



# BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

477 H STREET NORTHWEST • WASHINGTON DC 20001-2694 • (202) 371-8880

The Honorable Bill Posey  
United States House of Representatives  
120 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Posey:

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) is the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization exclusively dedicated to serving the needs of our nation's blinded veterans and their families for 68 years. BVA greatly appreciates your support of improving care and services for our disabled veterans. On behalf of the members, I write to add our support for HR 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.

During the Korean War, the unit participated in nine major campaigns and earned two Presidential Unit Citations, a Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations. More than 3,000 65th Infantry Soldiers were wounded, including over 700 killed. Over the span of the two world wars and Korea, individual unit members earned ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 258 Silver Stars, 628 Bronze Stars, and over 2700 Purple Hearts.

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. I ask for this support from your office.

Sincerely,

Thomas Zampieri  
Director Government Relations  
Blinded Veterans Association