

**BORINQUENEERS
CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL
ALLIANCE**



Hispanic Heritage
Spotlight on the
65th Infantry Regiment
“Borinqueneers”
2015 Collectors’ Edition

**Read “Mambo on
Hill 167”
- a captivating
story of heroism
& sacrifice
despite prejudice.
See page 2!**

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SPECIAL REPORT**

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BORINQUENEERS
Congressional Gold Medal
Alliance

The Borinqueneers

SPECIAL REPORT—CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE!

Puerto Rico’s Borinqueneers awarded U.S. Congressional Gold Medal!

By Larry Bystran, Alliance National Steering Committee Member

The 65th Infantry Regiment
“Borinqueneers” were awarded the well-merited United States Congressional Gold Medal in June 2014 after an extremely intense all-out, 2-year national effort by Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance and its supporters and partners, and key lawmakers in the U.S. Congress.

Similar in nature to the famed Tuskegee Airmen and other segregated U.S. military units, the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers were the largest, longest-standing, & only active-duty segregated Latino military unit in U.S. history.

The Regiment in fact was the last segregated unit in combat, and thus paved the way for the full integration of the US Armed Forces.

Like the Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers, Nisei Soldiers, and Montford Point Marines who were earlier recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal, the Borinqueneers overwhelm-

The illustrious 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers are the Latino-American equivalent of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and Navajo Code Talkers. Finally, the Borinqueneers have been recognized in like fashion with the United States Congressional Gold Medal, and have taken their RIGHTFUL PLACE in American history!



Above, Pres. Obama leads an ovation for the Borinqueneers after signing the historic legislation.

ingly distinguished themselves in battle, all the while enduring the **additional hardships** of segregation, discrimination, and adverse circumstances.

Hailing from **Puerto Rico**, the US Army unit was active from 1899 to 1956.

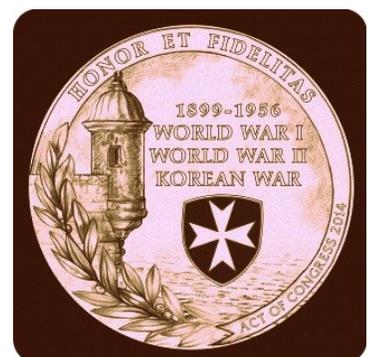
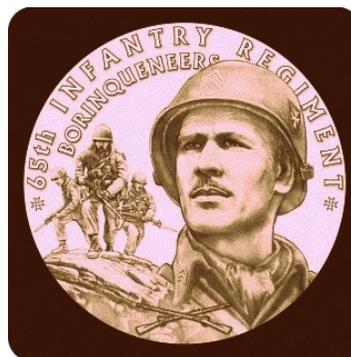
Emblematic of all US military veterans, including the hundreds of thousands of Latino-American veterans, the Borinqueneers served and

sacrificed in the cause of freedom with great courage and pride.

The youngest of these remaining Latino-American heroes are in their 80’s and 90’s, having served in World War II, the Korean War, and later, the war in Vietnam.

Story continued on page 7!

Below, the Congressional Gold Medal design was finalized by the US Mint on August 10, 2015.



**BORINQUEENERS
CONGRESSIONAL
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“No platoon member living or dead was left behind.”

“Arriba muchachos!”

“One general called it a regiment of “colored” troops, unreliable and inferior to continental “white” soldiers.”

- From “Mambo on Hill 167”

Mambo on Hill 167

**By Baltazar Soto, LTC, (Ret.)
US Army; Alliance Member**

This Korean War battle was officially named “Operation Red Rooster” by some officer in the regiment, but to 1LT Walt B. Clark and the men of his platoon, it will always be called “Mambo on Hill 167.”

LT Clark was platoon leader of the 2nd Platoon, C Co., 1st BN, 65th INF “Borinqueneers,” 3ID. He had recently graduated from the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina and the Infantry Officer Basic Course. The young 21-year-old looked at his assignment as a challenge in leadership, since he was selected to lead these mostly Spanish-speaking soldiers from the tropical Puerto Rican and Virgin Islands. Many officers at the time thought it was the kiss of death to be assigned to the Puerto Rican Regiment. Critics called it the “seeexxy feeexth” mockingly imitating the Spanish accent of most of the regiment’s Puerto Rican soldiers. It was considered

“Many officers at the time thought it was the kiss of death to be assigned to the Puerto Rican Regiment. Critics called it the “seeexxy feeexth” mockingly imitating the Spanish accent of most of the regiment’s Puerto Rican soldiers.”



1LT Walt B. Clark

by some in high command at the Pentagon and by some senior leaders as that “rum and coke” outfit. One general called it a regiment of “colored” troops, unreliable and inferior to continental “white” soldiers. But through two years of intense front line combat in the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment proved all the critics wrong. Ever since Lt. Clark had first taken command of the 2nd Platoon in Mar 1952, he wanted to instill in his men aggressiveness, “the spirit of the bayonet.” He

always had a kitchen grinding stone and had his men sharpen their 10 inch blades, insisting they have their bayonet on them at all times—the men even slept with their M-1 rifles with bayonets fixed.

After months of outpost duty, Clark and his platoon got the chance to attack. The mission was conceived on short notice. The orders were to “raid Chinese outpost positions on Hill 167 in stealth and darkness; ...

Story continued on page 4!



**Saluting MSG Juan E. Negrón,
1st Borinqueneer to receive
Medal of Honor**

Pictured above is MSG Juan E. Negrón, first 65th Inf. Reg. Borinqueneer ever to receive the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest award for individual heroism!



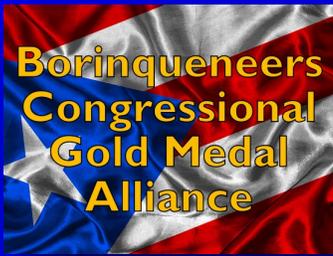
Above, the daughter of Borinqueneer Juan Negrón receives the Medal of Honor for her late father on March 18, 2014.

He received the posthumous honor along with several other Puerto Rican, Latino, & other heroes after it was determined that their extreme heroism was under-recognized in the past due to prejudice.

**We honor & thank them all!
(The Medal of Honor is not to be confused with the Congressional Gold Medal.)**



Above, Lt. Col. Teófilo Marxuach ordered the first shots fired in World War I by the US.



Shown at right, a 65th Inf. Reg. recon patrol on March 6, 1950, during the Operation PORTREX military exercise.



Cannon fire from El Morro:

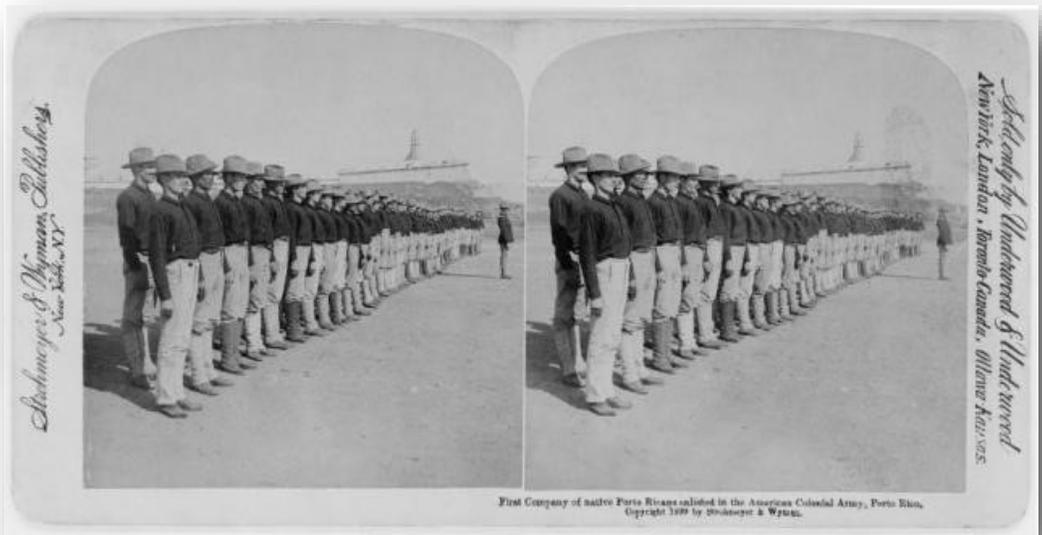
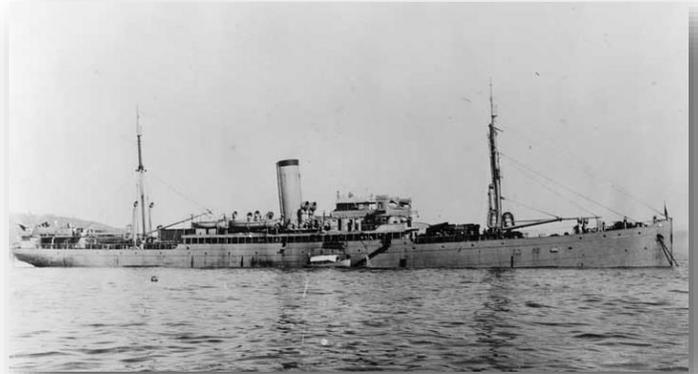
1st Salvo of World War I

The first shots of WWI in defense of freedom!

From “El Morro” fort, Old San Juan, early Borinqueneers fired on the armed German supply ship Oldenwald as it tried to force its way out of San Juan Bay to resupply German submarines in the Atlantic Ocean at the onset of WWI. The

Puerto Rican soldiers confiscated the ship which was later renamed

the USS Newport News, in US service until 1924.



Shown above from 1899: Caption reads “First Company of native Porto Ricans enlisted in the American Colonial Army, Porto Rico.”

WWI, WWII, & Operation PORTREX

During WWI, the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers guarded the strategically important Panama Canal Zone. In WWII, the segregated unit guarded the canal again, and also saw action in Northern Africa and central Europe. In March 1950 on the eve of the Korean War, the Operation PORTREX mili-

tary exercise was held on the island of Vieques, where the Borinqueneers prevented more than 32,600 combat troops from the Army & Marines, aided by Naval & Air forces, from establishing a beachhead on the island. This victory helped establish the Borinqueneers’ reputation as a potent fighting force.

Mambo on Hill 167, continued from page 2.



flag. Clark and the 2nd Platoon quickly found out what it meant. “Fire within the battle position!” The Chinese, with complete disregard for their own soldiers, fired mortar and

Photo at left: 2nd Platoon, C Co., 65th INF (LT Clark front row, seventh from left). “Arriba muchachos!”

capture prisoners; leave a squad of volunteers on 167 to observe Chinese Main Line of Resistance (MLR) area—squad to remain for 48 hours.” Clark’s unit was the assault platoon for the company, so it was his mission to go into the objective, seize the hill, and take the prisoners. POWs were needed for gathering intelligence on the enemy, and Third Division had taken no prisoners of war (POWs) in a number of weeks. C Co. Commander Capt. Henry E. Hutcheson told Clark that the S-2 (Intelligence) estimated “half an enemy squad” occupied the objective and assured him that his platoon would have no problem. The rest of the company would provide suppression, security, and support. A tank section on the MLR would provide support by fire. The plan sounded good, but when any plan is “executed” in a field environment during wartime, unpredictable obstacles—friction—can occur. After assembling in darkness on 18 Jul 1952 near the steep

slopes of Hill 250 along the Outpost Line of Resistance, C Co. moved out and crossed the Line of Departure (LD) at 2400 (thus, enemy contact would occur on 19 Jul), and quickly became lost in the dark. Noise discipline was poor, undoubtedly providing the enemy early warning. It was not until the sun began to rise that C Co. found the objective, negating the “stealth” part of the mission. Clark’s 2nd Platoon began the assault from the north. Someone once said, “No plan survives contact with the enemy”. C Co. had a plan, but so did the Chinese.

The Chinese allowed 2nd Platoon scouts to move within a few feet of the objective before releasing a murderous fire with four Soviet Maxim Heavy Machine Guns, small arms, and grenades. All hell broke loose resulting in total chaos. The infantrymen instinctively threw themselves down to hug the earth for cover. A Chinese soldier on top of the hill signaled with a large red

artillery shells into their battle position as 2nd Platoon advanced. Clark knew he had to do something. He immediately charged into the enemy position leading his platoon of infantry with fixed bayonets shouting “Arriba muchachos!” Clark’s platoon sergeant, MSG Santos Candelario helped to rally the rest of the platoon to follow their lieutenant.

Clark fearlessly led his men into a hill position of three concentric trench lines. Though wounded by an enemy grenade, he continued his charge, hurling grenades and shooting several enemy soldiers. Then he entered a trench and turned a corner, and came face to face with a Chinese soldier. Several things happened almost instantaneously. Both men raised their weapons and fired. Clark’s M2 Carbine jammed, but the enemy’s didn’t, and a burst from a Soviet Model PPSH41 “Burp Gun” hit Clark in the thigh. ...

Story continued on page 6!



**HISPANIC
HERITAGE
SPOTLIGHT ON
THE 65TH
INFANTRY
REGIMENT
BORINQUEENERS**

The 65th Inf. Reg. Borinqueneers: Heroes of Hungnam!

SEMPER FIDELIS & HONOR ET FIDELITAS: One of the pinnacle achievements of the Borinqueneers in Korea was when they rushed to the defense of the US Marines, 1st Division, and stayed behind to valiantly fight off the enemy after the Marines were encircled and

ordered to withdraw to Hungnam. After providing rear-guard cover of heroic proportions for the Marines, the operation culminated on Christmas Eve 1950 as the last Borinqueneers boarded ship. Hungnam is considered as one of the epic, successful withdrawals of military history.



At left: the last two US soldiers to board ship at Hungnam were Borinqueneers Cpl. Julio Guzman & Sgt. Major Lupericio Ortiz.

“Fijar Bayonetas!” (Fix Bayonets!)



Wikipedia: “The 65th Infantry Regiment a.k.a. Borinqueneers led the final and only documented regimental-sized bayonet charge by US forces during the 20th century. Two out of three 65th Inf. Reg. battalions fixed bayonets and charged up hill scattering and decimating an entire Chinese division during the Korean War. The regiment finally received some long-overdue recognition for this and countless additional acts of heroism and sacrifice from 1899-1956 despite the additional hardships of segregation and prejudice, after a concerted nationwide effort by Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance to secure for them the United States Congressional Gold Medal in 2014.”

General Douglas MacArthur had high praise for the 65th: “They are writing a brilliant record of heroism in battle and I am indeed proud to have them under my command. I wish that we could count on many more like them.”

1st & only Latino 4-Star General began as a Borinqueneer!

The 1st and only Latino 4-Star Army general began his career as a young Borinqueneer officer in Korea. A Mexican-American, **Richard E. Cavazos** earned his first of two Distinguished Service Crosses while a Borinqueneer for his heroic actions during an attack on Hill 142. This award is our nation’s 2nd high-

est medal for individual heroism. He also was awarded his 1st Silver Star and 1st Purple Heart as a Borinqueneer. The Puerto Rican soldiers in the segregated unit held him in high esteem and regarded him as a true soldiers’ officer. Later, he attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the British Staff College and the Armed Forces Staff

College. In 1967, Cavazos commanded 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, in Vietnam. His valiant leadership of that unit in the attack at Loc Ninh earned him a second Distinguished Service Cross. After Vietnam, he served in various command capacities, and was awarded his fourth star in 1982, assuming command of the US Army Forces Command.



A Mexican-American, Gen. Cavazos got his start as a Borinqueneer!

Don Modesto Cartagena de Jesús

The most decorated Puerto Rican soldier in US history, a proud 65th Infantry Regiment “Borinqueneer”, the late Sergeant First Class **Don Modesto Cartagena de Jesús** served in WWII & Korea. He is a recipient of the nation’s 2nd highest award for heroism, the Distinguished Service

Cross, as well as the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster and “V” device, the Purple Heart, and many others. Hailing from Cayey, Puerto Rico, he was very active in veterans affairs for many years following his renowned military service. Due to the language barrier and the often inadequate respect

for their heroic actions at the time, numerous Latino soldiers were under-recognized, and Don Modesto’s Distinguished Service Cross citation reads more like a Congressional Medal of Honor citation, which he has merited.



SFC Modesto Cartagena

Mambo on Hill 167, continued from page 4.

Clark threw his carbine away and instinctively jumped on the soldier. At the same time, he took his steel pot off and began beating the Chinese soldier senseless. When the soldier moved, Clark remembered he still had his Smith & Wesson 45 revolver and shot him. Other enemy soldiers nearby hurled grenades at Clark wounding him in the legs, knee, and face. Cpl. José Otero-González ran through the hail of fire, following Clark, firing his rifle, and throwing hand grenades at the Chinese. Near one of the enemy trenches, he found his platoon leader injured and stretched out on the ground. Otero told his lieutenant, "I'll save you." PFC Maximino Paoli, who had charged with Otero, was suddenly knocked down, wounded in the head. Clark thought he was dead, but Paoli jumped back up furious and bayoneted the two Chinese who were throwing grenades directly at Clark. Later Paoli discovered a bullet wedged in his helmet between the liner and the steel pot. Cpl. Otero spotted another 2nd Platoon NCO and rescued him, too. The intensity of the enemy fire was so severe; it did not allow the other two C Co. rifle platoons to the east to provide any support. The promised tank fire support from the MLR never materialized either. The 2nd Platoon was already intermingled with the Chinese on the hill, and the tanks could not risk firing into friendly forces. Except for a small attached rifle team, 2nd Platoon was on its own. Chinese bunkers were blown up by the 57mm recoilless rifle team or were directly

assaulted by the infantryman. As the brutal fight progressed for several hours, it became apparent that the alleged "half squad" of 3-4 enemy riflemen was a lot more, possibly an enemy Company of a hundred Soldiers. On its own and outnumbered at least two to one, 2nd Platoon still managed to chase the enemy from the position, then machine gun the Chinese who were running away back to their lines. Then Clark directed fire against outlying Chinese mortar positions. The 2nd Platoon succeeded in capturing two Chinese Prisoners in the gruesome melee. Perhaps the bravest man Clark witnessed that day was the medic attached to his platoon, PFC Demetrio Villalobos-Melendez. With all the death and maiming going on in the bloody brawl, he calmly saved lives, attended the wounded and moved through enemy fire. Clark and his platoon of Puerto Rican infantry owned Hill 167 until they received orders to withdraw from the position. Refusing medical aid and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Clark moved through the heavy hostile fire assisting in the evacuation of the wounded. During the withdrawal, the POWs were killed by the intense Chinese fire. Clark was the last platoon member to leave the enemy position. The platoon had taken all their wounded and dead back with them, including the upper half of one of its soldiers. No platoon member living or dead was left behind. During the platoon's withdrawal to the MLR, the Chinese fired an estimated 3,000 rounds of

mortar and artillery. Clark was unable to keep up with his men since he was severely wounded and since he was the last to leave the objective. During his lonely walk back, he was lifted off the ground three times by the 122mm mortar shelling along the withdrawal route. Miraculously, he finally reached the Battalion Aid Station at approximately 1100 hours. As 2nd Platoon neared the MLR, other soldiers including Capt. Enrique A. Vicéns, risked their lives to run to the aid of the wounded C Co. First Sergeant MSG Rafael E. Balzac also assisted in evacuating a wounded comrade. Upon reaching friendly positions, he refused medical aid for his own wounds, and after calling for volunteers to accompany him, returned to help evacuate more wounded. As he was carrying a fallen comrade on his shoulders to safety, a devastating barrage of enemy mortar fire swept the entire area, killing him instantly. His body was not recovered until a couple of days after the battle. The casualty rate for 2nd Platoon was 50% with 7 killed and 24 wounded.

The Borinqueneers gave a special name to Hill 167: Mambo 167. Mambo was a very popular Latin music and dance that swept the Latin world in the early 1950s; when the men of the 65th were going to "rumble" in combat, they referred to it as "going to the Mambo." Clark learned about the name while in the hospital recovering from his wounds; it was months before he recovered. ...

Story conclusion on page 7!





Puerto Rico's Borinqueneers awarded U.S. Congressional Gold Medal, Continued from page 1.

In its early years, the unit was termed the “**Porto Rico**” Regiment of the “**American Colonial Army.**”

The Borinqueneers fired the **1st shots in defense of freedom** at the onset of WWI when an armed German supply ship attempted unsuccessfully to leave San Juan Bay in Puerto Rico to re-supply German submarines.

The unit defended the strategic Panama Canal Zone during WWI. While in Panama, 335 Puerto Rican soldiers were wounded by the **chemical gas experimentation** which the United States conducted as part of its active chemical weapons program.



Mambo on Hill 167, continued from page 6.

Clark was awarded the Silver Star and two purple hearts for six separate grenade wounds and the bullet wound he received. First Sergeant Balzac was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and Capt. Vicéns, Cpl. Otero and PFC Villalobos-Melendez received the Bronze Star. Two Silver Stars and nine Bronze Stars were awarded that day, most to the soldiers of 2nd Platoon. The Puerto Rican soldiers had shown what they could do with good leadership. Despite being outnumbered and out-gunned, these fierce warriors won the day against a heavily armed and entrenched enemy force that outnumbered them two-to-one. Today Hill 167 is deep inside the Demilitarized Zone near North Korea, but Borinqueneers will never forget their Mambo 167.

LTC Baltazar (Bart) Soto is a 1976 ROTC graduate of the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico. An author & historian, he serves on the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance national steering committee.



Above, “Mission Accomplished!” visual.

During WWII, the 65th again defended the canal, and also saw action in North Africa and Central Europe. General Douglas MacArthur had requested that the Borinqueneers be assigned to him in the Pacific during World War II. The Pentagon **denied his request** because of prejudice toward the 65th. MacArthur was glad to later have them in Korea. During the Korean War, Borinqueneers earned **more than 2,700 Purple**

Hearts. Over 740 of them were killed in action (KIA), and 121 are still missing in action (MIA). These soldiers never came home, living or dead.

Heroic successes in Korea included the last Regimental bayonet assault in U.S. military history, providing valiant rear-guard fighting cover for the U.S. Marines’ withdrawal to Hungnam, and many others.

There the Borinqueneers were awarded **1 Medal of Honor, 9 Distinguished Service Crosses, over 250 Silver Stars, and more than 600 Bronze Stars for valor.**

The Regiment faced unique challenges due to **discrimination and prejudice**, including the humiliation of being ordered to shave their moustaches “until such a time as they gave proof of their manhood”; being forced to use separate showering facilities from their non-Hispanic “Continental” officers; being ordered not to speak Spanish under penalty of court-martial; flawed personnel-rotation policies based on ethnic and organizational prejudices; and a catastrophic shortage of trained noncommissioned officers.

Story continues on page 8!



Today & always...

Saluting all who've served and sacrificed in the cause of freedom.



Above, "BLESSED FLAG." Chaplain blesses new flag being held by 65th Inf. Reg. Borinqueneers Col. Carlos Betances Ramirez & MSG Angel J. Rivera on August 23, 1952, in Korea. Col. Betances Ramirez (Las Delicias, Cabo Rojo) was the only Puerto Rican officer to have commanded an Infantry Battalion in the Korean War. A jibaro, he started his military career as an enlisted man. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, & other medals. MSG Rivera loved the Army so much that he served for 22 years, and then was a DAV volunteer at the VA in San Juan until his passing at that hospital in October of 2001.

Puerto Rico's Borinqueneers awarded U.S. Congressional Gold Medal! Continued from page 7.

The Borinqueneers also were forced to wear "I am a coward" signs, ordered to paint over their unit designation "Borinqueneers" on their military vehicles, and ordered to discontinue their rations of rice and beans, termed "creole rations" at the time.

During Korea, the Puerto Rican regiment also had some Mexican-Americans, African-Americans, Virgin Islanders, Filipinos and several other nationalities. The first and only Latino 4-star Army general, Richard Cavazos, a **Mexican-American**, got his start as a young Borinqueneer officer in Korea. There he earned his first of two Distinguished Service Crosses, our nation's second highest award for heroism.

Sixty years later after the Borinqueneers had become widely forgotten, a grass-roots, nationwide, non-partisan, all-volunteer group, the **Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance** was formed in 2012, and tirelessly advocated for the awarding of the well-merited Congressional Gold Medal to the regiment. Made up of veterans, Latino-Americans, and like-minded patriots, the alliance worked closely with members of the U.S. Congress to facilitate the successful introduction and subsequent support, co-sponsorship, and passage of this special bipartisan legislation. In April 2013, the U.S. House of Representatives bill was introduced by Representatives **Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR)** and **Bill Posey (R-FL)**. The U.S. Senate companion bill was introduced shortly thereafter by **Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)**, on behalf of himself and Senators Elizabeth Warren, Marco Rubio, Chuck Schumer, Saxby Chambliss, Bob Casey, Bill Nelson, and Bob Menendez. The alliance's national chair, **Frank Medina**, a 2002 West Point graduate and Iraq War Veteran, coordinated intense grass-roots efforts by the alliance to raise public awareness and to recruit individuals and organizations to reach out to Members of Congress to request their co-sponsorship of the CGM bills. This type of legislation **requires** a daunting two-thirds of the membership of each chamber of Congress to become official Co-Sponsors of the bills. This meant that **at least** 290 House members and 67 Senators would need to be secured as Co-Sponsors! **Story conclusion on page 9!**



Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance national chair Frank Medina at a planning session in Nov. 2013 in MAICT, six months before final approval of the Congressional Gold Medal bills. Similar sessions occurred continually across the country via teleconference and in person for the two-year "full court press" effort to recognize our 65th Infantry Regiment extreme heroes.

Borinqueneers strategy sessions over 60 years apart! Left photo now "declassified" shows 65th Inf. Reg. Borinqueneers in Korea at a battle planning session. Right photo shows Borinqueneer veterans Don Celestino Cordova & Don Joe Pickard



In support of
H.R. 1726
S. 1174

The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act



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Puerto Rico's Borinqueneers awarded U.S. Congressional Gold Medal! Continued from page 8.

This, and other Congressional protocols, needed to be completed **before** the end of 2014 for final passage of the bills and the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Borinqueneers. Due to Congressional rules, the entire process would need to be started over from scratch in 2015 if the existing effort was unsuccessful. Because of the advanced age of the remaining Borinqueneers veterans, the alliance determined that **failure was not an option**. In addition, only one other Congressional Gold Medal in 238 years had been previously awarded to a Latino-American (Puerto Rican Baseball Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente), and it was high time to change that, as well!

After the introduction of the CGM bills, it took approximately 14 months of hard work to achieve the required two-thirds of House members and Senators to become Co-Sponsors in late May 2014. The **Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance**, its **supporters** and **partners**, along with **Pierluisi, Posey, Blumenthal**, and **their staffs**, had successfully championed the bills, and the **Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act** was **passed** by the House and Senate! The President signed the act into law on June 10, 2014! Success was achieved, and the Borinqueneers **finally** would take their **rightful place** in American history!

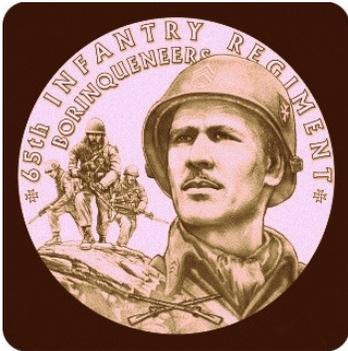
Among the national organizations that supported this historical initiative were:

AARP, League of United Latin American Citizens (**LULAC**), Vietnam Veterans of America (**VVA**), American GI Forum (**AGIF**), Association of the United States Army (**AUSA**), Military Order of the Purple Heart (**MOPH**), National Puerto Rican Coalition (**NPRC**), National Guard Association of the United States (**NGAUS**), National Council of La Raza (**NCLR**), National Association for Uniformed Services (**NAUS**), and Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (**HAPCOA**).

Numerous regional and local groups also supported the CGM bills, and the Republic of Korea (**ROK**) expressed its strong support as a grateful nation. In addition, **Excel Dryer Co.** and the **WNY Hispanic American Veterans Memorial Committee** served as sponsors.

Kudos also are due to the thousands of individual Americans, including many Latino-Americans, from all walks of life who contacted their Members of Congress to co-sponsor the legislation, most of them doing so for the very first time!

Please visit the [Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance website](#) for more info on our beloved Borinqueneers' legacy and this successful, history-making cause!



Currently, **questions on the minting** of the Congressional Gold Medal and its bronze duplicates can be directed to:

[Hon. Pedro Pierluisi's office](#),

[Hon. Bill Posey's office](#),

and to William Norton, US Mint Legislative Liaison, phone 202-354-7458, email [Wil-liam.Norton@usmint.treas.gov](mailto:William.Norton@usmint.treas.gov).

In addition, a **National Ceremony Committee** has been formed, and its website is <http://bcgmceremony.org/>.



At left, Cpl. Enrique Vega Lugo of G company, 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3rd US Infantry Division, was awarded the "Silver Star Medal" from Col. Juan Cesar Cordero Davila, the Commanding Officer of the Borinqueneers, during a ceremony held at Regimental Headquarters in Korea on April 16, 1952. Col. Cordero received his own Silver Star later that year. As Borinqueneers, both are now holders of the United States Congressional Gold Medal (2014).



In support of
H.R. 1726
S. 1174

The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act



BORINQUEÑEROS
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