



NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

ONE MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NORTHWEST • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 • (202) 789-0031 • FAX (202) 682-9

October 6, 2013

The Honorable Bill Posey
120 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Posey:

Thank you for sponsoring H.R. 1726, which would award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment.

Created by an act of Congress on March 2, 1899, the 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the Borinqueneers, was the only Hispanic active-duty unit in the U.S. armed forces to play 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 units during the Korean War, consisting of Mexican-Americans, African-Americans, Filipinos, soldiers from the Virgin Islands and soldiers of various other ethnicities. During that conflict, more than 3,000 of the regiment's soldiers were wounded. More than 700 lost their lives.

During World War I, World War II and the Korean War, the unit's members earned 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, 258 Silver Stars, 628 Bronze Stars and more than 2,700 Purple Hearts.

After the 65th was deactivated in 1956, one of its battalions, the 1st Battalion, was transferred to the Army National Guard where it remains today.

NGAUS strongly supports H.R. 1726. The Congressional Gold Medal would be the highest award ever for the 65th Infantry Regiment. This distinction would honor all Hispanic veterans.

Thank you for your efforts in recognizing the brave and selfless service of this historic unit and all of our Latino veterans.

Sincerely,

Gus Hargett
Major General, (Ret)
President



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The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for sponsoring S. 1174, which would award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment.

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