

UNITED STATES MINT  
CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015

United States Mint  
801 9th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Reported by: Christine Allen,  
Capital Reporting Company

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 3 BUGEJA, Michael, Dr.  
HOGE, Robert  
4 JANSEN, Erik  
LANNIN, Mary  
5 MARKS, Gary, Chairman  
MORAN, Mike  
6 STEVENS-SOLLMAN, Jeanne  
URAM, Thomas J.  
7 WASTWEET, Heidi  
VIOLA, Herman, Dr.

8

STAFF:

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- ANTONUCCI, Steve  
10 BIRDSONG, Betty  
EVERHART, Don  
11 KELLEY, Stacy  
STAFFORD, April  
12 SULLIVAN, Megan  
VASQUEZ, Roger  
13 WEINMAN, Greg

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Citizens Coinage Advisory, Committee Meeting 01-27-2015

3

	A G E N D A	
		PAGE
1		
2	Welcome and Call to Order	4
3		
4	Approval of 10/14/14 Meeting Minutes and Letters to the Secretary	7
5	Review and Discussion of Concepts and Themes for the 65th Infantry Regiment	
6	"Borinqueneers" Congressional Gold Medal	8
7	Review and Discussion of Candidate Designs for the 2015 High Relief 24K Gold Coin and 8 Silver Medal	54
9	Report Back on Scoring	140
10	Lunch	140
11	Review and Discussion of Candidate Designs for the Jack Nicklaus Congressional	
12	Gold Medal	154
13	Report Back on Scoring	186
14	Review and Discussion of Themes for the 2017 20th Anniversary American Eagle	
15	Platinum Bullion Coin Program	175
16	Review and Discussion of Themes for the 2018-2020 American Eagle Platinum Bullion	
17	Coin Program	187
18	Discussion of Annual Report	209
19	Recessed to Continued on Wednesday, January 28, 2015	220
20		
21		
22		

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Citizens Coinage Advisory, Committee Meeting 01-27-2015

4

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (9:34 a.m.)

3 WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

4 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Good morning, everyone.

5 I'm calling this Tuesday, January 27, 2015 meeting

6 of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee to

7 order. I want to welcome everyone here to the

8 meeting today. We have a full agenda.

9 I first want to recognize the guests

10 that we have with us here today representing the

11 programs we will be discussing. Samuel Rodriguez

12 with the Borinqueneers. I'm not sure if everyone

13 is here yet.

14 Scott Tolley who is with Jack Nicklaus,

15 a program we are going to be looking at designs

16 for later on. Jason Rano, who is Director of

17 Government Relations for the National Park

18 Foundation, and Donald Leadbetter, with Centennial

19 Partnership Coordinators.

20 I want to welcome all of you. Sam,

21 welcome to our meeting. Also, we have some

22 journalists who are with us today. I want to ask

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Citizens Coinage Advisory, Committee Meeting 01-27-2015

5

1 that if you are a journalist on the phone, please  
2 identify yourself so we can all know that you are  
3 here.

4 MR. GOLINO: This is Louis Golino.

5 MR. WALKER: This is Hubert Walker for  
6 CoinWeek.

7 MR. ZIELINKSI: Mike Zielinski for Coin  
8 Update.

9 MR. UNSER: Mike Unser from Coin News.

10 CHAIRMAN MARKS: I see Bill McAllister  
11 just came in the room. Welcome to you all. Before  
12 I get started, I just wanted to cover a little bit  
13 of ground for any folks who might be here for the  
14 first time and not familiar with our committee.

15 We are a committee that was created by  
16 an act of Congress in 2003. When Congress created  
17 the committee, they had the thought that they  
18 wanted to bring together a panel of expertise in  
19 the areas of sculpture, metallic arts, numismatics  
20 and numismatics curation, American History, and  
21 then also put some representation from the  
22 Congress, people who are recommended by various

1 leadership members in Congress ultimately  
2 appointed by the Secretary, and also  
3 representation from the general public.

4           Here with you today is a rich panel of  
5 folks who bring deep backgrounds in their fields.  
6 We are very passionate about what we do. We  
7 believe in the mission of portraying the  
8 accomplishments, the aspirations, the history of  
9 America in coins and medals.

10           We are excited to engage with the  
11 various representatives of the programs today. The  
12 one thing that I will add to this is we are not a  
13 rubberstamp committee; we are here to perform a  
14 duty that we take very seriously. Often times we  
15 agree with our sponsors, but we take our role very  
16 seriously.

17           We want to make sure that whatever the  
18 U.S. Mint produces either in coinage or medals is  
19 something that on multiple levels is successful.  
20 One, conveying the message that needs to be  
21 conveyed through the medal or coin, to do it in a  
22 way that articulates beautiful art and a way that

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Citizens Coinage Advisory, Committee Meeting 01-27-2015

7

1 honors the program and its goals.

2 I just wanted to cover that ground so  
3 that we understand what we are doing here. We  
4 have had some instances in the past where I didn't  
5 do that and people weren't clear, so I wanted to  
6 take this opportunity to make sure I covered that  
7 ground.

8 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 14, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

9 AND LETTERS TO THE SECRETARY

10 CHAIRMAN MARKS: With that said, first  
11 item on our agenda is to approve the letter and  
12 minutes from our October 14, 2014 meeting. Those  
13 materials were provided to the committee in the  
14 meeting packet. I trust you have had an  
15 opportunity to review those materials.

16 Are there any changes, additions,  
17 deletions to those documents?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN MARKS: If there is a motion to  
20 approve the same, I'd like to take that now.

21 M O T I O N

22 MR. JANSEN: So moved.

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Citizens Coinage Advisory, Committee Meeting 01-27-2015

8

1 MS. WASTWEET: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Moved and seconded to  
3 approve the letters to the Secretary and the  
4 minutes of the October 14, 2014 meeting. All  
5 those in favor, please say aye.

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Motion carries  
10 unanimously. Thank you. The next item for  
11 discussion is the concepts and themes for the 65th  
12 Infantry Regiment "Borinqueneers" Congressional  
13 Gold Medal.

14 REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CONCEPTS AND THEMES  
15 FOR THE 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT "BORINQUENEERS"  
16 CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

17 CHAIRMAN MARKS: We will go to April and  
18 Megan for their reports to us about that program.  
19 Just a word, we have about an hour and five  
20 minutes at this point to cover this ground. I  
21 want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity  
22 to contribute to this discussion. I want to make



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Citizens Coinage Advisory, Committee Meeting 01-27-2015

9

1 sure not one person monopolizes the discussion.

2 I'm going to ask that when you are

3 addressing this issue that you not exceed five

4 minutes. I think we can say everything we need to

5 say in five minutes. That way, we can have a

6 thorough discussion where everybody is

7 contributing.

8 With that, I will go to April and I'll

9 ask her for her report.

10 MS. STAFFORD: Thank you. Before I

11 begin, I'd like to repeat to anyone who is joining

12 this committee meeting on the conference call to

13 please mute your phone, including our CCAC member,

14 Mr. Bugeja. That might be actually your line that

15 is open, if you don't mind; on this end we get a

16 lot of feedback. Thank you.

17 DR. BUGEJA: I have it on mute very

18 judiciously, so it's not me.

19 MS. STAFFORD: Okay. If everyone who is

20 on the line could mute your phone that would be

21 great. Thank you.

22 It is Public Law 113-120 that awards the

1 Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the 65th  
2 Infantry Regiment known as the "Borinqueneers" in  
3 recognition of its pioneering military service,  
4 its devotion to duty and many acts of valor in the  
5 face of adversity.

6           The 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto  
7 Rico was the last segregated unit of the United  
8 States military, comprised primarily of Hispanic  
9 soldiers. They fought in World War I, World War  
10 II, and the Korean War. Their story has been  
11 described as one of pride, courage, heartbreak,  
12 and redemption.

13           The liaison has presented the following  
14 recommendations for the medal design based on the  
15 responses from the Borinqueneers surveyed.

16           For its obverse, it includes the "65th  
17 Infantry Regiment" as the unit name, the war name,  
18 specifically "Borinqueneers," and a representation  
19 of the official insignia of the United States Army  
20 Infantry which depicts crossed rifles.

21           On the reverse, suggestions include the  
22 dates "1899-1956," which represents the unit's 57

1 years of active duty, the global conflicts the  
2 Borinqueneers were involved in, including World  
3 War I, World War II, and the Korean War, the  
4 unit's motto, "Honor et Fidelitas," Latin for  
5 honor and fidelity, a depiction of El Morro, El  
6 Morro Fort or officially "Castillo San Felipe del  
7 Morro," which would stand guards at the entrance  
8 to San Juan Harbor as a reminder of a bygone era  
9 when invading countries would attempt sea attacks  
10 to take this prized city and harbor.

11           Although the U.S. would not formally  
12 enter the conflict in 1917, the first shots fired  
13 by U.S. soldiers in World War I were from El  
14 Morro. The 65th Infantry Regiment sailed past El  
15 Morro to war and also when they returned from war.

16           Also ideas for the reverse include the  
17 unit's distinctive insignia, the Maltese Cross,  
18 and two bay laurel branches to symbolize the  
19 victory of the 65th Infantry Regiment.

20           Today we have Sam Rodriguez, our liaison  
21 for the 65th Infantry Regiment Congressional Gold  
22 Medal. Sam, would you like to say a few words?

1 MR. S. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Good morning,  
2 everybody. Good morning, everybody, who is  
3 listening in to this important historic meeting.  
4 It is such an honor to be here. I want to thank  
5 everyone. I took the liberty of taking a picture  
6 the first time I was here to share with my  
7 stakeholders.

8 I believe you guys and this committee is  
9 part of history, and going forward, everybody in  
10 Puerto Rico will know who you are because for us  
11 in Puerto Rico, history is very important, we  
12 study it very much, and we are very proud of our  
13 history, and this committee is part of that.

14 This story started many, many years ago.  
15 I got involved in 2013 and have not stopped  
16 working at it. This is a team effort. I do not  
17 work alone. This is a whole community. I'm sure  
18 you have documents from supporters from all across  
19 the nation because it is very important.

20 My work in this process started with a  
21 conversation between April, Megan, Mr. Bush and  
22 Javier and I when we set out the course of what we

1 were going to do today up to this point, the time  
2 line, the design plan. We came up with the theme  
3 and even the thesis. We said we were going to let  
4 the data draw the design.

5           In my 30 years of government service, I  
6 have implemented many Acts and in government, the  
7 rulemaking and transparency, so we were going to  
8 apply the same concept to this report. That is  
9 what we did. We had a survey. We got information  
10 from the public, everywhere. In my report, all of  
11 that is all outlined.

12           I just wanted to let everybody know that  
13 this has been a very transparent process,  
14 everybody in the community knows what is going on  
15 today because of our social media campaign, e-  
16 mails.

17           I just want to thank you for this  
18 opportunity.

19           MS. STAFFORD: Thank you. That's it,  
20 Mr. Chairman.

21           CHAIRMAN MARKS: Do we have any  
22 questions before we go forward about the program

1 itself? I want to make sure the members are clear  
2 about the program or any aspect of it.

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Is there someone who  
5 would like to begin with their comments on the  
6 program? What I think might be helpful, Mr.  
7 Rodriguez, could you share with us some of the  
8 ideas? Obviously, you have a lot of passion for  
9 this program and you have done a lot of work. I  
10 think you probably have a sense of where you would  
11 like the program to go. I think it will be very  
12 beneficial if you could share some of that with  
13 us.

14 MR. S. RODRIGUEZ: Sir, yes. Going into  
15 this, I didn't want to go in my own decision, I  
16 wanted to create a document based on the  
17 recommendations I received from Megan, which is I  
18 wanted to create elements that artists could be  
19 inspired to design and come up with a theme  
20 themselves. I don't want to take a position on  
21 anything because that would be counterproductive.  
22 I want to let the artists take that position.

1           My idea was to collect information from  
2 all aspects, social, demographics, all aspects of  
3 our heritage and our military heritage, so the  
4 artists when they sit down they have a document,  
5 they don't have to go nowhere, they just look at  
6 it and start to think and get their inspiration  
7 juices.

8           The Borinqueneers started out as  
9 "Jibaro's," meaning men from the country, and they  
10 were working the land, agriculture. They didn't  
11 have any education. One day they found out they  
12 could be a part of the United States Army, they  
13 could put on a uniform and represent the United  
14 States of America.

15           They got involved. They went out, they  
16 signed up, and they went to work. They became  
17 soldiers. When the time came for them to go to  
18 war, they were like we're going to go to war,  
19 we're going to take our guitars, we're going to go  
20 to war. They said we have to give a warning.  
21 They automatically went to "Borinqueneer" which  
22 stems from the word "Borinquen," which is the

1 indigenous name of Puerto Rico. I explain all  
2 that in the report.

3 That became their battle name and they  
4 went to war with that. As soon as they got there,  
5 they were engaged, they got on a train, and  
6 straight to the hills.

7 The war in Korea was about always  
8 claiming the higher land. Most of their battles  
9 were going to the mountains.

10 After the comment period ended, in  
11 Philadelphia, a road was named after the  
12 Borinqueneers, 65th Infantry Regiment. I went  
13 there to participate in the festivities on  
14 Veterans' Day, and while I was there, I got to  
15 meet Mr. Hector Maisonave. Hector Maisonave was a  
16 member of the Borinqueneers. This man cannot see  
17 today. He's blind, but his mind is sharp as a  
18 razor.

19 He told me a story about his  
20 interaction, his experience in going into the  
21 mountains, how they would go into the mountains.  
22 He explained he would be the point man with the



1 machine gun going into battle, facing death, and  
2 that everybody on each side forming a diamond  
3 would have their bayonets ready to go and do  
4 whatever they had to do.

5           That's how he explained that to me. I  
6 documented all of that and I put it in the report  
7 because I thought that was striking.

8           Throughout the survey, almost everybody  
9 who participated in the survey wanted to see  
10 Korea. In the survey, I put do you want to see  
11 World War I, World War II, or Korea. Almost  
12 unanimously, it was Korea and bayonets. That kind  
13 of made my analysis very simple.

14           They also migrated to the official  
15 painting of the fixed bayonets of the  
16 Borinqueneers that was commissioned by the United  
17 States Guard. Everybody likes it. That is a  
18 painting that was commissioned by the Guard and  
19 not the regular Army, that is why I kind of  
20 thought it would be best for the actual artists to  
21 see that and for this committee to see that. We  
22 want to keep it as true to the story as ever.

1 I developed all that information. My  
2 survey was a survey that was open to all  
3 stakeholders, family members, historians, not just  
4 Borinqueneers but everybody who had an interest,  
5 and I conveyed that information. I think it is  
6 going to inspire the artists to do great work.

7 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you very much.

8 Hello?

9 MR. MORALES: Good morning. My name is  
10 Javier Morales, BCGM, Puerto Rico, if I could have  
11 a few minutes.

12 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Yes; please. Please go  
13 ahead, sir.

14 MR. MORALES: Thank you. I have been  
15 down here in Puerto Rico since 2006. I was  
16 inspired to get involved with researching the  
17 Borinqueneers. My time has been spent in the last  
18 eight years going around the island looking for  
19 veterans that have been forgotten really, not only  
20 as members of the U.S. Armed Forces, but also when  
21 they come back after spending a lot of sweat and  
22 tears, they have been forgotten as well. Their

1 benefits have not been met.

2 I think we need a memorial that will  
3 inspire the world to know veterans from Puerto  
4 Rico had a lot to do with the history of the  
5 United States by not only in the Korean War but  
6 prior to that, during World War II as well.

7 We kind of should give a lot of credit  
8 to those veterans that joined the U.S. Army during  
9 World War I and World War II. They went in  
10 without knowing any English. They had to learn  
11 that language, a different language.

12 They not only learned that language,  
13 they learned to be disciplined, and that  
14 involvement in World War I and World War II was  
15 carried forward to the veterans of the Korean War.  
16 They were the ones that trained the new soldiers.

17 I think we can see the outcome, the  
18 results from that by seeing what happened. They  
19 were very dedicated and went in with valor, with  
20 determination, to do what they had to do, and they  
21 did it. I think that is very important to keep in  
22 mind, not only the Korean War veterans, but we had

1 World War I and World War II heroes, which many of  
2 them didn't know what was expected of them, but  
3 they went in there and they did it.

4 I think honoring all the Borinqueneers  
5 is very important to all of us. Down here in  
6 Puerto Rico, I was able to travel, trying to get  
7 feedback from them, meeting the veterans and  
8 asking them what would you like to see. Again,  
9 some of the results were fast forwarded to Sam,  
10 and recorded in the report as well.

11 All the veterans here in Puerto Rico are  
12 anxious to see what the results are. I really  
13 want to thank you for taking the time you have  
14 given us to do this. I thank everybody for  
15 hearing our recommendations. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you.

17 COL. FREYTES: Could I speak? This is  
18 Col. Dennis Freytes, U.S. Army retired, former  
19 Professor of Military Science at the University of  
20 Puerto Rico. I would like to speak on behalf of  
21 my father, Borinqueneer Menendez, and my uncle,  
22 who greatly fought with the Borinqueneers. Can I

1 say a few words?

2 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Yes, please, sir.

3 COL. FREYTES: First, I want to thank  
4 Sam Rodriguez and Javier Morales. I think they  
5 were excellent liaisons. They really brought in a  
6 lot of good things about the Borinqueneers and  
7 held a lot of events here in Florida and in Puerto  
8 Rico.

9 I would like to add one event in the  
10 Borinqueneers' lives is a famous charge. It was  
11 the last infantry bayonet charge, and should be  
12 captured on this coin. I have recommended that  
13 one side of the coin say "The Borinqueneers," have  
14 the flags of the United States and Puerto Rico,  
15 because it is very important to identify Puerto  
16 Rico from where the Borinqueneers came, even  
17 though we have a lot of Borinqueneers residing all  
18 over in different states.

19 On the other side of the coin, like  
20 mentioned, the 65th Infantry Regiment and 1899,  
21 and then the infantry rifles over the shield where  
22 it says "Honor and Fidelity."

1 I'm a former commander of Infantry,  
2 Special Forces and Airborne. This was an infantry  
3 unit and it should be recognized.

4 Under that, World War I, like Javier  
5 mentioned, World War II and Korea, and at the end,  
6 "U.S./Puerto Rico." It is very important that  
7 people understand where the Borinqueneers came  
8 from, and their most important action being that  
9 charge in U.S. Army history.

10 Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you, sir. We are  
12 going to go ahead to our committee discussion. I  
13 will first recognize Erik Jansen.

14 MR. JANSEN: I want to thank Sam for the  
15 background material you provided us. It was some  
16 of the most thorough, colorful, crisp that we have  
17 received in a while, so thank you. It made it  
18 easy to understand the story.

19 As I read through that, it was  
20 interesting one particular word jumped out at me,  
21 and I was kind of moved to examine that word, and  
22 the word was "up hill battles." That is a word we

1 throw around any time something is tough, oh, it's  
2 an up hill battle.

3           Suddenly, when I read your piece, I had  
4 a vision of guys going up hill against the old  
5 adage, "Always hold the high ground in a battle,"  
6 and when you don't, you are at a disadvantage.  
7 The up hill piece of that, I examined that word  
8 and suddenly this story came alive for me.

9           As we try to draft directions and  
10 inspiration to the artists, I'm not sure what I  
11 would do with that, but I'm not the artists that  
12 will get to figure that out. The up hill battle  
13 seems to be the constant here along side -- we can  
14 make a long list of words -- "courage."

15           Quite frankly, another thing that was  
16 striking in the story was the transition from a  
17 proud segregated group to a group that had proven  
18 itself and then essentially unsegregated without  
19 losing the strength of its legacy and pride. That  
20 would be the second piece of this.

21           The last commenter mentioned a symbol of  
22 crossed flags, and that might be a way to do it

1 although certainly not the only way. I think  
2 there is a story here about the transition from a  
3 segregated group in a time of segregation which  
4 carried its strengths forward to share them in a  
5 non-segregated world as they proved themselves in  
6 their service in the Korean War and certainly  
7 post- World II period.

8 I think the Maltese Cross insignia is a  
9 powerful symbol which could be almost a central  
10 feature on one side of this medal. It is such a  
11 bold and simple yet identifiable characteristic of  
12 the organization.

13 I would encourage the artists not to  
14 repeat the kind of El Morro architecture that was  
15 featured on the 50 States quarter, when we did the  
16 territorial adjunct to that at the end of that  
17 program. You will recall that quarter has the  
18 round turret featured on it, along with a flower,  
19 I think, off to the right at the 3:00 position if  
20 I remember right.

21 I would encourage us to almost look  
22 beyond that and really try to dig inspirationally



1 into the character of this group in the  
2 segregation move to join the power of the United  
3 States and not just the Puerto Rican history, as  
4 well as the up hill battle. That is a rich one.

5 That would be my comments. Thank you,  
6 Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you. Mary, are  
8 you ready?

9 MS. LANNIN: Yes, I am. I agree with  
10 what Erik said. I'd like to ask a couple of  
11 questions. "Borinquena" is the daughter of the  
12 sun and the sea." Is there in Puerto Rico a  
13 fictional representation of this woman?

14 MR. S. RODRIGUEZ: No, ma'am. That was  
15 the composition that became the anthem of Puerto  
16 Rico, and the composer, Manuel Fernandez Juncos,  
17 just described Puerto Rico as being the daughter  
18 of the sea and --

19 MS. LANNIN: There is no fictional image  
20 that people would identify with that concept?

21 MR. S. RODRIGUEZ: I wish there were,  
22 but no.

1 MS. LANNIN: Okay. I also like the idea  
2 of the Maltese Cross, but one of the things I was  
3 reading in this very rich history that you  
4 provided us is the use of bayonets. That is  
5 something I really don't think about normally when  
6 I think about war, and how personal and close that  
7 must be, and without giving the artists any ideas  
8 of mine, but what if the Maltese Cross were made  
9 out of bayonets. Just a thought.

10 That's it for me.

11 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Very good. Herman?

12 DR. VIOLA: I'm Herman Viola. I'm the  
13 historian on this committee. I want to say I feel  
14 this is a very historic moment. I am actually  
15 quite proud that I could be part of this session  
16 and make this a reality. In fact, I'm surprised  
17 we haven't recognized this group before.

18 I really liked the discussion. It's a  
19 matter of what the veterans would like to see. I  
20 think that is a very creative idea with the  
21 bayonets. I am really looking forward to the  
22 artistic designs that would come out of this.

1           Have your people done any drawings they  
2 could share with us that maybe they have given  
3 some thought to as to what they would like to see,  
4 the up hill, the bayonets?

5           MR. S. RODRIGUEZ: No, a lot of  
6 stakeholders sent in some drawings themselves but  
7 because it would be better for the artists to come  
8 up with their own designs, I kind of left that to  
9 the professionals.

10           I wanted something that would be crisp,  
11 organic, but we have the complete intellectual  
12 property and ownership. The rendition that I  
13 provided was a compilation of stories from  
14 Borinqueneers.

15           There was a movement in Florida where  
16 people were also participating in designs. When I  
17 got that information, I just noted the elements,  
18 and I added it in one of the appendices of the  
19 report, just to show the transparency and  
20 integrity of the process, that everything was used  
21 in the analysis of this report.

22           DR. VIOLA: Thank you. I can visualize

1 some very exciting designs. I'm looking forward  
2 to see what the artists come up with. Thank you.

3 MR. MEDINA: Mr. Viola, this is Frank  
4 Medina, National Chair for Borinqueneers  
5 Congressional Gold Medal Alliance. With the  
6 respect of the Chair and Sam Rodriguez, I'd like  
7 to address your question real quick.

8 I was under the understanding that  
9 visual renditions were not allowed due to any  
10 potential copyright infringement. I'm sure has  
11 received a lot of renditions from the veterans  
12 themselves. I know I did. I forwarded them on to  
13 the U.S. Mint. I think Sam received those as  
14 well.

15 To answer your question, yes, there have  
16 been a lot of veteran renditions.

17 DR. VIOLA: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. WEINMAN: This is Greg Weinman,  
19 counsel for the Mint. That is correct, for  
20 copyright reasons, in order to ensure we were able  
21 to create a design that we could use, that we  
22 don't infringe on anybody else's copyrights,

1 reference materials but not actual depictions.

2 MS. STAFFORD: Mr. Viola, I just wanted  
3 to add, the discussion for today is to solicit  
4 input from the committee with regard to ideas that  
5 the artists might come to these designs with.

6 Certainly if you have suggestions, ideas, or as  
7 you say, you can envision exciting designs, that,  
8 I believe, is something you can put on the record  
9 and we will share with the artists to consider as  
10 they move forward.

11 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Actually, I have  
12 something to add to this discussion, and that is  
13 as the committee's representative as Chair, I was  
14 able to look at some extensive documents that were  
15 provided by the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold  
16 Medal Alliance, a very well put together document  
17 with lots of illustrations and ideas in it.

18 I'm sure if committee members between  
19 now and when we review the art would like to have  
20 an opportunity to review those materials, I think  
21 we can certainly make that available to you.

22 I did want to make sure that those

1 responsible with the Alliance knew that I as  
2 Chairman did look at their materials and very much  
3 appreciate the effort that went into that. It was  
4 quite extensive. There was a great deal of input  
5 from a number of individuals represented in that,  
6 a three ring binder.

7           Again, if that is something that would  
8 interest committee members, I can surely make sure  
9 it makes its way to you.

10           DR. VIOLA: Okay. Thank you.

11           MR. MORALES: Excuse me, this is Javier  
12 Morales from Puerto Rico, we sent in some of our  
13 designs as well and I think they should also be  
14 looked at by the committee.

15           MR. MEDINA: Also, the National  
16 Association for Uniformed Services for  
17 Congressional Gold Medal Alliance sent some  
18 designs, and we also relinquish all copyrights.  
19 We would like for that to be seen by the  
20 committee.

21           CHAIRMAN MARKS: Okay. I need to make  
22 sure that the committee members all get a chance

Capital Reporting Company  
Citizens Coinage Advisory, Committee Meeting 01-27-2015

31

1 to weigh in on this. I am going to direct the  
2 discussion back to the committee members.

3 MR. C. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. May I  
4 interrupt for a minute, please?

5 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Yes, go ahead. After  
6 you are done, sir, we need to give the committee  
7 members a chance to discuss this program so we can  
8 have a full discussion amongst the committee.  
9 Please proceed and tell us what you would like us  
10 to know.

11 MR. C. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Casimiro  
12 Rodriguez from the Hispanic Heritage Council,  
13 Buffalo, New York. Our organization was part of  
14 the National Congressional Gold Medal Alliance.  
15 Just a point of clarification. Is there some time  
16 line as to when all the ideas and input needs to  
17 be in by? Is there a time by which all this  
18 information needs to get to the committee?

19 CHAIRMAN MARKS: I would suggest in the  
20 interest of time -- that's a very relevant  
21 question, sir, but I would ask that be directed to  
22 staff off line. They can give you an answer in

1 detail.

2           For this period of time, which is  
3 limited for us, I want to make sure that our  
4 committee members have a full opportunity to  
5 discuss all that has already been spoken to by the  
6 various sponsors and interested parties in this  
7 program.

8           I am going to ask for all those on the  
9 phone and in the audience here if you would please  
10 give our committee a chance to talk. Our time is  
11 limited. At this point, if I could have another  
12 member who would like to contribute. Heidi, would  
13 you go ahead, please?

14           MS. WASTWEET: Thank you, Gary. On this  
15 committee, we see a lot of military medals. There  
16 is a tendency that after time they start to look  
17 very generic and very much like each other. I  
18 would urge in this case we want to really focus on  
19 the things that made this group unique and what  
20 identifies them that makes them different from all  
21 the other military groups.

22           There is also a tendency to put a lot of



1 words on this, we have "pride" and "courage,"  
2 words that are thrown around all branches of the  
3 military, and they do encompass all of the  
4 military. After using those words over and over  
5 again, they fall flat.

6 I want to caution against using too much  
7 insignia's and words that would be better left for  
8 follow up conversations and make the medal very  
9 visual so it really grabs people so they want to  
10 talk about it rather than read the medal.

11 CHAIRMAN MARKS: I need another  
12 committee member who would like to comment.  
13 Jeanne?

14 MS. STEVENS-SOLLMAN: Thank you, Gary. I  
15 would follow up with what Heidi says. Thank you,  
16 Mr. Rodriguez. I would like to enhance our  
17 knowledge of history. I am very honored to have  
18 read your reports. It's a pleasure to meet you.

19 I would like to know, you have given us,  
20 our committee, and our artists a tremendous amount  
21 of information, it's very powerful, however, what  
22 is it if we boiled it down -- what can you tell us

1 that is terribly important?

2 In other words, if we could weed out  
3 some of it, because we have a small field to work  
4 from, not a big story board, what would be the  
5 best in your opinion or your stakeholders' opinion  
6 to represent this medal?

7 I can see tons of things, but what would  
8 your people like best?

9 MR. S. RODRIGUEZ: Well, to make our  
10 medal unique, I included some pictures of highly  
11 awarded soldiers that fought in battle. In one of  
12 the appendices, I included six pictures that show  
13 the broad spectrum of our demographics and our  
14 heritage.

15 One of those is Sergeant Major Negron.  
16 He was awarded the Medal of Honor. Also, Modesto  
17 Cartagena. Also, Arcadio Santiago- Rodriguez, and  
18 others. I think some of them are still alive.  
19 Enrique Vazquez-Vega is living today in  
20 Pennsylvania.

21 I want us to move forward and not waste  
22 too much time because time is of urgency. Just

1 this past weekend, two Borinqueneers died. They  
2 are dying every day.

3           You have enough information there to  
4 make a medal next week. We need to move forward.  
5 The pictures are there. We have Borinqueneers  
6 that are black, white, full spectrum of beauty and  
7 diversity of our little island. All of those are  
8 included there. One Borinqueneer, his descendants  
9 live here in Maryland. Another one is alive in  
10 Florida. We want to honor them while they are  
11 still with us so they can enjoy the blessings of  
12 their labor and their sacrifices.

13           In terms of flags, there is a lot of  
14 passion. I would carry a flag in my sock, but I  
15 would refrain from that because the Borinqueneers  
16 became a desegregated unit, and many soldiers were  
17 from Hawaii, Texas, so we want to make this an  
18 Americana, an American, symbolism, very simple,  
19 not too busy, so all America can embrace the medal  
20 and participate in the history, and we can tell  
21 our story to the entire nation.

22           Last year, in the 60th anniversary of

1 the Korean War, USA Today published a special  
2 report about the 65th Infantry. Not one letter,  
3 not one page or one phrase ever touched upon the  
4 65th Infantry.

5 We feel we need to get an opportunity to  
6 be at the frontline. Even though we have written  
7 our own history with blood and tears, the media  
8 hasn't given us -- we want to move forward and  
9 having those men would be a great way to tell our  
10 history. It will show our heroes, our John  
11 Wayne's, so to speak.

12 That is what I kind of depicted and saw  
13 from the information we collected from the  
14 stakeholders.

15 MS. STEVENS-SOLLMAN: Thank you very  
16 much.

17 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thomas?

18 MR. URAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some  
19 of the same comments I would echo as Mary  
20 mentioned about the bayonets and Heidi about the  
21 simplicity and so forth. Both Sam and the Colonel  
22 mentioned the importance of the formation and the

1 diamond formation.

2 I think what would be really nice is to  
3 incorporate whether it is the cross and the  
4 bayonets or whatever into a diamond type design  
5 that would set off the insert of what that design  
6 might be. I would think that the artists might  
7 want to take a look at both what Sam and the  
8 Colonel have said about the formation and so forth  
9 as being an integral part of the design,  
10 particularly if it was encapsulated that way.

11 MR. S. RODRIGUEZ: I believe an appendix  
12 has infantry formations of a V. If you were to  
13 look at that picture, you could see faces of men  
14 in front and those on the side coming up to  
15 mountains ready to kill you with bayonets and  
16 rifles ready to go, because we feel this is a  
17 story of men that actually -- their hands had to  
18 defend themselves and advocate for American  
19 democracy in foreign lands.

20 If you take that concept of a V  
21 formation coming up, you automatically can see men  
22 on your left and on your right. You can even see

1 the patches on their shoulders if you put it in  
2 the right angle. I'm sure the artists from work I  
3 have seen from this agency -- I am very, very  
4 impressed and very, very confident something  
5 beautiful is going to come out of this.

6 MR. URAM: I would certainly encourage  
7 our designers and engravers to maybe use that  
8 concept to get that depth of perception and taking  
9 into account that formation design so that can be  
10 very moving and the medal would have a lot of  
11 depth to it that way. I think using the diamond  
12 formation would accomplish both the history aspect  
13 as well as the creativity of the engraver.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Another member?

16 DR. BUGEJA: Gary, this is Michael  
17 Bugeja.

18 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Yes, Michael. Go  
19 ahead, please.

20 DR. BUGEJA: I am a citizen of Malta as  
21 well as the United States. I do want to point out  
22 that the Maltese Cross has to be done very

1 carefully because there are other insignia that  
2 look a lot like that, including the Iron Cross.

3           The Maltese Cross has very spear like  
4 points towards the center. If you take a look at  
5 how they have used it, it is a perfect Maltese  
6 Cross. The Maltese Cross dates back to the  
7 Knights of St. John, and it stands for, in  
8 addition to honor and faith, courage, particularly  
9 courage under fire. For instance, the New York  
10 Fire Department also has adopted the Maltese  
11 Cross.

12           I've researched this a little bit to see  
13 how the 65th Infantry Regiment has used the shield  
14 and Maltese Cross. There is a very fetching  
15 design by Rafael Cortez that shows it almost as a  
16 shield for the Infantry climbing up that hill. It  
17 is a stylistic type of artwork that has depth to  
18 it.

19           The only thing I really wanted to  
20 mention was be very, very careful with how you  
21 depict the Maltese Cross because there are many  
22 other types of crosses that are often confused for

1 it.

2 I think that might be the extent of my  
3 contribution, Gary.

4 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you, Michael.  
5 Robert?

6 MR. HOGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
7 would like to echo the comments of my colleagues  
8 here. I look forward to the opportunity to see  
9 the various designs/ideas that have been  
10 submitted.

11 I am wondering if this isn't an  
12 opportunity for us to introduce a little bit of  
13 Spanish language into an American coin.

14 CHAIRMAN MARKS: I know you can do that;  
15 yes.

16 MR. HOGE: I think that would lend a  
17 distinctive aspect to this coinage, give it  
18 something different from all these other many  
19 military congressional medals that have come out  
20 in one way or another.

21 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you, Robert.  
22 Michael Moran.



1 MR. MORAN: I have only a couple of  
2 notes or advice for the artists as they  
3 contemplate their themes and designs. One, if you  
4 do the Puerto Rico flag, you must do the United  
5 States flag, because as Mr. Rodriguez mentioned,  
6 it was at the end an integrated unit. Two, I'm  
7 sure we are going to see something from the canvas  
8 of a bayonet charge.

9 I would remind our artists we are in 3D  
10 and we don't have a canvas to paint on here. I  
11 would hope they instead bring the element of the  
12 bayonets somehow more creatively into the design  
13 rather than a mass of men charging up the hill.

14 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you, Michael. I  
15 think everyone has commented. I will bring us  
16 full circle then with some final comments.

17 First of all, I wanted to thank Mr.  
18 Rodriguez. You have said a number of times that  
19 your preference is to allow the artists to be  
20 artists and to bring forth the ideas, the values  
21 that would represent the Borinqueneers  
22 appropriately. I appreciate that very much.

1           My years on the committee have been  
2 spent in a large measure advocating that very  
3 idea, that the art ought to be something that is  
4 allowed to speak to us, and sometimes we want to  
5 commandeer the art and we want to put lots of text  
6 and those sorts of elements onto a medal, which is  
7 by its nature very small, but it is an opportunity  
8 if we allow it for art to be used in a way that  
9 can speak in ways that words never can, to speak  
10 to the soul about important ideas or values.

11           As I was sitting here listening to all  
12 of the conversation from all the contributors, I  
13 was left with just a series of some words that I  
14 would hope would inspire the artists to think in  
15 the context of art that can speak to us rather  
16 than art that is co-joined with excessive text and  
17 other ideas that try to coerce us into a certain  
18 conclusion about what we as individuals feel and  
19 see with the art.

20           Words like "valor" and "honor," and I  
21 first said "team," but I think "team" doesn't  
22 quite get at it. I think it's more brotherhood.

1 These were men obviously who had to band together  
2 and protect each other, to look out for each  
3 other, especially in the heat of battle, to have  
4 each other's back, to use a well worn term at this  
5 point.

6           The other ideas that I would hope could  
7 speak to us through the art are the ideas of  
8 "courage" and "dignity," "service." I'm taking the  
9 idea of what my colleague Erik said about the idea  
10 that this is an up hill battle, that in fact, that  
11 is what these men had to engage in often, to take  
12 the hill.

13           I guess all I would like to do rather  
14 than try to steer the artists is to leave them  
15 with the impression of these words and ask them to  
16 think about those in terms of action, that what  
17 these men really represented were these ideals put  
18 in action. They lived these ideals. Those are  
19 the kinds of inspirations I would hope our artists  
20 would pick up on and try to convey to us through  
21 their work.

22           I'm very much looking forward to the

1 time when all of the stakeholders both on the  
2 phone and here in the room can come and join us  
3 again when we are actually looking at the designs.  
4 I'm very excited about that.

5 I think this is a part of our history,  
6 and others have said it here in the room, that we  
7 haven't paid enough attention to. I think most  
8 Americans are fairly oblivious to it, frankly.

9 I think this is a wonderful opportunity  
10 to educate and help build honor and respect for  
11 these gentlemen who sometimes were called on to  
12 give everything in the defense of their country,  
13 their peoples, their families, and I think for  
14 artists, this is a high calling, and I'm very much  
15 looking forward to what they will come back and  
16 give to us.

17 We have a few more minutes. I wanted to  
18 make sure that all the stakeholders felt they were  
19 able to contribute to our discussion. I'm going  
20 to give another 10 minutes if there are others who  
21 want to contribute a little bit more. This is  
22 your time.

1           If you're on the phone, or Mr. Rodriguez  
2 here in the room, if there is something additional  
3 you would like us to know that would become part  
4 of this dialogue conveyed to the artists, this  
5 would be your opportunity.

6           COL. FREYTES: This is Dennis Freytes. I  
7 think you hit it right on the head. I think this  
8 teamwork of the U.S. Mint is right on target, like  
9 they said in the military.

10           One of the things that Sam mentioned  
11 about the Medal of Honor winners and all that, if  
12 we are going to have a depiction of their bravery  
13 in taking the hill, and remember, they did the  
14 last bayonet charge in U.S. Army history. You  
15 could almost superimpose the Medal of Honor and  
16 Master Sergeant Negron's face, Cartagena's face,  
17 taking the hill with the bayonets. You can  
18 accomplish both goals there.

19           I would also say you need to put  
20 somewhere in there "U.S./Puerto Rico." It is very  
21 important that people understand they come from  
22 the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico.

1 Overall, great job, great themes. It's  
2 an honor to have been able to talk before this  
3 honorable Board.

4 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you, sir. Mr.  
5 Rodriguez has some comments to make.

6 MR. S. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Earlier the  
7 suggestion about language, I find it a good  
8 opportunity and very interesting. I am a lover of  
9 the Spanish language. However, on this medal, I  
10 think that the Latin words "Honor et Fidelitas" is  
11 more appropriate because it doesn't go either  
12 Spanish or English. It's a language of its own,  
13 and will also make people think and find out what  
14 does that mean.

15 I really love to see my language spoken,  
16 I think it is more important for future  
17 generations to also be exposed to Latin as a  
18 language.

19 In terms of the Maltese Cross, I  
20 included a copy of the actual design by the United  
21 States Army, the official design, so there is no  
22 mistake, no artistic mistake about where do we get

1 that, and that's already vetted. It came from  
2 military history and National Guard Bureau.

3 We have done all that work, all that  
4 vetting process. I totally agree with you. This  
5 is a story that has yet to be told and has never  
6 been told. Sometimes it has been told  
7 incorrectly.

8 This is a time to do it correctly for  
9 future generations so each little young man or  
10 girl that goes into the Naval Academy or the  
11 Infantry Academy will have one of those coins in  
12 their pockets. I guarantee you, if they are going  
13 into an Infantry school and they are Hispanic,  
14 they are going to know about the 65th, and I want  
15 all the students that get commissioned to learn  
16 about our history and to carry these medals in  
17 their pockets as a badge of honor and heritage.

18 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you very much.  
19 For the gentleman on the phone, please.

20 MR. COLON: This is Jose Colon. I do  
21 agree with those ideas. We have to go back to the  
22 history of the 65th Infantry, and that is why I

1 believe the Maltese Cross should be included on  
2 the medal.

3 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you, sir. Is  
4 there anyone else?

5 MR. MEDINA: This is Frank Medina,  
6 National Chair of the Borinqueneers Congressional  
7 Gold Medal Alliance. I will be real brief.  
8 First, I appreciate the CCAC for having this forum  
9 for everybody to partake.

10 I did have a couple of points of  
11 clarification here. Number one, the highest  
12 military achievement for the 65th was the epic  
13 withdrawal of the Chosin Reservoir.

14 Also, a point of clarification for the  
15 crossed rifles. I'm a former Captain in the Army.  
16 During the Korean War, the 65th was part of the  
17 regimental combat team, in other words, it wasn't  
18 just the Infantry that the 65th was composed of.  
19 There were medics from the 65th, there were  
20 electricians, truck drivers, communicators,  
21 technicians. I think the crossed rifles needs to  
22 be debated.



1           Going back on the Navajo and Native  
2 American CGMs, they all had their native language  
3 or some sort of citation inscribed in their  
4 designs.

5           I think this is very important. I echo  
6 the recommendation of including some words in  
7 Spanish. It doesn't have to be a lot but I think  
8 definitely some.

9           I heavily recommend having a portrait of  
10 the most notable or one of the most notable  
11 Borinqueneers. I know he mentioned Modesto  
12 Cartagena, the most decorated Puerto Rican  
13 soldier, and Juan Negrón, the first Medal of Honor  
14 for a Borinqueneer.

15           I think we would be remiss if we didn't  
16 mention General Richard Cavazos. General Richard  
17 Cavazos was the first Latino Army Four Star  
18 General. I think he's the only one Hispanic. He  
19 is of Mexican/American descent. If we are going  
20 to portray the 65th was not totally homogeneous, I  
21 think we should consider engraving General Richard  
22 Carvazos portrait, being the only Latino Four Star

1 General. There have only been two or three Four  
2 Star Hispanic Officers period, two in the Navy and  
3 one in the Army.

4 I would not dismiss the Puerto Rican  
5 flag. This is from my survey of 90 plus  
6 Borinqueneers. Last, one recurrent theme when I  
7 was doing the surveys, I saw a recurring pattern  
8 of the 3rd ID patch. That suggestion was very  
9 frequent, and also the profile, Puerto Rico is  
10 100x35. The 3rd ID patch because the 3rd Infantry  
11 Division was a parent organization of the 65th,  
12 and that patch resonates with the Borinqueneers.

13 That is all I have. I appreciate the  
14 efforts of Sam Rodriguez and Javier Morales in  
15 carrying the torch in this journey, and the CCAC.  
16 I look forward to participating in the future.

17 CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you, sir.

18 MR. MORALES: This is Javier Morales  
19 from the Island of Puerto Rico. I have to agree  
20 with a lot that was said here, but we have to  
21 remember as Frank Medina just mentioned, the  
22 Island of Puerto Rico is like 100x35. This is the

1 birthplace of the 65th Infantry Regiment. This is  
2 where the Borinqueneers came out of.

3           To make a great change in the history of  
4 the American Armed Forces, the wars in the United  
5 States, I think we have to keep that in mind, from  
6 a small island, such a great regiment came out  
7 that changed the history of the United States.

8           CHAIRMAN MARKS: Thank you, sir. At  
9 this point, we have reached the end of our time  
10 allotted for our discussion. I want to thank all  
11 of the stakeholders who have contributed, both on  
12 the phone and here in the room. I want to thank  
13 the staff for your support and preparing the  
14 committee for the discussion, and I want to thank  
15 the committee members.

16           Before I close out completely, I want to  
17 recognize Mary Lannin because I know she has one  
18 final comment that she would like to provide to  
19 us.

20           MS. LANNIN: I really liked Bob's  
21 comment about adding Spanish to this coin. As a  
22 four year Latin student, I appreciate the Latin as

1 a motto. Just an idea, what if because of the  
2 changing demographics you had encircling the  
3 reverse English, Spanish and Latin, the phrases,  
4 just encircling it, "Honor and Fidelitya," "Honor  
5 et Fidelitas," "Honor and Fidelity."

6 You can put whatever art you want in the  
7 middle. It kind of satisfies Bob, which I think  
8 is a great idea, of adding Spanish.

9 CHAIRMAN MARKS: I think you have a  
10 great idea, too, Mary. Thank you. That is a  
11 great contribution. I see that our legal counsel  
12 would like to contribute something. After that,  
13 just to let everyone know, I'm going to take a  
14 quick break before we reconvene for our next  
15 program discussion. Greg?

16 MR. WEINMAN: Just a quick clarification  
17 on a couple of things. First, once again, the  
18 actual legislation for this particular  
19 Congressional Gold Medal is the award on behalf of  
20 Congress, a single gold medal with the appropriate  
21 design, in honor of the 65th Infantry Regiment  
22 known as the Borinqueneers. That is the subject

1 of what is being honored.

2           Also, there was a comment about  
3 individuals. As the committee knows, we tend not  
4 to feature actual individuals on a medal of this  
5 nature because the medal is in fact honoring the  
6 entire organization. If you put actual historical  
7 individuals on the medal, you are in fact honoring  
8 them as opposed to the regiment as a whole. That  
9 has been our tradition and our practice to do  
10 that.

11           CHAIRMAN MARKS: Okay. Thank you. With  
12 that, we are in recess. Thank you, everyone.

13           (Brief recess.)

14           CHAIRMAN MARKS: We are back on the  
15 record. Just a note to the committee members and  
16 the staff, we had an administrative meeting this  
17 morning. We weren't able to accomplish all that  
18 we needed to talk about, so as we break at the  
19 noon hour for lunch, we will convene upstairs to  
20 cover those last points that we weren't able to  
21 earlier this morning. Just a note to members,  
22 when we recess for lunch, let's head upstairs for