

**BORINQUENEERS
CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL
ALLIANCE**

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See the latest
Co-Sponsor
countdown of the
Borinqueneers
Congressional Gold
Medal Act:

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



More great links:

- [Special Hispanic Heritage Report](#)
- [LULAC letter to Members of Congress!](#)
- [US Army recognizes Borinqueneers for Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- [Association of the United States Army supports cause!](#)
- [Puerto Rico Army National Guard letter to Congress!](#)



The Borinqueneers

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

October 1, 2013

Segregated Latino military unit seeks recognition from Congress!

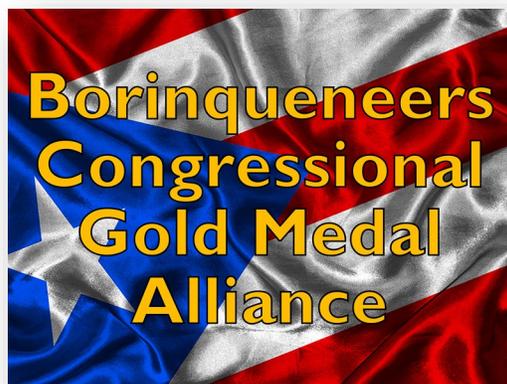
Similar in nature to the famed Tuskegee Airmen and other segregated U.S. military units, the **65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers** were the largest, longest-standing, and only active-duty **segregated Latino military unit** in U.S. history. Like the Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers, Nisei Soldiers, and Montford Point Marines who've already been recognized with the **Congressional Gold Medal**, the Borinqueneers overwhelmingly distinguished themselves in battle all the while enduring the **additional hardships** of segregation and discrimination. Hailing from Puerto Rico, the US Army unit was active from 1899-1959. Emblematic of all US military veterans, including the hundreds of thousands of Latino-American veterans, the Borinqueneers served and sacrificed in the cause of

freedom with great pride. The youngest of these remaining Latino-American heroes are in their 80's and 90's, having served in the **Korean War**, 60 years ago or more. A nationwide, non-partisan, all-volunteer group, the **Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance** has been advocating the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to these elderly veterans since late last year. Made up of veterans, Latino-Americans, and like-minded patriots, the organization has worked closely with members of the U.S. Congress to facilitate the successful introduction and subsequent support of special bipartisan legislation, which requires Co-Sponsorship by two-thirds of each chamber for passage. The U.S. House of Representatives bill, introduced this spring by Representatives Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR)



and Bill Posey (R-FL), **H.R. 1726**, currently has 114 of the required 290 Co-Sponsors. The U.S. Senate bill, **S. 1174**, introduced in June by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), has 18 of the necessary 67 Co-Sponsors. The alliance's national chair, **Frank Medina**, a 2002 West Point graduate and Iraqi war combat veteran, is coordinating intense efforts this fall to encourage individuals and organizations to reach out to additional Members of Congress to secure their Co-Sponsorship of the bills.

Continued on page 2...



Take a stand: contact YOUR U.S. lawmakers NOW!

[Click here](#) or see page 3 for instructions on how to quickly & easily identify and contact **YOUR** one US House of Representatives member & **YOUR** two US Senators to become **Co-Sponsors!**

YOUR help is NEEDED! Thanks!

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

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

“Arriba muchachos!”

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

- from Mambo on Hill 167, a captivating story of heroism & sacrifice despite prejudice.

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

**Continued
from page 1:**

**Segregated
Latino military
unit seeks
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Here is an excerpt from the bills to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers (**US House of Representatives H.R. 1726 and US Senate S. 1174**):

*“(22) Beyond the many hardships endured by most American soldiers in Korea, the Regiment faced unique challenges due to discrimination and prejudice, including—
(A) the humiliation of being ordered to shave their moustaches `until such a time as they gave proof of their manhood’;
(B) being forced to use separate showering facilities from their non-Hispanic ‘Continental’ officers;
(C) being ordered not to speak Spanish under penalty of court-martial;
(D) flawed personnel-rotation policies based on ethnic and organizational prejudices; and
(E) a catastrophic shortage of trained noncommissioned officers.”*

During the Korean War,

FACTS:

Learn more at www.Borinqueneers.org

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

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

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

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

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

In support of

The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act

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

2,771 Borinqueneers earned Purple Hearts. 750 of them were killed in action, and more than 100 are still missing in action. In addition to the points cited in the bills, the Borinqueneers were forced to wear “I am a coward” signs, ordered to paint over their unit designation “Borinqueneers” on their military vehicles, and ordered to discontinue their rations of rice and beans, termed “creole rations” at the time. Among the national organizations supporting this important initiative are **League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), American GI Forum (AGIF), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), National Puerto Rican Coalition (NPRC), National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce (NPRCC), Association of the US Army (AUSA), Hispanic American Police Command Officers Associa-**

tion (HAPCOA), and Puerto Rico Army National Guard.

In an August 23rd letter from LULAC to Members of Congress, **LULAC national president Margaret Moran stated,**

“It is with great pleasure that LULAC supports the 65th Infantry Regiment in their quest to achieve the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation’s highest civilian honor. Therefore, we urge you to Co-Sponsor the pertinent 65th Infantry legislation requesting the auspicious CGM recognition, Congressional bills H.R. 1726 or S. 1174. The Congressional Gold Medal will be the highest award ever for the 65th Infantry Regiment and for ALL Latino Veterans. This distinction will catapult Hispanic veterans into the national spotlight and will honor all Hispanic veterans past, present and future.”

Continued on page 4...

Montford Point Marines Congressional Gold Medal

Navajo Code Talkers Congressional Gold Medal

Nisei Soldiers Congressional Gold Medal

Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Gold Medal

?
65th Inf. Reg. Borinqueneers???

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

The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act

www.Borinqueneers.org

Co-Sponsors in US Congress needed NOW!

Contact **YOUR** one US House of Rep's member & **YOUR** two US Senators **AHORA!**

Quick & easy instructions are below!

Do it NOW! Gracias!



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

CALL TO ACTION

Please contact your (2) U.S. Senators and your (1) US House of Representatives member to request their Co-Sponsorship!

The adoption of the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal bills will require the Co-Sponsorship of TWO-THIRDS of EACH chamber of Congress for passage.

Contact them NOW via phone calls, letters to their district offices (not Washington DC), or their email web forms!

The US Senate bill number is **S.1174**. The US House of Representatives bill number is **H.R.1726**.

- US Senators list: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
- US House of Representatives list: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

- A sample letter/email is available here: <http://www.borinqueneers.org/resources.html>

Residents of Puerto Rico should contact Rep. Pedro Pierluisi, to thank him & urge him to keep championing the bills!

- English: <http://pierluisi.house.gov/english/contact-us.html>
- Spanish: <http://pierluisi.house.gov/espanol/contactenos.html>



Thank you very much!

Countdown of Co-Sponsors of US House of Representatives Bill H.R. 1726:

114 Total Co-Sponsors
176 Total Remaining
290 Minimum Needed

See updated list of names on our **H.R.1726 CO-SPONSOR COUNTDOWN** website page (If yours is NOT there, ASK them NOW! If yours is there, thank them & urge them to help champion the bills!).

Countdown of Co-Sponsors of US Senate Bill S.1174:

18 Total Co-Sponsors
49 Total Remaining
67 Minimum Needed

See updated list of names on our **S.1174 CO-SPONSOR COUNTDOWN** website page (If yours are NOT there, ASK them NOW! If yours are there, thank them & urge them to help champion the bills!).



In the 237 year history of the Congressional Gold Medal...

Only ONE has been awarded to a Latino-American.



We aim to change that **AHORA!**

www.Borinqueneers.org



We're all waiting!
¿Tú también?

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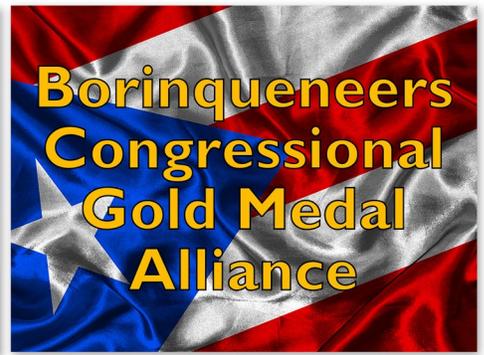
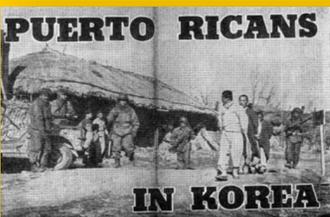
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In support of
**H.R.1726
S.1174**
The
Borinqueneers
Congressional
Gold Medal Act



Continued from page 2:

Segregated Latino military unit seeks recognition from Congress!

Although comprised mainly of Puerto Ricans, during the Korean War, the Borinqueneers also included some Mexican-Americans, African-Americans, Filipinos, Virgin Islanders, and several other nationalities. Interestingly, our nation's **first and only Latino 4-Star Army general, Richard E. Cavazos, a Mexican-American**, got his start as a young Borinqueneer officer in Korea. There he earned his first of two Distinguished Service Crosses, our nation's second highest honor for individual heroism. The Borinqueneers are credited with **the last regi-**

mental bayonet assault in US Army history. In early 1951 while fighting in Korea, two battalions of the 65th fixed bayonets and charged straight up hill toward the enemy, over running them and overtaking the enemy's strategic position. **General Douglas MacArthur** had high praise for the segregated unit. Also during Korea, the Borinqueneers valiantly defended the rear-guard of the retreating 1st Marine Division in one of the epic military withdrawals of history and were the last ones to board the retreating ships at **Hungnam.**

Another interesting fact is that **out of 155 Congressional Gold Medal recipients in the 237-year history of this honor, only one has been awarded to a Latino American.** Even though this will be a first for many of us, the alliance is asking everyone to **immediately contact** your one U.S. House of Representatives member and your two U.S. Senators to **request their Co-Sponsorship of the bills** that would honor the 65th Inf. Reg. Borinqueneers with the Congressional Gold Medal! **Thank you!**