

HR 9069

2010

House Resolution

A resolution expressing support for the issuance of a commemorative United States postage stamp honoring Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment, "The Borinqueneers."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

77 WHEREAS, because the contributions and sacrifices of Puerto
78 Ricans serving as Bourinqueneers have gone largely unnoticed and
79 unheralded, a commemorative United States postage stamp would
80 serve as a fitting tribute to Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry
81 Regiment and as a means by which the American public could
82 become better educated with respect to the Bourinqueneers'

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83 | dedicated service in defense of the United States, NOW,
84 | THEREFORE,

85 |
86 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
87 | Florida:

88 |
89 | That the House of Representatives would be honored if the
90 | United States Postal Service were to issue a commemorative
91 | postage stamp as a fitting tribute to Puerto Rico's 65th
92 | Infantry Regiment, "The Borinqueneers," and as a means by which
93 | the American public might gain an increased awareness of the
94 | Bourinqueneers' extraordinary service to our nation.

95 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives
96 | would be honored if the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
97 | supported a recommendation to the Postmaster General of the
98 | United States that such a commemorative stamp honoring Puerto
99 | Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment, "The Borinqueneers," be issued by
100 | the United States Postal Service.

101 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
102 | transmitted to Governor Luis Fortuño, Governor of the
103 | Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, to the Senate and the House of
104 | Representatives of the Legislative Assembly of the Commonwealth
105 | of Puerto Rico, to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the
106 | United States Postal Service, and to John E. Potter, United
107 | States Postmaster General.