

Massachusetts House of Representatives



Resolutions

RECOGNIZING THE VALOR AND COURAGE OF THE 65<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT,  
KNOWN AS THE BORINQUENEERS.

**WHEREAS**, MILITARY HEROES WHO SERVED SO VALIANTLY AND HONORABLY IN WARS IN WHICH THIS COUNTRY'S FREEDOM WAS AT STAKE SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT NATION, WHO SHOULD NEVER FORGET THE COURAGE WITH WHICH THESE SOLDIERS FOUGHT; AND

**WHEREAS**, IN FULL ACCORD WITH ITS LONG STANDING TRADITIONS, IT IS THE SENSE OF THIS LEGISLATIVE BODY TO MEMORIALIZE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO RECOGNIZE THE 65<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT, KNOWN AS THE BORINQUENEERS, AND TO REQUEST THAT CONGRESS BESTOW THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL UPON THESE WAR HEROES; AND

**WHEREAS**, THIS AUSPICIOUS HONOR, CONSIDERED THE MOST DISTINGUISHED, IS AN AWARD BESTOWED BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND IS, ALONG WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM, THE HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD IN THE UNITED STATES, GIVEN TO PERSONS WHO HAVE PERFORMED AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT HAS AN IMPACT ON AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE THAT IS LIKELY TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE BORINQUENEERS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE; AND

**WHEREAS**, AS MANDATED BY CONGRESS IN 1899, THE 65<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT, HAILING FROM PUERTO RICO, WAS THE ONLY HISPANIC-SEGREGATED UNIT EVER IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES THAT PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE IN AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY, HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THREE WARS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WAS ENGAGED, WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, AND MOST NOTABLY, THE KOREAN WAR; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE BORINQUENEERS WERE WILLING TO SHED THEIR BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS FOR DEMOCRACY BY ENLISTING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ON THEIR OWN ACCORD TO DEFEND THE FREEDOMS OF OTHERS; AND

**WHEREAS**, THESE BRAVE MEN WERE ONE OF THE FIRST INFANTRYMEN OF THE "ROCK OF THE MARINE DIVISION" (3<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION) TO MEET THE ENEMY ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF KOREA, FIGHTING WITH DETERMINATION AND EFFICIENCY; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE 65<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT SERVED WITH DISTINCTION AND VALOR, EARNING TWO PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATIONS, ARMY UNIT SUPERIOR AWARD, NAVY UNIT CITATION, TWO REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATIONS AND BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL OF GREECE; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE CONGRESSIONAL HONOR WOULD AFFIRM THAT THEY ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AS TRUE AMERICAN HEROES WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY WITH DISTINCTION, FIGHTING BRAVELY EVEN WHILE ENDURING THE HARDSHIPS OF SEGREGATION AND DISCRIMINATION; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE BORINQUENEERS ARE VERITABLE AMERICAN HEROES AND DESERVE TO BE RECOGNIZED, COMMENDED, ACKNOWLEDGED AND REMEMBERED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, AS WELL AS BY ALL OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT NATION; THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, THAT THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES HEREBY, RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZED BY THIS LEGISLATIVE BODY, RECOGNIZE THE 65<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT KNOWN AS THE BORINQUENEERS, AND REQUEST THAT THESE WAR HEROES RECEIVE THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL; AND BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED**, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE FORWARDED BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, CONGRESSMAN RICHARD NEAL, SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN, SENATOR WILLIAM COWAN AND THE BORINQUENEERS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ALLIANCE.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ADOPTED, MAY 9, 2013.

*Robert A. DeLeo*  
ROBERT A. DeLEO  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

*Steven T. James*  
STEVEN T. JAMES  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

*Cheryl Coakley-Rivera*  
OFFERED BY:  
CHERYL A. COAKLEY-RIVERA  
REPRESENTATIVE