



**City of Springfield**

36 Court Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

Meeting: 06/17/13 07:00 PM

Department: City Clerk

Category: General

Prepared By: Wayman Lee

Initiator: Wayman Lee

**SCHEDULED**  
Sponsors: Vice President At-Large Councilor Williams, President At-Large Councilor Ferrera III  
**RESOLUTION (ID # 2241)**

DOC ID: 2241 A

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## 65Th Infantry Regiment - Congressional Gold Medal

WHEREAS, the Army Appropriation Bill created by Congress on March 2, 1899 authorized the first body of native troops in Puerto Rico and was officially organized in 1901, and

WHEREAS, during World War I the infantry defended the Panama Canal and upon their return to Puerto Rico in 1919, was renamed the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, and

WHEREAS, in 1950, after arriving in Pusan, Korea, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry joined the U.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and were amongst the first infantry to meet the enemy on the battlefields of Korea, and

WHEREAS, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry bravely defended their regiment against the Chinese People's Liberation Army who had joined the war on the North Korean side, allowing the U.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division to retreat back to Hungnam, averting a potential catastrophic disaster, and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of the Korean War, Puerto Rico proportionally suffered more casualties than a majority of the states, and

WHEREAS, over the span of WWI, WWII and the Korean War, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry earned ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 258 Silver Stars, 628 Bronze Stars, more than 2,700 Purple Hearts and many other individual awards, and

WHEREAS, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry fought bravely as they loyally defended America against all enemies while facing discrimination, segregation and unusual obstacles, and

WHEREAS, local organizations including Bilingual Veterans Outreach Centers of Massachusetts, Inc. and the Latino Alliance have joined the national effort in procuring the Congressional Gold Medal for 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Springfield City Council strongly urges our 113<sup>th</sup> Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment known as the Borinqueneers for their dedicated service to our country.