



# MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
5413-B BACKLICK ROAD  
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151-3960  
(703) 642-5360 Fax (703) 642-1841

24 May 2013

The Honorable Bill Posey  
120 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0908

Dear Mr. Posey:

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded veterans, is pleased to add our support for H. R. 1726. This legislation seeks to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. This regiment, known as the Borinqueneers, served magnificently in both World Wars and in Korea.

The 65<sup>th</sup> was a segregated unit composed of Latino soldiers from Puerto Rico and, like other units comprised of African Americans or Japanese Americans, they not only had to battle the enemies they faced but also the racial prejudices that existed at those times.

The 65<sup>th</sup> Regiment distinguished itself due to the dedication, patriotism and professionalism of its members.

During Korea, the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers earned 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, 256 Silver Stars, 606 Bronze Stars and 2,771 Purple Hearts. 750 Soldiers of the 65th were killed in action and more than 100 are still missing in action. They have never come home.

The Borinqueneers are credited with the final battalion-sized bayonet assault in U.S. Army history. In early 1951 while fighting in Korea, two battalions of the 65th fixed bayonets and charged the enemy, over running them and taking the enemy's strategic position. General Douglas MacArthur had high praise for the unit.

MOPH will request that our members contact their members of Congress to seek their support for this legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to this most deserving Regiment.

Respectfully,

Bruce G. McKenty  
National Commander