

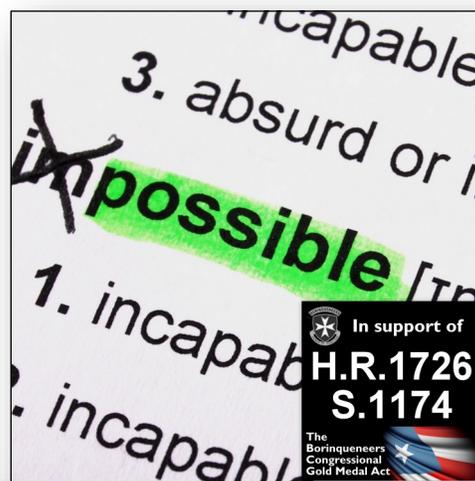
## Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance

In support of H.R.1726 & S.1174!

January 1, 2014

### New Borinqueneers blitz begins now for more Co-Sponsors of Congressional Gold Medal bills!

- ⇒ Renewed push to complete our historic task in 2014!
- ⇒ 2/3 of Senate & House must become Co-Sponsors as early as possible this year!
- ⇒ Please do YOUR part and make sure your 2 US Senators & 1 US House of Rep.'s member are Co-Sponsors NOW!
- ⇒ See page 2 for details! Thanks!



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
 We came a LONG way in 2013. Now in 2014, Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance and our great supporters MUST finish the job!  
 MORE bill CO-SPONSORS are needed in the US Senate & US House of Representatives AHORA!



**Happy Three Kings Day!**

- [Website](#)
- [Facebook Page](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube Video](#)
- [In The News](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)

**ALERT:**  
 See brief video for BORINQUEENER lovers & SALSA lovers ONLY!  
[Clic Aqui!](#)

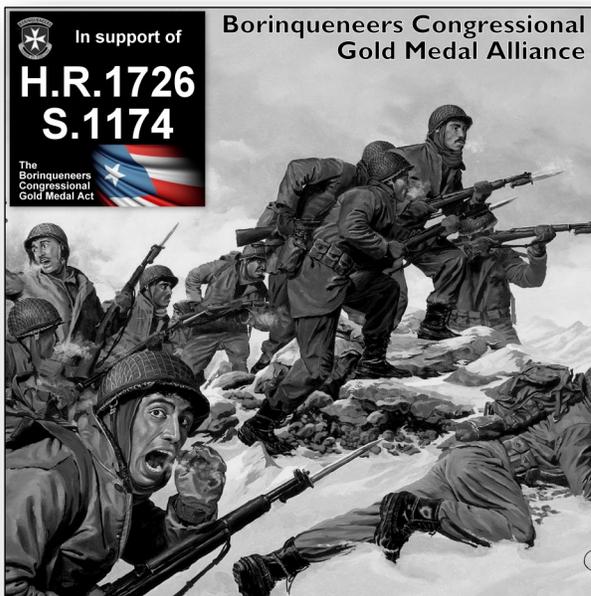


See the **LATEST HONOR ROLL** of Co-Sponsors of the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act:

- ◆ [US House of Representatives bill H.R.1726](#)
- ◆ [US Senate bill S.1174](#)

**More great links:**

- [Special Hispanic Heritage Report](#)
- [LULAC letter to Members of Congress!](#)



Simply put, the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers are the Latino-American equivalent of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and Navajo Code Talkers. The Borinqueneers must be recognized in like fashion with the Congressional Gold Medal, & take their rightful place in American history now!

# Contact YOUR US lawmakers to Co-Sponsor the bills NOW!



The 1st & only Latino 4-star US Army general got his start as a young Borinqueneer officer in Korea: Richard E. Cavazos, a Mexican-American hero!

**Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance** is asking YOU to team up with us & join this historic cause to honor our legendary heroes!

Adoption of the **Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act**, H.R.1726 in the House of Representatives & S.1174 in the Senate, will require the Co-Sponsorship by a whopping **two-thirds** of each chamber! Currently, H.R.1726 has 204 of the required 290 Co-Sponsors & S.1174 has 22 of the necessary 67 Co-Sponsors.

## WHY?

*Of the 155 Congressional Gold Medals awarded since 1776, ONLY ONE has been to a Latino-American.*

Here are 3 effective & easy ways to contact your US lawmakers, your one (1) US House of Representatives member & two (2) US Senators:

**CALL the Military Legislative Assistant (MLA)** at your (2) U.S. Senators' offices and your (1) US House of Representatives member's office in Washington, D.C.! They will make a record of your call (legal requirement). Let them know that this is a very important Latino & Veterans issue & request Co-Sponsorship of the bill (H.R.1726 or S.1174).

**SEND LETTERS to your US lawmakers** at their local district/state offices, **not**

In support of  
**H.R.1726**  
**S.1174**

**Contact Congress!**

Email Congressman Richard Neal

**Sample email web form!**

**Quick & easy!**

**Send yours AHORA to:**

**your 2 Senators & your 1 House of Rep.'s member!**

Please send me e-mail updates from Richard Neal:

Above: the quick & easy email Web Forms are 1 of 3 basic ways to contact your 2 Senators & 1 US House member.

Washington, DC (letters to DC take a ton of time to be delivered because of extra security measures) to request their Co-Sponsorship of the bills. Or you could **fax** the letters to their **DC offices**.

**CONTACT THEM via the quick & easy email Web Forms** located on each of their official Congressional websites & request their Co-Sponsorship of the bills.

See current Co-Sponsors here: <http://www.borinqueneers.org/bill-co-sponsor-countdown.html>

**US Senators list (Contact 2 of them):** [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

**US House of Representatives list (Contact of 1 of them):** <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

**MUCHAS GRACIAS!**



# From some of our National Supporters!

**League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC):**



**"The Congressional Gold Medal will be the highest award ever for the**

**65th Infantry Regiment and for ALL Latino Veterans. This distinction will catapult Hispanic veterans into the national spotlight and will honor all Hispanic veterans past, present and future."**

**American GI Forum (AGIF):**



**"We hope that the US Congress will recognize the sacrifices and obstacles**

**the "Borinqueneers" valiantly overcame as a segregated unit defending our Nation."**

**Association of the United States Army (AUSA):**



**"I urge Congress to recognize the service and sacrifice**

**of this unique unit which has endured the hardships of segregation, discrimination, language and cultural barriers while serving this nation."**

**National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS):**



**"NGAUS strongly supports H.R.1726 (& S.1174).**

**The Congressional Gold Medal would be the highest award ever for the 65th Infantry Regiment. This distinction would honor all Hispanic veterans."**

**Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA):**



**"On behalf of the membership of Vietnam**

**Veterans of America, I want you to know that VVA fully supports enactment of H.R. 1726 (& S.1174), which would award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico, known officially as the Borinqueneers."**

**Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH):**



**"The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH),**

**whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded vet-**

**erans, is pleased to add our support for H.R.1726."**

**Blinded Veterans Association (BVA):**



**"On behalf of the members, I write to add our support for H.R.1726 (S.1174), which would award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment. That regiment, known as the Borinqueneers, was the only Hispanic-segregated active duty unit in the United States Armed Forces and served with distinction in both world wars and the Korean War. I urge Congress to recognize the service and sacrifice of this unique unit which has endured the hardships of segregation, discrimination, language and cultural barriers while serving this nation."**

**Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA):**



**"(We) be-**

**lieve that it is now time for Congress to recognize the Borinqueneers for their service, their sacrifice, and their bravery with the Congressional Gold Medal."**



***"We will NOT allow the legendary Borinqueneers to become a fading footnote in American history, & in the history of Latino-Americans & Puerto Ricans in the US!"***

**Visit our website: [www.65thCGM.org](http://www.65thCGM.org)**

# Facts in support of H.R. 1726 & S. 1174!

Simply put, the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers are the Latino-American equivalent of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and Navajo Code Talkers. The Borinqueneers must be recognized in like fashion with the Congressional Gold Medal, & take their rightful place in American history **NOW!**

Hailing from **Puerto Rico**, the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers were the largest, longest-standing (1899-1959), and **only** active-duty segregated Latino military unit in U.S. history.

Like the Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers, Women Airforce Service Pilots, Nisei Soldiers, and Montford Point Marines who've **already** been recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal, the Borinqueneers overwhelmingly distinguished themselves in service and heroism, all the while enduring the **additional hardships of segregation, discrimination, and adverse circumstances.**

The remaining Borinqueneers are in their 80's & 90's, having served in **WWII and Korea.**

A nationwide, non-partisan, all-volunteer group, the **Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance** has been advocating the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to these **elderly WWII & Korea veterans** since late last year. Made up of veterans, Latino-Americans, and like-minded patriots, the organization has worked closely with members of the U.S. Congress to facilitate the successful introduction and subsequent support of special **bipartisan** legislation. Now they are seeking **Co-Sponsors** of the bills, S.1174 in the Senate and H.R.1726 in the House of Representatives.

In its early years, the unit was termed the "**Porto Rico**" Regiment of the "American Colonial

Army."

The Borinqueneers fired the **1st shot** 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 resupply 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.

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 have them later in Korea.

During the Korean War, **2,771** Borinqueneers earned Purple Hearts. **750** of them were killed in action, and more than **120** are still missing in action. **These never came home, living or dead.**

Heroic successes include the **last Regimental bayonet assault** in US military history, **providing heroic rear-guard fighting cover** for the US Marines' withdrawal to Hungnam, and many others.

**As cited in the bills, the Regiment faced unique challenges**



**Team up with us!**



**Above: He found a home with the Borinqueneers in Korea when he was assigned to the 65th due to prejudice... Julius Dickerson (LTC ret.), 91, graduated from Howard University as an architect. A WWII & Korea veteran, this African-American served as the Borinqueneers artillery company executive officer.**

**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.

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 unit also had some Mexican-Americans, African-Americans, Virgin Islanders, Filipinos, & several other nationalities.

**[Learn more here!](#)**

*"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 feeeth" mockingly imitating the Spanish accent of most of the regiment's Puerto Rican soldiers."*

*"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, a captivating story of heroism & sacrifice despite prejudice.

Follow this link to read the story & learn more about the legendary 65th Inf. Reg. Borinqueneers in our [Special Hispanic Heritage Report!](#)

**FACTS:**

They executed the last regimental bayonet assault in US military history in 1951 during the Korean War.

Near Hungnam, they valiantly defended as rear-guard the retreating 1st Marine Division in one of the epic military withdrawals of history.

In Korea, they earned 2,771 Purple Hearts. 750 were killed in action & 100 are still missing in action.

The 1st & only Latino 4-Star Army general, a Mexican-American, got his start as a young Borinqueneer officer in Korea.



www.65thCGM.org



In support of

**H.R.1726**  
**S.1174**

The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act



Ask your US lawmakers to Co-Sponsor the bills NOW!

**22 Co-Sponsors of US Senate bill S.1174 to date; 45 MORE NEEDED ASAP to hit the 67 minimum required...**



**ATTENTION Latinos, Veterans, & like-minded patriots: Contact YOUR U.S. lawmakers NOW to Co-Sponsor the bills!**

**Thank You Very Much!!!**

**Alaska**  
Sen. Mark Begich (D)  
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R)

**Colorado**  
Sen. Michael Bennet (D)

**Connecticut**  
Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D)  
Sen. Chris Murphy (D)

**Delaware**  
Sen. Christopher Coons (D)

**Florida**  
Sen. Marco Rubio (R)  
Sen. Bill Nelson (D)

**Georgia**  
Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R)

**Hawaii**  
Sen. Brian Schatz (D)

**Illinois**  
Sen. Dick Durbin (D)  
Sen. Mark Kirk (R)

**Massachusetts**  
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D)  
Sen. Edward J. Markey (D)

**New Jersey**  
Sen. Robert Menendez (D)

**New York**  
Sen. Charles Schumer (D)  
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D)

**Pennsylvania**  
Sen. Bob Casey (D)  
Sen. Pat Toomey (R)

**Texas**  
Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)  
Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

**West Virginia**  
Sen. Joe Manchin (D)



**H.R.1726:**  
*At left, pictured with Borinqueneer veterans, Rep. Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR) & Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL) introduced H.R.1726 in the US House of Representatives on April 25, 2013. It's already been eight months since the bill was introduced.*



**S.1174:** *Above, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) announces his introduction of the US Senate bill S.1174 on June 18, 2013.*

We think it's time!  
¿Tú también?

**BORINQUEENERS  
CONGRESSIONAL  
GOLD MEDAL  
ALLIANCE**

[Website](#)

[Facebook Page](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube Video](#)

[In the News!](#)

[US House H.R.1726  
Co-Sponsor Countdown](#)

[US Senate S.1174  
Co-Sponsor Countdown](#)

[Email our National Chair  
Frank Medina](#)

Executive Sponsor:  
[You Are Strong! Center on  
Veterans Health and  
Human Services](#)



# They must take their rightful place in American history AHORA!

Our youngest remaining Borinqueneer veterans are in their 80's and 90's, having served bravely in **WWII and Korea**. We cannot allow Congress to drag their feet on this. Mission completion must occur as early as possible in 2014!

All **Co-Sponsors** of the bills must be secured, & **all additional Congressional protocols** must be completed prior to the end of 2014 for complete victory!

**Unlock the BORINQUEENER in you!**



**Contact your 2 US Senators & 1 US House of Rep.'s member AHORA!**

In support of  
**H.R.1726  
S.1174**  
The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act

See if your 2 US Senators are onboard as Co-Sponsors yet! If not, please contact them ASAP!!! 45 MORE Senators needed! Gracias! See: <http://www.borinqueneers.org/senate-bill-s-1174.html>!!!

We still NEED 86 Co-Sponsors in the US House! Please check if your 1 US House of Representatives member has become a Co-Sponsor yet! If not, please contact you Rep. NOW!!! Thank you! See: <http://www.borinqueneers.org/house-bill-hr-1726.html>!!!



From left, Borinqueneers Don Dolores Nieves, Don Celestino Cordova, & Don Joe Piccard with Frank Medina, national chair of Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance.

