative
District 76 ~ Geauga & Potage Counties

Gayle Manning
Senator
District 13 ~ Huron & Lorain Counties

Charleta Tavares
Senator
District 15 ~ Franklin County

¹ Borinqueneer Congressional Gold Medal Alliance.

² TAGOKOR Korean War Casualty File* of the American Battle Commission.

³ Brown, Matthew Hay "Clearing the Borinqueneers", Hartford Courant, May 26 2002.

⁴ 2010 U.S. Census.

⁵ "Monthly Update", Ohio Department of Veterans Services. October, 2011.

⁶ Borinqueneer Congressional Gold Medal Alliance.

⁷ Borinqueneer Congressional Gold Medal Alliance.

⁸ Ohio Revised Code §121.32 (B) & (E).