

HR 9087

2009

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution honoring Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry
3 Regiment, "The Borinqueneers," for their bravery,
4 patriotism, and sacrifice in defending our nation as part
5 of the United States Armed Forces.
6

7 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have participated in every major
8 American military conflict, from the American Revolution, when
9 volunteers from Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Mexico fought the British
10 in 1779 under the command of General Bernardo de Gálvez, to the
11 current military operations in Iraq, and

12 WHEREAS, however, it was the 65th Infantry Regiment, a
13 volunteer regiment created in 1899, comprised primarily of
14 Puerto Ricans and nicknamed "The Borinqueneers," that engaged in
15 extensive combat and distinguished itself and the contributions
16 of Puerto Rican soldiers to the defense of the United States
17 most notably, and

18 WHEREAS, the 65th Infantry Regiment was created on March 2,
19 1899, as the Puerto Rico Battalion of Volunteer Infantry to
20 assist in reestablishing law and order in Puerto Rico following
21 the seizure of the island in 1898 during the Spanish-American
22 War, and

23 WHEREAS, the battalion proved so successful that the
24 following year it was expanded into the Puerto Rico Regiment of
25 U.S. Volunteers and in 1901 became the Puerto Rico Provisional
26 Regiment of Infantry, and

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27 WHEREAS, on June 30, 1908, the regiment became part of the
28 regular Army and was renamed the Puerto Rico Regiment of the
29 United States Army, and

30 WHEREAS, in World War I, 1,969 Puerto Rican troops
31 voluntarily enlisted in military service and, one year later,
32 were sent to Panama in defense of the Panama Canal Zone, and

33 WHEREAS, during World War II, the 65th Infantry Regiment
34 landed in Italy and France and served in various capacities
35 across Europe, from engaging in anti-sabotage and security
36 missions in Germany to fighting in the Battles of Naples-Fogis,
37 Rome-Arno, Central Europe, and the Rhineland, and

38 WHEREAS, during the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment,
39 a force of 6,000 troops by that time, was organized into three
40 infantry battalions, one artillery battalion, and a tank company
41 and attached to the Army's 3rd Division, and

42 WHEREAS, it was during the long sea voyage to Korea that
43 the men nicknamed the 65th Infantry Regiment "The
44 Borinqueneers," and

45 WHEREAS, A total of 61,000 Puerto Rican soldiers served in
46 Korea, most of them volunteers, with approximately 750 Puerto
47 Ricans from all four branches of the United States Armed Forces
48 losing their lives in the Korean War, and

49 WHEREAS, among the men of the 65th Infantry Regiment
50 serving in Korea, nine were awarded the Distinguished Service
51 Cross, 163 were awarded Silver Star Medals, and 562 were awarded
52 Bronze Star Medals, and

53 WHEREAS, as a unit, the 65th Infantry Regiment twice
54 received the Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Korea

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55 Presidential Unit Citation, and the Meritorious Unit
56 Commendation, and

57 WHEREAS, following the Korean War, the 65th Infantry
58 Regiment returned to Puerto Rico and was deactivated in 1956,
59 and

60 WHEREAS, following its deactivation, the Department of the
61 Army transferred the 65th Infantry Regiment from the regular
62 Army to the Puerto Rico National Guard, thus making the 65th
63 Infantry Regiment the only unit ever transferred as an active
64 component of the United States Army to the National Guard, and

65 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico honored the 65th Infantry Regiment by
66 naming one of its principal avenues "La 65 de Infanteria" in San
67 Juan, Puerto Rico, and

68 WHEREAS, On May 20, 2001, the government of Puerto Rico
69 unveiled a monument honoring the 65th Infantry Regiment which
70 contains a statue of a soldier wearing a poncho with his rifle
71 in one hand and the regiment's flag in the other hand, and

72 WHEREAS, On February 12, 1951, General Douglas MacArthur,
73 was quoted in Tokyo as saying "The Puerto Ricans forming the
74 ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry on the battlefields of Korea
75 . . . are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle
76 and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that
77 we might have many more like them," NOW, THEREFORE,

78
79 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
80 Florida:

81

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82 That Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment, "The
83 Borinqueneers," is hereby honored for the bravery, patriotism,
84 and sacrifice of its members in defending our nation as part of
85 the United States Armed Forces.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
87 transmitted to Governor Luis Fortuño, Governor of the
88 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and to the Senate and the House of
89 Representatives of the Legislative Assembly of the Commonwealth
90 of Puerto Rico as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
91 herein.