



Proclamation

OFFICE OF MAYOR FRANK G. JACKSON

City of Cleveland, Ohio

In recognition of the

65th Infantry Regiment: The Borinqueneers

Whereas, on behalf of the citizens of the City of Cleveland, I am honored to offer this proclamation in recognition of the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers as they pursue the Congressional Gold Medal for their service; 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. 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 for the courage with which they fought; and,

Whereas, the Congressional Gold Medal is an auspicious honor and considered the most distinguished civilian award. It is bestowed by the United States Congress to persons who have performed an achievement that has made a long lasting impact on American history and culture and is likely to be recognized as a major achievement for years to come; by every measure, the Borinqueneers are such individuals; and,

Whereas, as mandated by Congress in 1899, the 65th 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 -- World War I, World War II, and most notably, the Korean War; and,

Whereas, these brave men were one of the first infantrymen of the "Rock of the Marne Division" (3rd Infantry Division) to meet the enemy on the battlefields of Korea, fighting with determination and efficiency; and,

Whereas, the 65th Infantry Regiment earned two Presidential Unit Citations, Army Unit Superior Award, Navy Unit Citation, two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations and Bravery Gold Medal of Greece for serving with distinction and valor. The Congressional Honor would affirm that they are recognized by the people of the United States as true American heroes who fought bravely to serve their country even while enduring the hardships of segregation and discrimination; and,

Whereas, veritable American heroes, the Borinqueneers deserve to be recognized, commended, acknowledged and remembered by the people of Cleveland, as well as by all of the citizens of this great nation. In full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this office to request that the Congress of the United States of America bestow the Congressional Gold Medal upon the war heroes of the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Frank G. Jackson, the 56th Mayor of the City of Cleveland, do hereby offer this proclamation in recognition of the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers as they pursue the Congressional Gold Medal for their service in the United States Armed Forces. I invite all citizens to join me in extending best wishes, support and appreciation to these veterans and their families.

In witness thereof, I have set my hand and caused the Corporate Seal of the City of Cleveland to be affixed on this 31st day of May in the year 2013.



Mayoral Frank G. Jackson