

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 149**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED APRIL 25, 2013

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman ANGEL FUENTES

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Senators Beck, Cunningham, Gordon, Norcross, Sarlo, Assemblymen
Wilson, Johnson, Eustace and Assemblywoman Mosquera**

SYNOPSIS

Urges United States Congress to bestow Congressional Gold Medal upon Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment, also known as "The Borinqueneers."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2013)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to
2 bestow the Congressional Gold Medal upon the Puerto Rican
3 65th Infantry Regiment, also known as “The Borinqueneers.”
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The Congressional Gold Medal is the most distinguished
6 award bestowed by Congress in recognition of historic events and
7 outstanding achievements by individuals or institutions, and is an
8 expression of public gratitude on behalf of the entire nation which
9 began with the award of the first medal in 1776; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Among honorees in the arts, sciences, humanitarian service
11 and other fields, Congress has awarded the Congressional Gold
12 Medal to individuals and groups for their outstanding military
13 service, including medals recognizing the distinguished service and
14 valor of segregated units such as the Navajo Code Talkers; the
15 Native American Code Talkers; the Tuskegee Airmen; the Women
16 Airforce Service Pilots of WWII; the mainly Japanese-American
17 110th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team and
18 Military Intelligence Service of the United States Army; and the
19 Montford Point Marines; and

20 **WHEREAS**, In 1898, following the acquisition of the island of Puerto
21 Rico by the United States, Congress authorized the creation of an
22 Army regiment of local troops, a few years later to be named the
23 65th Infantry Regiment and to become the all-Hispanic segregated
24 unit in the U.S. Army composed primarily of native Puerto Ricans;
25 and

26 **WHEREAS**, As an all-Hispanic U.S. Army unit, the members of the
27 65th Infantry Regiment rose above the barriers of discrimination,
28 segregation, and racism to serve bravely in defense of American
29 freedom during WWI, WWII, and the Korean War; and

30 **WHEREAS**, As defenders and protectors of the Panama Canal Zone
31 during WWI and WWII, and as participants in the battles of
32 Naples-Fogis, Rome-Arno, Central Europe, and the Rhineland
33 during WWII, the men of the 65th Infantry Regiment demonstrated
34 determination and valor; and

35 **WHEREAS**, The men of the 65th Infantry Regiment rendered their most
36 distinguished and gallant service during the Korean War when, as
37 part of the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division, they defended the U.S.
38 Marines against Chinese troops as they withdrew from the Chosin
39 Reservoir area and, five months later near Seoul, South Korea, took
40 strategic positions from the Chinese by charging forward in a
41 bayonet attack; and

42 **WHEREAS**, It was on their way to the battlefields of Korea that the
43 men of the 65th Infantry Regiment named themselves “The
44 Borinqueneers,” in honor of the name “Borinquen” given to the
45 island of Puerto Rico by its first inhabitants, the Taino Indians; and

46 **WHEREAS**, The Borinqueneers became the last segregated unit to be
47 deactivated, and the only unit to be transferred from an active Army

1 component to the Puerto Rican National Guard, where these troops
2 continue their service in the Global War on Terror; and

3 **WHEREAS**, As we commemorate as a nation the 60th anniversary of
4 the end of the Korean War in 2013, it is fitting and proper for the
5 nation to recognize the outstanding service of the brave men of the
6 65th Infantry Regiment, The Borinqueneers; now therefore,

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8 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
9 General Assembly concurring):

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11 1. This House urges the United States Congress to bestow the
12 Congressional Gold Medal upon the members of the 65th Infantry
13 Regiment, also known as “The Borinqueneers,” for their
14 outstanding military service to this country during World War I,
15 World War II, and especially the Korean War where these men
16 rendered their most distinguished and gallant service.

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18 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
19 President of the Senate and attested to by the Secretary thereof,
20 shall be transmitted to the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold
21 Medal Alliance and to each member of Congress elected from this
22 State.

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STATEMENT

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27 This resolution urges the United States Congress to bestow the
28 Congressional Gold Medal on the all-Hispanic 65th Infantry
29 Regiment, also known as “The Borinqueneers.”

30 The Congressional Gold Medal is the most distinguished award
31 bestowed by Congress in recognition of historic events and
32 outstanding achievements by individuals or institutions. Among
33 honorees in the arts, sciences, humanitarian service and other fields,
34 Congress has awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to individuals
35 and groups for their outstanding military service, including medals
36 recognizing the distinguished service and valor of segregated units
37 such as the Navajo Code Talkers; the Native American Code
38 Talkers; the Tuskegee Airmen; the Women Airforce Service Pilots
39 of WWII; the mainly Japanese-American 110th Infantry Battalion
40 and 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence
41 Service of the United States Army; and the Montford Point
42 Marines.

43 Following the acquisition of the island of Puerto Rico by the
44 United States in 1898, Congress authorized the creation of an Army
45 regiment of local troops, a few years later to be named the 65th
46 Infantry Regiment and to become the all-Hispanic segregated unit
47 in the U.S. Army composed primarily of native Puerto Ricans. The
48 members of the 65th Infantry Regiment rose above the barriers of

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1 discrimination, segregation, and racism to serve bravely in defense
2 of American freedom during WWI, WWII, and the Korean War. It
3 was on their way to the battlefields of Korea that the men of the
4 65th Infantry Regiment named themselves “The Borinqueneers,” in
5 honor of the name “Borinquen” given to the island of Puerto Rico
6 by its first inhabitants, the Taino Indians. As we commemorate as a
7 nation the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, where
8 The Borinqueneers rendered their most distinguished and gallant
9 service, it is fitting and proper to honor them with a Congressional
10 Gold Medal as an expression of public gratitude on behalf of the
11 entire nation.