

**13-R-270  
RESOLUTION**

**Sponsored by**

**THE HONORABLE EDWIN REYES, COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
AND PRESIDENT TONI PRECKWINKLE**

**Co-Sponsored by**

**THE HONORABLE JERRY BUTLER, JOHN P. DALEY, JESUS G. GARCIA,  
ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, PETER N. SILVESTRI,  
ROBERT B. STEELE, LARRY SUFFREDIN, EARLEAN COLLINS, JOHN A. FRITCHEY,  
BRIDGET GAINER, GREGG GOSLIN, STANLEY MOORE, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER,  
DEBORAH SIMS AND JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**RECOGNIZING THE U.S. 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT "THE BORINQUENEERS"  
AND RECOMMENDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. 65th Infantry Regiment (Borinqueneers) traces its lineage from the first U.S. Infantry Battalion of native Puerto Rico Volunteer Troops authorized by Congress in 1899 and has fought bravely and has loyally defended America against all enemies while facing discrimination, segregation, and overcoming unusual obstacles as they accomplished many heroic feats; and

**WHEREAS**, in World War I, after Puerto Rico patriotically requested that the Selective Service Draft law be extended to Puerto Rico (236,853 men were registered; 17,855 served), the U.S. 65th Infantry went to war with approximately 1,969 men, defending the Panama Canal, while others fought valiantly overseas; and

**WHEREAS**, during World War II, the 65th Infantry gallantly served in North Africa & Europe (Italy, France-where it saw combat action, and Germany) and won the following Battle Campaign Awards: Naples-Foggian, Rome-Arno, Central Europe and Rhineland Campaigns; and

**WHEREAS**, after World War II, the Borinqueneers were among the last Units to come home as they were assigned dangerous security, anti-sabotage and other occupation missions around Kaiserslautern & Mannheim, Germany; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1950, after arriving in Pusan, Korea, the 65th Infantry were amongst the first fighting Infantrymen, of the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division to fearlessly meet the enemy on the battlefield of Korea; and

**WHEREAS**, during the Korean War, some 61,000 Soldiers from Puerto Rico served with the U.S. Army; 6,000 of them with the U.S. 65th Infantry which again distinguished themselves over a three year period and received nine Korean Battle Campaign Awards, including, Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations, two (2) Korean Presidential Unit Citations, the Greek Gold Medal, a Navy Unit Commendation, and many other awards for bravery and were credited with the last regimental (two battalions) bayonet assault in U.S. Army history; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many stories of the heroism and bravery of the 65th Infantry during the Korean War and General Douglas MacArthur once stated "...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**, 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**, over the course of the Korean War, Puerto Rico suffered one casualty for every 660 of its inhabitants as compared to one casualty for every 1,125 inhabitants of the States, proportionally suffering more casualties than a majority of States; and

**WHEREAS**, over the span of World War I, World War II and the Korean War, the Borinqueneers earned ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 258 Silver Stars, 628 Bronze Stars, over 2,700 Purple Hearts and many other individual awards; and

**WHEREAS**, major achievements are attributed to many of those who returned to civilian life and earned leadership positions and respect as businessmen, corporate executives, religious leaders, lawyers, doctors, educators, bankers and political leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, these brave Borinqueneers deserve a place with all American Heroes and should be honored, commended, and never forgotten for their great epic feats.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, that the U.S. 65th Infantry Regiment (The Borinqueneers) are recognized for their painful sacrifices; selfless service; gallantry in battle; great contributions, and steadfast loyalty for the good of United States of America and also commend the efforts of the original (1934) "U.S. 65th Infantry Regiment Association" who are the principle keepers of the Borinqueneers' brave flame of devotion to: Duty, Honor and Country; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recommends the President of the United States and the United States Congress award the Borinqueneers, of the U.S. 65th Infantry Regiment the US Congressional Gold Medal (CGM); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners urges the Governor of the State of Illinois to issue a Proclamation articulating his support in granting the Congressional Gold Medal to the U.S. 65th Infantry Regiment and to utilize his resources in realizing the aforementioned; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this Resolution be sent to: the President of the United States of America, the Vice-President of the United States of America, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner, each Member of Illinois Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Illinois, the President of the Illinois Senate, the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate, the Minority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives, and the President of the U.S. 65th Veterans' Association and the Chairman of the Borinqueneers CGM Alliance.

Approved and adopted this 19th day of June 2013.

  
**TONI PRECKWINKLE**, President  
Cook County Board of Commissioners

(S E A L)

  
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
**DAVID ORR**, County Clerk

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF  
COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**JUN 19 2013**

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