

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

1

PUBLIC MEETING OF  
CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Department of the Treasury

United States Mint

801 9th Street, NW

Boardroom, 8th Floor

Washington, D.C. 20220

Reported by: Chaz Bennett

Capital Reporting Company

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

2

C O N T E N T S

Public Advisory Committee discussion of 2016 National Park Service 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin	8
Public Advisory Committee discussion of Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights	133
Public Advisory Committee discussion of 65th Infantry Regiment for Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal	163

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

163

(Whereupon off the record at 2:00 p.m., and  
back on the record at 2:29 p.m.)

MS. LANNIN: I'd like to begin with a couple of things here. We are about to start our discussion of the designs for the 65th Infantry Regiment for Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal. And we've got just an unbelievable number of great designs to choose from, but before I do that, I would like to welcome all of our guests who are here and that includes people that we have had the fortune to meet before. Sam Rodriguez is here and Javier Morales.

MR. MORALES: Yes.

MS. LANNIN: Nice to see you. Thank you for joining us. And also before we begin our discussion, I would like the committee to know that we have received this morning a letter from Florida Senator Marco Rubio supporting the Congressional Gold Medal honoring the 65th Infantry Regiment, the Borinqueneers. Without objection, I will make the Senator's letter part of the record. Thank you.

All right. I think we should begin by discussing obverses. Jean, I'm going to pick on you.

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

164

No? Sorry, April. I was so excited about reading this. April, talk.

MS. STAFFORD: Thank you, Madam Chair. IT is Public Law 113-120 that awards a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the 65th Infantry Regiment known as the Borinqueneers in recognition of its pioneering military service, devotion to duty, and many acts of valor in the face of adversity.

The 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico was the last segregated unit of the United States Military comprises primarily of Hispanic soldiers. They fought in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Their story has been described as one of pride, courage, heartbreak, and redemption.

We have many interested parties present and on the phone including o your two Congressionally appointed liaisons who, as you mentioned, are here today. They are Mr. Samuel Rodriguez and Mr. Javier Gonzalez Morales, and we will be talking about their preferences of obverse and reverse as we move through the designs but I would like to invite them to make some opening comments to the committee.

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

165

MR. MORALES: Good afternoon, everybody. As you know, my name is Javier Morales Gonzalez. I'm naturally from Ciales, Puerto Rico. For me, it's a pleasure being here and representing the Borinqueneers from Puerto Rico. I think that, through my behalf, I would say that they are sending you a warm welcome and certainly gratitude for taking your time out to listen to our recommendations for the Congressional Gold Medal.

My passion for this is that I was the President of the Association 65th Infantry Regiment Association in Puerto Rico. It was created by the Korean War -- World War II veterans and certainly our group is not only Korean War veterans but also any veteran that would like to join our organization. I've been working with the Korean War veterans. I go throughout the island looking for them, making sure that they're receiving their benefits, making sure that they're well taken care of as well as if they did not receive their awards as they would have when they were in the war. For example, if they were wounded and did not receive a Purple Heart, I would make sure

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

166

that I would get that for them. So we are trying to do some recommendations -- recognitions for them and I really appreciate you giving me this time and being here is so exciting that I'll have to write something about this. Thank you.

MS. LANNIN: Thank you for joining us.

(Applause.)

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. I'm Samuel Rodriguez and I made some remarks but I will request that the full remarks be entered into the record. But I will say a few because we are under time constraints and I don't want to hog our time for the discussion and make full good use of our time allotted.

I want to first of all thank Mr. Gary Marks for his tenure as Chair of the Committee. The last time we met, he stated something that continues to be the rattle in my conscience. He stated that the Borinqueneers spent much of their time fighting uphill battles. To this day, I still cannot get that out of my head. It's been very important to me. Ms. Lannin, today is a very significant day and I know that the committee, under your leadership, is going to do great

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

167

things.

MS. LANNIN: Thank you.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: We all know that the design management team is top notch and I am so proud to have collaborated with this team. Very importantly, we have a good team work effort going on here. During my 33 years in public service as a government employee, I have learned that patience and perseverance is a true virtue and for that, Mr. Norton, you have earned my admiration and respect.

(Laughter.)

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Of course, how can I not talk about Megan. Megan has kept me on target. She was like a compass and I work very well with that so, you know... And I learned from her that as a program manager, that when you rush things, you never get good things done, so that's been very important today.

Today is a very historic day for the Borinqueneers and for the Puerto Rican community as a whole. This is a time of the year, from May through June, that Puerto Ricans celebrate their identity in the United States and the celebrations start in May

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

168

and end up in August but May and June is the time of the year... We celebrate for a long time. With this Congressional Gold Medal, we're going to be celebrating for years to come. The images of this medal will be on floats, will be on tablespoons, will be on silverware, on graves, they will be tattooed into people. This is going to be something that the American public has never seen. And also, we're going to sell a lot of medals because we're going to tell the story of the Borinqueneers for years to come, and we're going to -- I'm going to be out there like a -- raising money, all kinds -- asking for money because we're going to buy medals and put them on the -- put them in the pockets of Borinqueneers, infantry soldiers. You name it, we're going to do it. But I don't want to get into the details because that would take me a couple of days.

Nonetheless, I just wanted to be happy. Everybody's who's listening to us in Florida, Puerto Rico, Western New York, Chicago, Maine, everybody that's listening, we're here to vote on a medal and move forward because we don't have time to spend -- to

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

169

waste. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. LANNIN: Thank you very much.

MS. STAFFORD: Okay. So we will begin our discussion with the obverse designs. Obverse 1 depicts a Korean War Borinqueneer in the foreground securing his bayonet as he prepares for battle. The background includes the Maltese cross with World War I and World War II Borinqueneers lunging into a bayonet charge. The inscriptions are "Borinqueneers" and "65th Infantry Regiment."

Obverse 4 depicts Borinqueneers in a bayonet charge with the inscriptions "Borinqueneers" and "65th Infantry Regiment."

Obverse 5 depicts Borinqueneers in Korea patrolling in a diamond formation. The crossed rifles insignia appears at the top of the design. Inscriptions include "65th Infantry Regiment," "Borinqueneers" and "Always With Honor."

Obverses 6 and 6A depict a portrait of a fictional Borinqueneers. The soldiers in the background are in an inverted V formation taking the

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

170

high ground with fixed bayonets during a Korean War assault. The crossed rifles insignia appears at the bottom of the designs. Inscriptions are "65th Infantry Regiment" and "Borinqueneers." This is obverse 6, which I would like to note is our liaison's preference for obverse design. And this is obverse 6A.

Moving on to obverse 7, this design features a three-quarter length portrait of a fictional Borinqueneer and soldiers in the background taking high ground with fixed bayonets. The design also features a Maltese cross in the background and the crossed rifles insignia in the lower left. Inscriptions are "65th Infantry Regiment" and "Borinqueneers."

Obverse 8 depicts three Borinqueneers charging up a snow-covered hill. One of the hardships faced during the Korean War was the lack of warm clothing during the cold, harsh winter. Inscriptions include "65th Infantry Regiment" and "Borinqueneers."

Obverse 9 features Borinqueneers charging up a hill during the Korean War. The soldier in the

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

171

foreground is shouting to others to join the charge.

Inscriptions are "65th Infantry Regiment" and "Borinqueneers."

Obverse 10 depicts a Borinqueneer soldier in profile with three soldiers charging forward. The design also features the Maltese cross and the inscriptions "65th Infantry Regiment" and "Borinqueneers."

Obverse 11 portrays a Borinqueneer soldier charging forward, rifle with bayonet in hand. Two soldiers can be seen charging up the hill in the background. Inscriptions are "65th Infantry Regiment" and "Borinqueneers."

Obverse 12 depicts two Borinqueneers charging forward, rifles with bayonets in hand. Inscriptions are "65th Infantry Regiment" and "Borinqueneers."

That concludes the obverse designs. I will move on to the reverse designs.

Reverse 1 features the Maltese cross insignia, laurel branches, and the inscriptions "World War I," "World War II," "Korean War," "1899-1956," and

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

172

"Act of Congress 2014."

Reverse 2 depicts the Maltese cross insignia with the crossed rifles insignia beneath, two laurel branches frame the designs. Inscriptions are "Honor at Fidelitas" (ph) and "1899-1956," "2014" and "Act of Congress."

Reverse 3 through 6 depict the Castile de San Filipe del Moro of San Juan, Puerto Rico. It is a 16th century citadel, a central symbol of Puerto Rico and the preferred military command ceremonial parade site of the 65th Infantry Regiment. The Maltese cross insignia and laurel branches are also featured. Inscriptions are "Honor at Fidelitas" (ph) "1899-1956," "World War I," "World War II," "Korean War," and "Act of Congress 2014." This is reverse 3. It also includes the inscription "Always Honor and Valor." Reverse 4, reverse 5.

We should note this is the liaison's preferred reverse design, reverse 5.

And finally, reverse 6, which also features the inscription "Formed in San Juan, Puerto Rico," "They Fought Bravely and With Pride," and "World War

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

173

I," "World War II," and the "Korean War."

Reverse 7 features a stylized depiction of El Morro, the Maltese cross insignia, and two laurel branches to symbolize victory. Inscriptions are "World War I," "World War II," "Korean War." "1899-1956," "Honor at Fidelitas," and "Act of Congress 2014."

Reverse 8 depicts El Morro with a Maltese cross insignia and laurel branches. Inscriptions are "World War I," "World War II," "Korean War." "1899-1956," and "Act of Congress 2014."

Reverse 9 depicts the Maltese cross insignia and laurel branches. Inscriptions are "World War I," "World War II," "Korean War." "1899-1956," and "Act of Congress 2014."

Reverse 10 depicts the Maltese cross insignia with inscriptions including "World War II," "Korean War," "Act of Congress 2014," "1899-1956," and "2014."

Reverse 11 depicts the Maltese cross insignia beneath the crossed rifles insignia. Two laurel branches frame the design. The inscriptions

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

174

are "World War I," "World War II," "Korean War,"  
"Honor at Fidelitas," and "1899-1956."

Reverse 12 features a version of the Maltese cross insignia with realistic rifles representing the crossed rifles insignia. The design is surrounded by two laurel branches and includes the inscriptions "World War I," "World War II," "Korean War," "El Morro," "1899-1956," and "Honor at Fidelitas."

Reverse 12A is a variation of design 12 and features the Maltese cross insignia surrounded by two laurel branches.

Reverse 13 depicts El Morro and the Maltese cross. The design is encircled by a pair of laurel branches symbolizing victory and active service to the nation. The inscriptions are "World War I," "World War II," "Korean War," "Honor at Fidelitas," "1899" and "1956."

And finally, reverse 14 depicts the Maltese cross insignia. In the background are five vertical stripes, a reference to the stripes on the Puerto Rican flag. The design is encircled by a pair of laurel branches symbolizing victory and active service

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

175

to the Nation. The inscriptions are "World War I," "World War II," "Korean War," "Honor at Fidelitas," "Act of Congress 2014," "1899" and "1956." Madame Chair.

MS. LANNIN: Thank you, April. Before we start making the round robins here, Heidi wanted to ask a few questions of the representatives.

MS. WASTWEET: Thank you, Mary. It's been a while since we met so can you refresh my memory about the significance of the bayonets?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: The significance of the bayonet was that that was their -- when they were charging into infantry back in World War I, World War II and Korea, that was their preferred way of going into battle. And when they went into battle in Korea, they had -- there was a last charge in February of that war when they were ordered to attack a division of Chinese, and imagine a battalion, a smaller force going into combat against a larger Chinese force and everybody had their bayonets and that's how they went up to charge up the mountains to meet their enemies, so that's the significance that they were the last

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

176

known battalion in the United States Army history to attack an opposing force with bayonets charge. That was the last command that they had received to go into battle, ma'am.

MS. STAFFORD: And that's an important detail, yes.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, it is.

MS. STAFFORD: Your preference on the obverse doesn't really feature the bayonets. Is there --

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, the obverse 6 shows the soldiers with their rifles drawn -- number 6 -- and they have the bayonets on the rifles.

MS. STAFFORD: Right, but it's very, very small.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's very small but it's very symbolic that that's what they're -- it's obvious that that's what they're doing.

MS. STAFFORD: Did you have a second choice of your pick or was that the one and only?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: That was the choice that I -- and I honed in -- based on my analysis that I

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

177

reported to the committee, that was right on target. Before that, I had a different preference but that was before I started compiling the data from the stakeholders. Anything other than that would take us back to the painting that occurred in 1992 which has kind of different and we wanted something to be more original for this particular presentation, for this particular process.

MS. STAFFORD: And this is a fictional character; this is not a portrait?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: This is a fictional character that has a lot in it. At first, you see obviously it is a Hispanic Puerto Rican man. Let me say one thing. In Korea, a lot of Hispanics were, you know, bias and --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: May I speak? Chicago is very (inaudible) --

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anyway, somebody had a -- they were told to shave their mustaches so having a man with a mustache --

MS. STAFFORD: IF we could please ask any of our participants who are listening in to mute your

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

178

phones, we would appreciate it. We're getting some feedback. Thank you.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: So, as I said, the fictional man is a Hispanic man from the mountains of Puerto Rico with the mustache that's symbolic of our community, of our -- you know, of our Islanders. Number two is that he's got a sergeant's rank which is a non-commissioned officer's rank and those non-commissioned officers that fought in the World War II --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible) physical mint? We're not (inaudible) --

MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- those are -- non-commissioned officers that fought in World War II later became the NCOs that were leading soldiers into combat in Korea. So those two things make a big connection between World War II and Korea, so that's kind of the thing. And then obviously, the bottom with the crossed rifles, it's the insignia of the United States Infantry and the Army, from back in 1917, said you guys are going to be infantry so we're honoring the United States Infantry by putting those

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

179

muskets there, so that's kind of what I honed in on ma'am, and not just me but also my team. We've discussed it with a lot of people here in Washington and we had a team in Florida that looked at this and everything -- everybody's coming together around that theme, ma'am. It's not just Sam Rodriguez. It's a community here.

MS. STAFFORD: All right. It sounds like there's been a lot of analysis and thought that's gone into this so thank you very much for filling in the blanks.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, ma'am.

MS. LANNIN: Okay, Jeanne, I'm going to let you off the hook and let you be the last person; is that okay and I'd like to -- okay.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Before we continue, I'm calling on behalf of Chicago. We have Chicago --

MS. LANNIN: I'm sorry, we're in the middle of a committee meeting and if there is time at the end of the meeting for discussion, we will entertain a question but right now the members of the committee --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm not asking a

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

180

question. I'm saying can we see the design  
(inaudible).

MS. LANNIN: I -- can they see the designs?  
I don't believe it is possible. I'm sorry.  
Technologically, I don't believe that it's possible.  
This is a meeting that you can listen in on and listen  
to our discussion but cannot see the designs; is that  
correct? You don't have the ability to do that. Tom,  
would you like to begin speaking, please?

MR. URAM: Thank you, Madame Chair and I  
just want to say that the passion that Sam  
demonstrates, not only at this meeting but the at the  
others, is certainly relative of his -- the passion  
for the group as well as the heritage and the honor  
and the respect to the history behind what you guys  
are accomplishing here and congratulations to the  
efforts that have been -- that you've gone through the  
process and it's certainly super and speaks volumes  
for what you're trying to do.

Having said that, I'm pretty much all in  
favor of their -- your recommendations based on all  
the information that you've presented. So I would

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

181

heartily endorse number 6 as well as number 5, and it's a case, unlike with the coins and so forth, you know more about your organization and what you want to accomplish and it needs to be your medal, your recognition and so forth. And I think that the artists certainly did a lot of great renderings here, and I defer to your expertise on that, so I'll be supporting your choices. Thank you. Thank you, Madame Chair.

MR. SCARINCI: Donald Scarinci. I'm -- you know, I'm really -- can you hear me -- I'm really glad that you removed the incuse guns. If they're going to have these things tattooed, I think that would hurt.

(Laughter.)

MR. SCARINCI: And the only question I have and, you know, obviously my inclination also for these things is to go with your recommendation which is obverse 6 and reverse 5. Did you vet that and has that all been thoroughly vetted with your group and everyone agrees?

(Whereupon, background voice from telephonic participant who has not muted their phone.)

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

182

MR. SCARINCI: I'm sorry, it's hard to hear over this.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: You were saying, sir?

MR. SCARINCI: Have you vetted that with your group and everyone agrees that -- you pretty much have a consensus of opinion?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: There is no question with my group that everybody seems to understand and support that option number 6 and the obverse -- and the reverse number 5 are the best options because when you look at the coin in three-inch and one-inch, when they come together and they shrink everything much better but the compass and symbolism of having a Hispanic man, symbolic of the Hispanic culture, is very important. So those two components make this to be the best choice that we have. And also the fact that we have El Morro -- El Morro stands for our connection to Spain and El Morro being the primary site for two countries and two foreign policies and the defense of the nation, those things are key elements that are going to speak volumes to our community for decades to come.

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

183

MR. SCARINCI: Thank you. You've obviously done your homework and you've done it thoroughly and I'll be supporting number 6 and number 5 as you have recommended.

MR. MEDINA: Excuse me, this is Frank Medina, National Chair of the Borinqueneer Congressional Gold Medal Alliance. Just for the record, I have not seen any of these design candidates so I would like to be excluded from that support that Mr. Rodriguez mentioned. I have not (inaudible) the words or support any of these designs nor its elements. I just want to make that clear. Thank you.

MS. LANNIN: Thank you very much for your comments. We have the two Congressionally-appointed liaisons here and they are participating in our discussion of the designs for the obverse and reverse of these coins but we appreciate your thoughts. Thank you. Michael, are you on the line? I'll go to Gary.

MR. MORALES: Thank you, Madame Chair. First of all, let me recognize Mr. Rodriguez and all of the individuals who have served our Nation in the 65th Infantry Regiment. This civilian salutes and it

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

184

is an absolute honor for me to be a part of this process to help you gain this Congressional Gold Medal. First of all, let me recognize the design that you've picked for the obverse. I think it would be a fine design.

I have a different idea about a design and let me explain it to you. When I think about who we're honoring here and I think about the courage that these men had to have going into battle, about the terror they must have felt when they're charging up a hill, bayonets at their side, ready to engage the enemy, to me there is no greater service you could ask a human being to provide. And this is a regiment that was known for just that, for doing just that, to be willing to give the ultimate service of their own lives for this great country of ours.

So when I think about that, I want to honor the men who did that. I want to honor, generically, I'll call him "the soldier." And I want to honor that soldier showing what he did. So if that's the objective, I find myself at design 11 if we could go there. Here is a soldier is Hispanic in his

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

185

appearance. He has the mustache that has been talked about. Here are three men who are engaged, obviously, in a bayonet charge, going uphill. You see the energy of the moment, the passion, the display of courage in your face. You know, here's someone who is boldly going forth in battle and to me, that grabs at my heart and that's what I think of when I want to honor these courageous men.

So that's where I would like to see this medal go but I'm conflicted now with the choice that you've created and I'll support both of them equally because ultimately I would like you to have what you want. I think that's more important. For the historical record, though, I will provide equal support for this one for the very reasons that I've delineated here.

As for the obverse, I couldn't think of a better one than what you have chosen and I will certainly be supporting that fully. Thank you, Madame Chair.

MS. LANNIN: Michael, are you on the phone.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We'll come back to

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

186

him.

MS. LANNIN: We'll come back to him. Okay.

Robert.

MR. HOGE: Thank you, Mary. These designs are handsome and I think they will do a fine job of honoring an outstanding group in our history. I'm happy to follow the recommendations of our stakeholders with obverse number 6 and reverse number 5. I think we need to be careful about the symbolism of the rifles that we see on so many of these. As Mr. Rodriguez mentioned, maybe they're not rifles, maybe muskets. And in fact, some of them, I think, have to have been musketoons rather than rifles or muskets because of the way they're drawn in proportion.

And astonishingly, on number 12 where it says "realistic rifles," these are the least realistic of all. I mean these are fantasy things. The artist who designed these or who drew them -- and in the case of the other ones as well -- must never have seen a flintlock firearm because these things are -- you know, they're not right, they're just wrong. But, of course, in the micro detail of a small medal or...

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

187

you're not going to see some of these tiny mistakes.

That's really all I have to say. Thank you.

MS. LANNIN: Heidi.

MS. WASTWEET: While there are many nice designs here, I'd like to commend obverse number 4, obverse number 7, obverse 10 and 11; while I like these other designs, the preference of the representatives is so strong that I come back to design number 6. And I look at this as an artist and I see nothing here that I object to or can approve upon, so I will be lending it my support. And for the reverses, I think it's a clear choice, number 5.

MS. LANNIN: MR. VIOLA: I'm Herman Viola, and it's my pleasure to be part of this historic moment which is appropriate since I'm the historian on the committee.

My first choice for the obverse would be number 1 because it really reflects the three main engagements or conflicts that these buccaneers were in. But I would definitely go along with what the group prefers and so 6 is fine and I'll support that. And ironically, number 5 is what I picked first off

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

188

without ever hearing from anybody else. I think it's a wonderful design and I think very appropriate.

Thank you.

MS. LANNIN: Erik, you're up.

MR. JANSEN: I would like to commend the artist on this number 6 on the obverse; 7, 11, and 12, a derivative one of another, very nice artwork. And as Herman just described, I actually came into this liking 6 myself so you get my support on that one.

On the reverse, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 I think are a wonderful integration of the geographic landmarks, the signature cross, and I think artistically well-founded, so you'll also get my support for your preference as item number 5.

And finally, I'll just add that of the groups we get in here supporting the historical backdrop, the spiritual reality, all of the pieces that go into what these medals are here to commemorate, you guys stand out. You guys stand out in terms of caring, breadth of participation; just the story, it's incredible. Thank you.

MS. LANNIN: Thank you very much, Erik.

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

189

Before we get to you, Jeanne, may we get to Michael who is now on the phone.

MS. STEVENS-SOLLIMAN: Okay.

MS. LANNIN: Michael. Is Michael Bugeja on the phone?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Give me one moment.

MS. LANNIN: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'll try -- the technician is having trouble so we're going to try a different route.

MS. LANNIN: Oh, I've been there. All right, Jeanne, I will go to you next if you don't mind.

MS. STEVENS-SOLLIMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair. I'd like to thank Mr. Rodriguez for coming and also for teaching me about something I didn't know, so I appreciate that very much and also for your passion. And I remember when we first met that you really wanted to have something of the diamond formation, of going up a hill with drawn bayonets. And I thought my goodness, this is going to be such a difficult task, and I commend our artists who meet that challenge. I

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

190

think they did a fine job. I don't know how they did it, but I also was very much empowered to see number 6. That was my choice from the beginning.

And also number 11, Gary mentioned his preference here, too. I liked number 11 because we had some open space behind the soldier and also because his bayonet was drawn and it touched each edge of the medal, so we have the power of that weapon, and we have soldiers coming behind the imagery. So those two pieces, although we have other good ones, were the ones that I liked best, but I will go with your choice.

And on number 5 reverse, again, I was intrigued by the ability of our artists to incorporate all of your desires, which was amazing, but I think you articulated it very well. So, again, thank you for doing that and also thank our Mint artists for being able to comply. I also liked number 5 so thank you.

MS. LANNIN: Okay. Michael, are you now on the line?

MR. BUGEJA: Are you ready for me, Mary?

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

191

MS. LANNIN: I am in this very high-tech way of Greg holding up his cell phone for a microphone.

MR. BUGEJA: I'm sorry. I was on the line and speaking but apparently, I wasn't heard. I'm going to be very brief and first to compliment the artists on both the obverse and the reverse designs. I find them all very inspiring. I do like obverse number 6 and 6A. Either of them are just very inspiring to me. We have a depth of field which I truly like. I actually prefer O6 because the depth of field is even better. It's going to give that design some pop and just speak volumes. I also like the fact that the Maltese cross on this obverse is small on each side of the legend, which brings me to the reverses. And they are all quite wonderful. You know, as a full-blooded Maltese person, I can speak about the Maltese cross. It has eight points and the Borinqueneers actually embrace all these eight points and they're very ethical. It's to live in truth, to have faith, to give (inaudible) humility, justice, to repent of sins, be merciful, be sincere, and overcome persecution; those are wonderful emblematic ethical

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

192

principles. And for that reason, I like to go just alone with the reverse number 10, although any of these reverses, in my idea, are acceptable. I just like the simple Maltese cross and the shield which represents the Borinqueneers, their courage but most of all their adherence to ethical values. Thank you, Madame Chair.

MS. LANNIN: Thank you so much, Michael. We've heard from all of our representatives and committee members. Why don't we --

MR. BUGEJA: I'll sign off.

MS. LANNIN: Why don't we compile our voting sheets, turn them in, and then I'd like to take a 10-minute break -- let's say -- or a 15 minute break. Let's see, we get back here at 3:20 and we will do -- yes, Jeanne?

MS. STEVENS-SOLLIMAN: What about the phone, people from the phone, do we have --

MS. LANNIN: After we vote and after we give the results of another vote, we will have 5 or 10 minutes for discussion. Thank you.

(Whereupon, off the record at 3:06 p.m., and

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

193

back on the record at 3:21 p.m.)

MS. LANNIN: I think that there was a little bit of concern in the room that we didn't quite let people know what the Selma foot soldiers was again, and so I just want to go over that again. Gary and I had made a motion. So for the record, the choices that we made on the foot soldiers Congressional Gold Medal is 6A with 28 points with Gary's and my motion to remove the line around and to extend the people to the edge for the obverse; and the reverse, number 5 got 30, a perfect score. So if -- is that clear to everybody which ones we -- this is the Selma foot soldiers. Okay.

All right. So we are all back here. How are we doing? Well, while we're waiting for the printout, Sam and Javier, I would like you to address the group again and take us through the process because you obviously have many, many people that gave you input into what they wanted to see, the designs, ideas, things that they wanted to do. So if you could describe for us and for anyone who is listening the extensive data that you collected and how you got to

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

194

the point where we're all here today?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. When I was appointed to this position which has brought us to this phase of the project, mindset that -- before I start -- I had -- I've been in government for 30 years working at the federal laws and stuff like that, 33 years to be exact. So I used all the skills that I have gathered working for the federal government, how to implement laws, so I used the same principles of establishing the group, establishing a procedure, establishing a process that was open and transparent to everybody. I established websites; I sent out many emails throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, and then we started a plan. And I just had a discussion with the design team here, the design manager. We had a survey where we allowed people to send in their information and we would start getting people's commentary, because I didn't want to do something on my own. And outside of that, the -- a group established another -- a pattern where they had some designs and they were voting on their designs.

We took -- we got a lot of information

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

195

through the help of Mr. Norton and we added that information to the process and we tabulated that information. I included that information in the report that I submitted to the committee back in January. I did all of that so that it would be clear that the process that we had in place was a process that was scientific, so to speak, that was transparent, and that everybody would know where my report or where my end conclusion would be. I did that, again, using my government experience so that it would have better results at the end.

Then I published all that information, all that timeline -- I put a timeline on the website, on Facebook, everywhere I could just to get more community involved, get a lot of people involved so we would have a product that we see today.

So that has been my take. On top of that, Mr. Morales, he went all over Puerto Rico gathering information. One of the big -- Mr. Alex-sear (ph) from Puerto Rico sent a letter to the committee expressing his thoughts about the Congressional Gold Medal. So in the United States and in Puerto Rico,

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

196

people were boots on the ground asking questions about this Medal. And that has been a -- I think that has been a very thorough, thorough, thorough process to gather information so we would have this outcome today. Do you have anything to say, Mr. Javier?

MR. MORALES: Yeah. I took my time out and I visited many organizations in Puerto Rico and asked them for their input. I explained to them the process that was going to happen for this Gold Medal to be designed, and they provided some samples and some themes. So those I sent to Sam and Sam was able to compile that into a report, but we did get quite a few input from Puerto Rico as well. Thank you.

MS. LANNIN: Thank you very much for clarifying that. So in other words, our committee received all of your input in January. The artists were listening to what the Congressionally-appointed liaisons had gathered from their data and from interviews with their constituents and then our artists, as have always done, created obverse and reverses matching the ideas that you gave to us. And so we have followed a process here and we have now

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

197

voted for the obverse and the reverse for this Congressional Gold Medal.

Does anybody have any other discussion that they would like to say about this, any of the CCAC members?

(No response.)

MS. LANNIN: Okay. No one wants to --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The original Borinqueneers.

MS. LANNIN: It's fine if you would like to speak. I will give you 10 minutes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible.)

MS. LANNIN: Can you speak up, please? We are having trouble hearing you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I am one of the Borinqueneers, the original Purple Heart Borinqueneers here in Chicago, the only one with the Purple Heart. I never received any surveys, any notification, and I do not use the internet. There are various Chicago Borinqueneers here that have been excluded from the process and we believe that this is not appropriate. I'm translating for my grandfather.

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

198

And also, I don't appreciate that Rodriguez calls us "country boys" and he called us (inaudible). This is highly discriminatory and inaccurate. And the company that was with was in San Juan, Puerto Rico. If you don't know, that's the capitol and that's a city. Do you understand?

MS. LANNIN: Yes, I do understand.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We also have Mr. Juan Vasquez on line as well. Mr. Juan Vasquez doesn't want to say anything.

MS. LANNIN: He does not want to say anything? He's choosing not to say anything?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He's just saying thanks for everything.

MS. LANNIN: And thank you for adding your input. Okay. I would like to announce the results of the Borinqueneers vote and we have a perfect score on obverse number 6 with 30 points. The next closest was obverse 11 with 13 followed by 6A, which is just a variation of 6, with 11. So it looks like the obverse of this Congressional Gold Medal will be obverse number 6.

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

199

For the reverse, again, we went with what our liaisons felt was the best choice, and number 5 for the reverse got a total of 28, two short of a perfect score. The next closest one was number 7 with only seven votes. So this, by far, was the outstanding reverse that was picked for the Congressional Gold Medal.

And there you have it. Any other questions?

(No response.)

MS. LANNIN: Shall we recess until tomorrow? We will be discussing the Nancy Regan. We also have an eight o'clock administrative meeting.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And that's all.

MS. LANNIN: And that's all. Thank you very much. It's 3:30.

(Whereupon, at 3:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.)

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

200

CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

I, CHAZ BENNETT, the officer before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that said deposition is a true record of the testimony given by said witness; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

CHAZ BENNETT

Notary Public in and for the

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

My commission expires:

Notary Registration No.:

**Capital Reporting Company**  
**Witness Last Name, First Name Date**

201

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

I, LUCY T. TURNBULL, hereby certify that I am not the Court Reporter who reported the following proceeding and that I have typed the transcript of this proceeding using the Court Reporter's notes and recordings. The foregoing/attached transcript is a true, correct, and complete transcription of said proceeding.

June 24, 2015\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

LUCY T. TURNBULL, CET-743

Transcriptionist