

Board of Directors
2014

Tony Smoke, Chair*
Alabama Power Company

Carlos Torres-Sanchez,
Vice-Chair*
Jefferson County Department of Health

R. G. Wilson-Lyons, Treasurer*
Church Without Walls, UMC

Willie Chriesman*
Chriesman & Associates

Vivian Mora*
State Farm Insurance Company

Teresa Zúñiga Odom, Past Chair*
Community Volunteer

Edgar Acosta
Wells Fargo Advisor, LLC

Simmy Barrocas
Jefferson County Housing Authority

Mary Andrews Carlisle
Vulcan Materials Company

Linda Childs
Regions Financial Corp

Maricela Garcia
Community Volunteer

Sheriff Mike Hale
Jefferson County Sheriff's Department

Yolanda Jackson
BBVA Compass

Nancy Kane
Protective Life Insurance Company

Satina Richardson
BIG Communications

Maria Esperanza Vargas
Community Volunteer

Isabel Rubio*
Executive Director

*Executive Committee Member



United Way
of Central Alabama, Inc.

NCLR
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

P. O. Box 190299
Birmingham, AL 35219
Tel. 205.942.5505
Fax 205.942.5525



April 30, 2014

Honorable Jeff Sessions
7550 Halcyon Summit Drive, Suite 150
Montgomery, AL 36117

Dear Sen. Jeff Sessions,

The Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama is writing to earnestly request that you **Co-Sponsor Bill S. 1174** which authorizes the **Congressional Gold Medal (CGM)** for the veterans of the 65th Infantry Regiment (also known as "**The Borinqueneers**") originally based in the island of Puerto Rico.

Bill S. 1174 was introduced on June 18th by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) and seven original co-sponsor Senators.

Please check out the following website for more information:
www.65thCGM.org

As mandated by an Act of Congress on March 2, 1899, the 65th Infantry Regiment was the only Hispanic-segregated active-duty unit in the **U.S. Armed Forces** that played a prominent role in our American military history participating in three U.S. wars. The awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal is the most distinguished.

The CGM has also been well-deservingly bestowed to other minority veterans who served in segregated units, including: 1) the Navajo Code Talkers 2) the African-American Tuskegee 3) the Japanese-American Nisei and 4) the African-American Montford Point Marines

It would be an honor for the 65th Infantry "Borinqueneers" to be added to this list. I feel that bestowing the CGM to the Borinqueneers would be a fitting way to honor them as American heroes who served their country with distinction and fought bravely while enduring the hardships of segregation, institutional prejudice, language barriers, and other unusual obstacles. Even more so, **let's HONOR THEM WHILE THEY ARE STILL ALIVE.**

Again, I urgently plea you to co-sponsor S. 1174 in support of a Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded to the Hispanic Veterans who served courageously in the U.S. 65th Infantry Regiment.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Isabel Rubio
Executive Director
Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama