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Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance

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

December 17, 2013

Give the Borinqueneers a special gift by contacting YOUR U.S. lawmakers AHORA!

- Have YOUR 2 US Senators & 1 US House of Reps. member become bill Co-Sponsors???
- EMPOWER yourself!
- You CAN do this!

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

Adoption of the **Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act**, H.R.1726 in the House of Representatives & S.1174 in the Senate, will require the Co-Sponsorship by a whopping **two-thirds** of each chamber!

Currently, H.R.1726 has 202 of the required 290 Co-Sponsors & S.1174 has 22 of the necessary 67 Co-Sponsors.

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

CALL the Military Legislative Assistant (MLA) at your (2) U.S. Senators' offices and your (1) US House of Representatives member's office in Washington, D.C.!

They will make a record of your call (legal requirement). Let them know that this is a very important Latino & Veterans issue & request Co-Sponsorship of the bill (H.R.1726 or S.1174).



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

SEND LETTERS to your **US lawmakers** at their local district/state offices, **not** Washington, DC (letters to DC take a ton of time to be delivered because of extra security measures) to request their Co-Sponsorship of the bills.

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

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

US Senators list (Contact 2 of them): http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

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

ALERT:
 See brief video for **BORINQUEÑER** lovers & **SALSA** lovers ONLY!

[Clic Aqui!](#)



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

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

More great links:

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

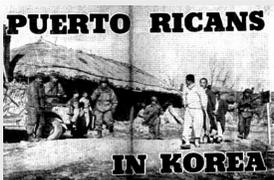
Facts in support of H.R. 1726 & S. 1174!



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

WHY?

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



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

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

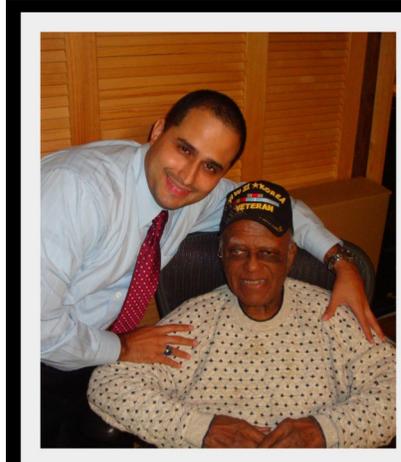
Like the Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers, Women Airforce Service Pilots, Nisei Soldiers, and Montford Point Marines who've **already** been recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal, the Borinqueneers overwhelmingly distinguished themselves in service and heroism, all the while enduring the **additional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

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

The unit fired the **1st shot** in defense of freedom at the onset of WWI when an armed German supply ship attempted unsuccessfully to leave San Juan Bay in Puerto Rico to resupply German submarines.

The unit defended the strategic Panama Canal Zone during WWI. While in Panama, 335 Puerto Rican soldiers were **wounded by the chemical gas experimentation** which the United States conducted as part of its active chemical weapons program.

During WWII, the 65th again defended the canal, and also saw action in North Africa and Central Europe. **Gen. Douglas MacArthur** had requested that the Borinqueneers be assigned to him in the Pacific during World War II. **The Pentagon denied**



**Saluting
91 year old Lt. Col.
Julius Dickerson (Ret.)
WWII & Korea,
BORINQUENEER**



www.65thCGM.org



In support of

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

The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act

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

his request because of prejudice toward the 65th. MacArthur was glad to have them later in Korea.

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

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

As cited in the bills, the Regiment faced unique challenges due to discrimination and prejudice, including the humiliation of being ordered to shave their moustaches "until such a time as they gave proof of their manhood"; being forced to use separate showering facilities

from their non-Hispanic "Continental" officers; being ordered not to speak Spanish under penalty of court-martial; flawed personnel-rotation policies based on ethnic and organizational prejudices; and a catastrophic shortage of trained non-commissioned officers.

The Borinqueneers **also** were forced to wear "I am a coward" signs, ordered to paint over their unit designation "Borinqueneers" on their military vehicles, and ordered to discontinue their rations of rice and beans, termed "creole rations" at the time.

During Korea, the unit also had some Mexican-Americans, African-Americans, & several other nationalities. **The 1st & only Latino 4-star Army general, a Mexican-American, got his start as a young Borinqueneer officer in Korea.**

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

From some of our National Supporters!

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC):



“The Congressional Gold Medal will be the highest award ever for the

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

American GI Forum (AGIF):



“We hope that the US Congress will recognize the sacrifices and obstacles

the “Borinqueneers” valiantly overcame as a segregated unit defending our Nation.”

Association of the United States Army (AUSA):



“I urge Congress to recognize the service and sacrifice

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

National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS):



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

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

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA):



“On behalf of the membership of Vietnam

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

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH):



“The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH),

whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded vet-

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

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA):



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

Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA):
“(We) be-



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



“Team up with Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance & join this great cause NOW!”

Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance:

See the full text of our endorsement letters, & much more, on [our website!](#)

“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!](#)

FACTS:

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

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

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

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



www.65thCGM.org



In support of

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

The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act



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

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



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

**Thank You Very
Much!!!**

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

Colorado
Sen. Michael Bennet (D)

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

Delaware
Sen. Christopher Coons (D)

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

Georgia
Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R)

Hawaii
Sen. Brian Schatz (D)

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

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

New Jersey
Sen. Robert Menendez (D)

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

Pennsylvania
Sen. Bob Casey (D)
Sen. Pat Toomey ®

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

West Virginia
Sen. Joe Manchin (D)



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



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

We think it's time!
¿Tú también?

**BORINQUEENERS
CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL
ALLIANCE**

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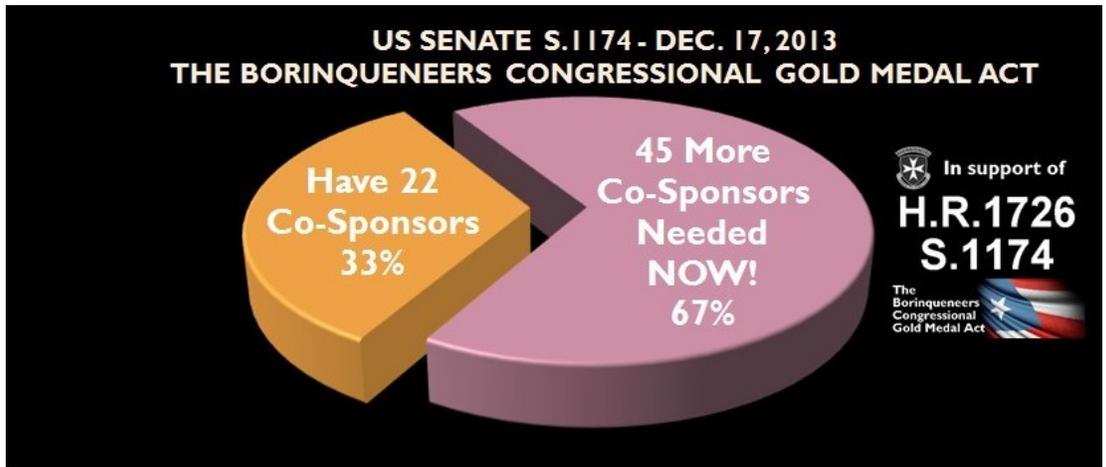
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Co-Sponsor Countdown](#)

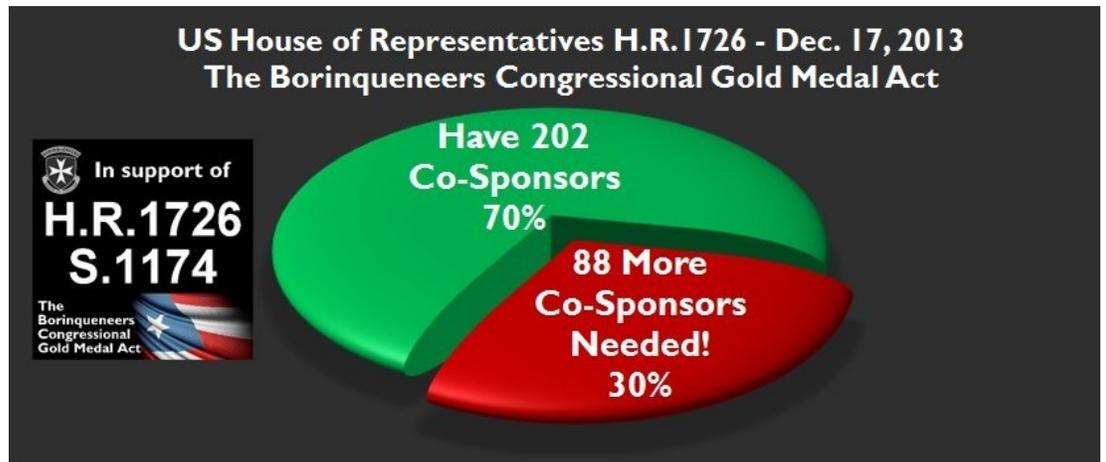
[US Senate S.1174
Co-Sponsor Countdown](#)

[Email our National Chair
Frank Medina](#)

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



There ain't enough of this US Senate (pumpkin) pie chart to go around! See if your 2 US Senators are onboard as Co-Sponsors yet! If not, please contact them ASAP!!! Gracias!
See: <http://www.borinqueneers.org/senate-bill-s-1174.html>!!!!



The flan (pie) chart in the US House of Representatives is doing better, but we still NEED 88 Co-Sponsors there! Please check if your 1 US House of Representatives member has become a Co-Sponsor yet! If not, please contact you Rep. NOW!!! Thank you!
See: <http://www.borinqueneers.org/house-bill-hr-1726.html>!!!!

**¡Feliz
Navidad!**
-Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance