



League of United Latin American Citizens

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Margaret Moran

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brent A. Wilkes

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Rosa Rosales

Immediate Past President

Maggie Rivera

Treasurer

Roman Rodriguez

Youth President

Frank Urteaga

VP for Elderly

Elsie Valdes

VP for Women

Ana Valenzuela Estrada

VP for Youth

Manuel Rendon

VP for Young Adults

Mickie Solorio Luna

VP for Farwest

Darryl Morin

VP for Midwest

Ralina Cardona

VP for Northeast

Juan Carlos Lizardi

VP for Southeast

Baldomero Garza

VP for Southwest

STATE DIRECTORS

Rev. John Mireles

Arizona

Terry Treviño-Richard

Arkansas

Benny Diaz

California

Alfredo Haro

Colorado

Thomas Higgins

District of Columbia

Lydia Medrano

Florida

Brandie Bedard

Georgia

Rosemary Bombela-Tobias

Illinois

Wanda Gordils

Indiana

Joseph Enriquez Henry

Iowa

Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield

Kansas

Yvette Butler, MD

Maryland

Priscilla Rocha, Ed.D.

Nevada

James Fukuda

New Jersey

Ralph Arellanes

New Mexico

Eduardo LaGuerre

New York

Lourdes Ribera

Ohio

Ivonne Quiñones Lanzó

Puerto Rico

Elia Mendoza

Texas

Antonella Romero Packard

Utah

Bob Garcia

Virginia

Arturo Martinez, Ph.D.

Wisconsin

Dear Members of Congress,

It is with great pleasure that LULAC supports the 65th Infantry Regiment in their quest to achieve the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Therefore, we urge you to Co-Sponsor the pertinent 65th Infantry legislation requesting the auspicious CGM recognition, Congressional bills H.R. 1726 or S. 1174.

The Congressional Gold Medal will be the highest award ever for the 65th Infantry Regiment and for ALL Latino Veterans. This distinction will catapult Hispanic veterans into the national spotlight and will honor all Hispanic veterans past, present and future.

As mandated by an Act of Congress on March 2, 1899, the 65th Infantry Regiment nicknamed the "Borinqueneers" was the only Hispanic-segregated active-duty unit ever in the U.S. Armed Forces that played a prominent role in three U.S. wars. Although comprised of a majority of Puerto Ricans, the 65th Infantry Regiment was arguably one of the most ethnically diverse U.S. combat fight units consisting of Mexican American, segregated African-American, Philippine, Virgin Islander Soldiers and various Soldiers of other ethnicities.

Of all the honors Congress can bestow, the awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal is often the most distinguished.

The pinnacle military achievements of the 65th Infantry Regiment came during the Korean War where the unit participated in nine major campaigns and earned two Presidential Unit Citations, a Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations. More than three thousand 65th Infantry soldiers were wounded including over seven hundred killed. Over the span of WWI, WWII and the Korean War, individual members have earned ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 258 Silver Stars, 628 Bronze Stars, and over 2700 Purple Hearts.

Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal for the "Borinqueneers" is consistent with our organizational ethos of patriotism, public service excellence and civic empowerment. This honor will enshrine this valiant unit in the halls of those who have left an indelible mark in society and the Latino culture. This is evident in the 10 memorials & monuments emplaced around the country.



U.S. Members of Congress
August 23, 2013
Page 2

We hope that the US Congress will recognize the sacrifices and obstacles the “Borinqueneers” valiantly overcame as a segregated unit in defending our Nation. They fought bravely even while enduring the hardships of segregation, discrimination, language, and cultural barriers.

Please turn this vision into a historic reality.

Respectfully,

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President