

**Bullets for Meeting with**  
**Members of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Congressional Gold Medal Alliance**  
**April 25, 2013**

**Welcome**

- I welcome you and thank all of you for being here today. We appreciate your efforts and sacrifice to make it here for this occasion. I am proud to have had the honor of introducing the bill that Congressman Posey and I presented today in the House to award the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers with the Congressional Gold Medal.

**Acknowledgements**

- As all of you know, we've worked hand in hand with various advocacy groups and with Congressman Posey to ensure that we produced a solid bill that will have the best possibilities of success.
- Therefore I have to give my sincere thanks to Congressman Posey and his team for joining me in this valuable effort. Our partnership demonstrates from the outset that this is a bi-partisan issue that merits the support and praise of members of both National parties.
- I would also like to recognize the outstanding efforts of all the members of the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance and in particular their National Chair, Frank Medina, which have been instrumental in this process.
- Its also important to mention the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Veterans Association in Puerto Rico, and its President Javier Morales, who have also supported this effort from its inception.

## **Brief Remarks**

- As you are probably well aware the introduction of this bill marks a significant milestone for the movement to get the Borinqueneers the recognition that they earned and clearly deserve.
- The introduction of a bill like the one that we have presented today was long overdue. The story of the 65<sup>th</sup> is of great importance to all Puerto Ricans in the island as well as in the states.
- Now that we have accomplished the goal of introducing this bill our challenge is to spread the message throughout Congress about the amazing story of the Borinqueneers.
- Congressional Gold Medal bills require the co-sponsorship of 290 or more member of the House in order to even be considered for passage. This means that we must focus our efforts on gaining the support of as many of my colleagues as possible.
- 290 co-sponsors is a high threshold of support for any bill in Congress, and it will require a great deal of effort, but I will do everything that I can to obtain that support and I'm confident that Mr. Posey will do the same.
- With your dedication and focus on reaching out to members to convince them of the just nature of this cause I know that we can find a way to make this happen.
- Thank you, and my team and I look forward to working with all of you.