

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PERTH AMBOY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO  
BESTOW THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL UPON THE PUERTO RICAN 65<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY  
REGIMENT, ALSO KNOWN AS "THE BORINQUENEERS"**

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the men of the 65th Infantry Regiment rendered their most distinguished and gallant service during the Korean War when, as part of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, they defended the U.S. Marines against Chinese troops as they withdrew from the Chosin Reservoir area and, five months later near Seoul, South Korea, took strategic positions from the Chinese and conducted the last recorded battalion-size bayonet against the enemy; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Borinqueneers became the last segregated unit to be deactivated, and the only unit to be transferred from an active Army component to the Puerto Rican National Guard, where these troops continue their service in the Global War on Terror; and


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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERTH AMBOY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the City Council hereby urges the United States Congress to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal upon the members of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, also known as "The Borinqueneers," for their outstanding military services to this country during World War I, World War II, and especially the Korean War where these men rendered their most distinguished and gallant service.

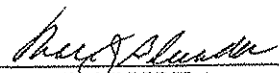
2. That the City Council authorizes the City Clerk to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance and to each member of Congress elected to the State of New Jersey.

  
VICTORIA ANN KUPSCIO  
Assistant City Clerk

  
JOEL PABON, SR.  
Council President

Dated: June 12, 2013

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
MARK J. BLUNDA  
Director of Law