

State of Florida

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Resolution 9017

By Representatives Soto, Sachs and Zapata

A resolution honoring Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment, "The Borinqueneers," for their bravery, patriotism, and sacrifice in defending our nation as part of the United States Armed Forces.

WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have participated in every major American military conflict, from the American Revolution, when volunteers from Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Mexico fought the British in 1779 under the command of General Bernardo de Gálvez, to the current military operations in Iraq, and

WHEREAS, however, it was the 65th Infantry Regiment, a volunteer regiment created in 1899, comprised primarily of Puerto Ricans and nicknamed "The Borinqueneers," that engaged in extensive combat and distinguished itself and the contributions of Puerto Rican soldiers to the defense of the United States most notably, and

WHEREAS, the 65th Infantry Regiment was created on March 2, 1899, as the Puerto Rico Battalion of Volunteer Infantry to assist in reestablishing law and order in Puerto Rico following the seizure of the island in 1898 during the Spanish-American War, and

WHEREAS, the battalion proved so successful that the following year it was expanded into the Puerto Rico Regiment of U.S. Volunteers and in 1901 became the Puerto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry, and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 1908, the regiment became part of the regular Army and was renamed the Puerto Rico Regiment of the United States Army, and

WHEREAS, in World War I, 1,969 Puerto Rican troops voluntarily enlisted in military service and, one year later, were sent to Panama in defense of the Panama Canal Zone, and

WHEREAS, during World War II, the 65th Infantry Regiment landed in Italy and France and served in various capacities across Europe, from engaging in anti-sabotage and security missions in Germany to fighting in the Battles of Naples-Fogis, Rome-Arno, Central Europe, and the Rhineland, and

WHEREAS, during the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment, a force of 6,000 troops by that time, was organized into three infantry battalions, one artillery battalion, and a tank company and attached to the Army's 3rd Division, and

WHEREAS, it was during the long sea voyage to Korea that the men nicknamed the 65th Infantry Regiment "The Borinqueneers," and

WHEREAS, a total of 61,000 Puerto Rican soldiers served in Korea, most of them volunteers, with approximately 750 Puerto Ricans from all four branches of the United States Armed Forces losing their lives in the Korean War, and

WHEREAS, among the men of the 65th Infantry Regiment serving in Korea, nine were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, 163 were awarded Silver Star Medals, and 562 were awarded Bronze Star Medals, and

WHEREAS, as a unit, the 65th Infantry Regiment twice received the Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and

WHEREAS, following the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment returned to Puerto Rico and was deactivated in 1956, and

WHEREAS, following its deactivation, the Department of the Army transferred the 65th Infantry Regiment from the regular Army to the Puerto Rico National Guard, thus making the 65th Infantry Regiment the only unit ever transferred as an active component of the United States Army to the National Guard, and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico honored the 65th Infantry Regiment by naming one of its principal avenues "La 65 de Infanteria" in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2001, the government of Puerto Rico unveiled a monument honoring the 65th Infantry Regiment which contains a statue of a soldier wearing a poncho with his rifle in one hand and the regiment's flag in the other hand, and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 1951, General Douglas MacArthur, was quoted in Tokyo as saying, "The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry on the battlefields of Korea . . . are writing 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," NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:*

That Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment, "The Borinqueneers," is hereby honored for the bravery, patriotism, and sacrifice of its members in defending our nation as part of the United States Armed Forces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Anibal Acevedo-Vila, Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and to the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Legislative Assembly of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

*This is to certify the foregoing was adopted by publication in the Journal on April 23, 2008.*



Handwritten signature of Marco Rubio in black ink.

Marco Rubio, Speaker

Handwritten signature of William S. Pittman III in black ink.

William S. Pittman III, Chief Clerk