

City of Wilmington Delaware



City Council

November 19, 2015

Sponsors: Council President Theopalis K. Gregory, Sr., Council Members Maria D. Cabrera, Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha, Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II, Darius J. Brown, Hanifa G. N. Shabazz, Samuel Prado, Sherry Dorsey Walker, Robert A. Williams, Charles "Bud" Freel, Michael A. Brown, Sr., Loretta Walsh and Justen A. Wright

Whereas, Council is truly honored to pay tribute to Manuel Diaz Rivas, affectionately called "Manny," who served in the 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Borinqueneers"; and

Whereas, The "Puerto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry" was organized in 1901. The unit was later renamed the 65th Infantry Regiment. The 65th Infantry fought in World War I and World War II, but the Borinqueneers became famous during the Korean War; and

Whereas, In 1950, after the outbreak of the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment landed in Pusan, South Korea and immediately went into battle against the enemy. After United Nations forces, led by American units, landed at Inchon and also broke out of the Pusan Perimeter, the 65th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 3rd Infantry Division which moved to positions north of the port city of Hungnam in North Korea; and

Whereas, The 65th Infantry Regiment fought to hold back a massive invading Chinese People's Liberation Army which had joined the war to aid North Korea. The 65th Regiment was assigned the mission of keeping open an escape corridor for both the 1st Marine and the 7th Army Infantry Divisions, retreating from the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. The 7th Army Division and the 1st Marine Division were evacuated from Hungnam, one of the biggest withdrawals in U S military history. The last personnel to be evacuated were members of the 65th Infantry Regiment; and

"Wilmington: A Place to be Somebody"

Whereas, By the end of the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment suffered approximately 750 killed and 2,400 wounded in action. The 65th Infantry Regiment was awarded 9 Battle Campaign Awards for bravery, and over the span of WWI, WWII and the Korean War, members of the 65th Infantry Regiment earned 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, 256 Silver Stars, 606 Bronze Stars and more than 2,700 Purple Hearts. In 2014, the 65th Infantry Regiment was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award in the U.S. The first recipient of this award was George Washington in 1776; and

Whereas, Manuel Diaz Rivas was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment from July 18, 1943 to December 5, 1945 during World War II. While serving during World War II, Manuel Diaz Rivas earned the American Theater Service Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Four Overseas Service Bars and the World War II Victory Medal. When the Korean War started, Manuel Diaz Rivas was recalled to duty from 1951 to 1952; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By The Council Of The City Of Wilmington, That this Council is proud to pay tribute to and thank Manuel Diaz Rivas for his honorable service to the nation while serving in the illustrious 65th Infantry Regiment. This Council is honored to salute Manuel Diaz Rivas and the Borinqueneers!


City Clerk


Senior First Assistant City Solicitor

