



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

Proclamation

Whereas, the Army Appropriation Bill created by Congress on March 2, 1899 authorized the first body of native troops in Puerto Rico. The "Porto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry" was organized in 1901. During WWI, the infantry defended the Panama Canal and upon their return to Puerto Rico in 1919, was renamed "The 65th Infantry Regiment"; and

Whereas, during WWII, the 65th Infantry gallantly served in North Africa and Europe, winning the Naples-Foggian, Rome-Arno, Central Europe, and Rhineland battle campaigns, and after the war, were assigned dangerous security, anti-sabotage, and other occupation missions around Kaiserslautern and Mannheim, Germany, making the 65th Infantry among the last units to return home; and

Whereas, in 1950, after arriving in Pusan, Korea, the 65th Infantry joined the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division and were amongst the first infantry to meet the enemy on the battlefields of Korea; and

Whereas, the 65th Infantry bravely defended their regiment against the Chinese People's Liberation Army who had joined the war on the North Korean side, allowing the U.S. 1st Marine Division to retreat back to Hungnam, averting a potential catastrophic disaster; and

Whereas, throughout the course of the Korean War, Puerto Rico proportionally suffered more casualties than a majority of the states; and

Whereas, the 65th Infantry was awarded nine Battle Campaign Awards for bravery: UN Defense-1950, UN Offense-1950, CCF Intervention-1950, First UN Counterattack Offensive-1951, UN and CCF Spring Offensive-1951, UN Summer-Fall Offensive-1951, 2nd Korean Winter 1951-52, Korean Summer-Fall-1952 and 3rd Korean Winter-1952-53; and

Whereas, the 65th Infantry is credited with the last battalion-sized bayonet assault in U.S. Army history; and

Whereas, during the Korean War, some 61,000 soldiers from Puerto Rico served with the U.S. Army-6,000 with the 65th Infantry who were decorated with nine Korean Battle Campaign Awards, the Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Korean Presidential Unit Citations, the Greek Gold Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, and many other awards for bravery; and

Whereas, over the span of WWI, WWII and the Korean War, the 65th Infantry earned ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 258 Silver Stars, 628 Bronze Stars, more than 2,700 Purple Hearts, and many other individual awards; and

Whereas, the 65th Infantry fought bravely as they loyally defended America against all enemies while facing discrimination, segregation and unusual obstacles; and


Whereas, local organizations including the Bilingual Veterans Outreach Centers of Massachusetts, Inc. and the Latino Alliance have joined this national effort in procuring the Congressional Gold Medal for the 65th Infantry Regiment.

Now, Therefore, I, Domenic J. Sarno,

Mayor of the City of Springfield, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2013 as

"The 65th Infantry Regiment Day"

in the great City of Springfield. I urge all citizens to join me in honoring the 65th Infantry Regiment known as the Borinqueneers for their dedicated service to our country and support the effort to award them the Congressional Gold Medal.


DOMENIC J. SARNO, MAYOR

God Bless