

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, Hispanic-Americans serving in the United States Armed Forces have demonstrated courage, heroism, and valor; and,
WHEREAS, the 65th Infantry Regiment, also known as "The Borinqueneers," is a Puerto Rican regiment of the United States Army; and,
WHEREAS, coined in 1950, the term "Borinqueneers" is a combination of the Taino name for the island of Puerto Rico ("Borinquen") and the English word "buccaneers"; and,
WHEREAS, the Borinqueneers motto is Honor et Fidelitas, which is Latin for Honor and Fidelity; and,
WHEREAS, the Borinqueneers began as a volunteer regiment in 1899 and participated in WWI WWII, the Korean War, the Global War on Terror and other conflicts; and,
WHEREAS, over the span of 110 years, 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, the freedom and security that citizens of the United States enjoy today can be attributed in part to the service and sacrifice given by the Borinqueneers throughout the history of our great nation; and,
WHEREAS, the sacrifices made by the Borinqueneers and their families have preserved the liberties that enrich our nation, but are all too often taken for granted; and,
WHEREAS, the Borinqueneers promoted equal citizenship, civil rights, and helped pave the way for full integration of the United States Armed Forces; and,
WHEREAS, the Borinqueneers who returned to civilian life have gone on to achieve great success as businessman, lawyers, doctors, educators, bankers, and political leaders; and,
WHEREAS, Congress voted in May to issue the Congressional Gold Medal to the Borinqueneers, a long-overdue recognition of their contribution to our freedoms; and,
WHEREAS, June 14 marks the 61st anniversary of the Korean War's "Battle of Hill 412," in which Borinqueneers engaged in fierce hand-to-hand combat and "cave warfare"; and,
WHEREAS, on June 14th, it is imperative that the people of Illinois recognize Borinqueneers such as Juan Vazquez, Raul Cordona, and Santiago Perez-Garcia; and,
THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2014 as **BORINQUENEERS DAY** in Illinois, and urge all citizens to show their appreciation for the faithful service the Borinqueneers have rendered to our nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Doree White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this FIFTH day of JUNE, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
FOURTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
NINETY-SIXTH
one hundred and _____.

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR