



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, within the Army Appropriation Bill of March 2, 1899, Congress authorized the first body of native troops in Puerto Rico, and by 1901 these troops were called "Porto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry." During World War I, they were assigned to defend the Panama Canal and upon their return in 1919, were renamed the 65th Infantry Regiment by the Army Military establishment, however, amongst the foot-soldiers they self-identified themselves as Borinqueneers (a word stemmed by the natives inhabitants of the Island known today as Puerto Rico prior to the colonization of the Island by Spain); and

WHEREAS, during War II- the 65th Infantry gallantly served in North Africa & Europe (Italy, France-where it saw combat action, and Germany); won the following Battle Campaign Awards: Naples-Foggian, Rome-Arno, Central Europe, and Rhineland Campaigns. After the war, the 65th Infantry was assigned dangerous security, anti-sabotage and other occupation missions around Kaiserslautern & Mannheim, Germany. The Borinqueneers were among the last Units to come Home after World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, after arriving in Pusan, Korea, the 65th Infantry Regiment became part of the 3rd Army Division and were among the first Regiments to encounter the North Korean Army; and

WHEREAS, the 65th Infantry Regiment bravely and successfully defended itself against the Chinese People Liberation Army (who' regiments size were twice as large and twice the regiment strength of the Borinqueneers) when they entered the war after U.N. forces nearly captured the entire Korean Province; and

WHEREAS, with the entrance of the Chinese Army into the war, the U.S. 1st Marine Division and the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division were forced into a major retreat after being encircled close to the Manchurian Border (Chosin Reservoir). . . then, the 65th Infantry heroically fought to rescue them; they protected their fellow Soldiers' withdrawal and supply lines; and

WHEREAS, General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur, once stated: "...the Puerto Ricans...of the gallant 65th Infantry on the battlefields of Korea by valor, determination, and a resolute will to victory give daily testament to their invincible loyalty to the United States... They write a brilliant record of achievement in battle and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that we might have many more like them!"; and

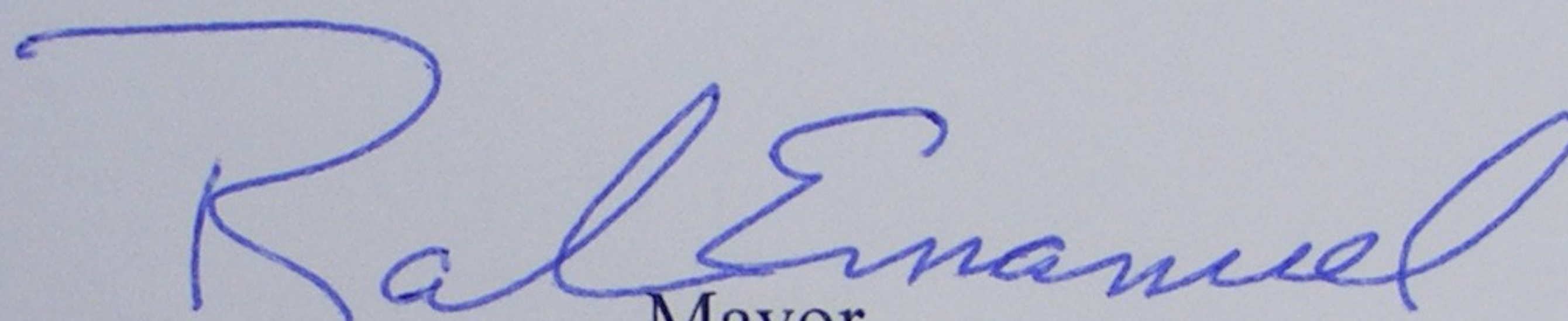
WHEREAS, throughout the course of the Korean War, Puerto Rico' 65th Infantry Regiment suffered more casualties than did the vast majority of mainland states and according to Department of Defense records, 670 Borinqueneers died in Korea and 2,700 others received the Purple Heart for wounds received while in battle; and

WHEREAS, the Borinqueneers selflessly served and sacrificed; shed blood for our democracy; help ensure our prosperity as they faced segregation, discrimination, and unequal American Citizenship, but, the "Borinqueneers" always loyally protected our Nation; made invaluable contributions to our beloved USA as Military and Civilian Leaders and Workers; they nobly fought for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, civic organizations like the Puerto Rican Agenda Committee have joined a national effort to have Congress and the President of the United States bestow the nation's highest honor:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim June 5th as recognition day to the 65th Infantry Regiment for their valor, sacrifices, and above all else, unselfish defends of this country's interest while enduring the hardship of prejudice, discrimination, and segregation.

Dated this 5th day of June, 2013.


Mayor