

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, nicknamed as “The Borinqueneers,” is a Puerto Rican regiment of the United States Army, whose motto is *Honor ET Fidelitas*, Latin for *Honor and Fidelity*; and

**WHEREAS**, mandated by an Act of Congress on March 2, 1899, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was the only Hispanic-segregated unit ever in the U.S. Armed Forces that played a prominent role in three U.S. wars; and

**WHEREAS**, The Borinqueneers distinguished themselves for their successful raids in battle, enduring days of artillery bombardment, with limited artillery support and indisputable acts of heroism in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the War on Terror; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the pinnacle military achievements of the 65<sup>th</sup> 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment also earned an Army Unit Superior Award, Navy Unit Citation, and Bravery Gold Medal of Greece for serving with distinction and valor; and

**WHEREAS**, of all the honors Congress can bestow, the awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal is often the most distinguished; the Congressional Honor would affirm that they are recognized by the people of the United States as true American heroes who fought bravely to serve their country, even while enduring the hardships of segregation and discrimination.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN B. CALLAHAN, MAYOR** of the City of Bethlehem, do hereby offer this proclamation in recognition of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers, as they pursue the Congressional Gold Medal for their service in the United States Armed Forces.

I invite all residents to join me in extending best wishes, support, and appreciation to the Borinqueneers in the City of Bethlehem, the Lehigh Valley and beyond, and their families, for their sacrifice and service for which we are most grateful.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Bethlehem to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2013.



JOHN B. CALLAHAN  
MAYOR

