

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

<b>BILL #:</b>	CS/HM 1087	<b>FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR(S):</b>	Local & Federal Affairs Committee; Santiago and others	Voice Vote	Y's --- N's
<b>COMPANION BILLS:</b>	SM 1266	<b>GOVERNOR'S ACTION:</b>	N/A

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**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

CS/HM 1087 passed the House on April 24, 2013 as SM 1266.

The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "the Borinqueneers," is a largely Puerto Rican regiment of the United States Army that served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the War on Terror. The Borinqueneers have been awarded Distinguished Service Crosses, Purple Hearts, Silver Stars, and Bronze Stars for their bravery and heroism.

This memorial recognizes the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment's contributions to various military campaigns and urges the President and the Congress of the United States to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the regiment.

Copies of the memorial will be provided to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress, the Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner, the President of the United States 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association, the chairman of the Hispanic Achievers Grant Council, the chairman of the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance, and the National Association for Uniformed Services.

This memorial has no fiscal impact on state or local government.

Legislative memorials are not subject to the Governor's veto power, and are not presented to the Governor for review.

## I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

### A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

#### **Background**

##### The Borinqueneers

The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the Borinqueneers,<sup>1</sup> was originally formed on March 2, 1899 to protect America's strategic interests in the Caribbean. The 65<sup>th</sup> participated in World War I, as a defense force securing the Panama Canal Zone. During World War II, they again assumed this security mission until 1944 when the regiment was sent to North Africa, Corsica, and eventually into France. The Borinqueneers participated in Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Central Europe, and Rhineland battles.

The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was among the first reinforcements to arrive in Korea as General MacArthur began his famous counter attack that drove the North Koreans to the Chinese border. The Borinqueneers fought as part of the U.S. Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. Although their equipment and supplies were frequently lacking, the Borinqueneers earned a reputation as a very brave and disciplined unit.<sup>2</sup>

The 65<sup>th</sup> was part of a task force which enabled the U.S. Marines to withdraw from the Chosin Reservoir on December 1950. The men of the 65<sup>th</sup> rushed to their defense and provided protection, enabling the Marines to withdraw to their ships with the 65<sup>th</sup> holding the rear guard.<sup>3</sup> In 1952, the regiment defended the main line of resistance for 47 days and successfully attacked Chinese positions.<sup>4</sup> In June 1953, the regiment conducted a series of successful raids and counter-attacks on enemy units in the Numsong Valley.<sup>5</sup> The 65<sup>th</sup> held their positions until the armistice was reached.<sup>6</sup> On February 6, 1959, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was transferred from the Regular Army to the Puerto Rico Army National Guard.<sup>7</sup>

The unit and individual members were cited for bravery and meritorious service on multiple occasions. Of the 10 distinguished Service Crosses and 256 Silver Stars that were awarded to members of the 65<sup>th</sup>, 4 Distinguished Service Crosses and 124 Silver Stars were awarded to native born Puerto Ricans.<sup>8</sup> The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry also was awarded 606 Bronze Stars and 2771 Purple Hearts. The Borinqueneers are credited with the last recorded battalion-sized bayonet assault in the history of the United States Army. The regiment has participated in 20 campaigns, and received 8 unit decorations, including the Army and Navy Presidential Unit Citation.<sup>9</sup>

##### The Congressional Gold Medal

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<sup>1</sup> The name "Borinqueneers" is a combination of the words "Borinquen" (the Taínos' name for the island before the arrival of the Spaniards) and "Buccaneers." The Taínos were seafaring indigenous people of the Caribbean.

<sup>2</sup> Gilberto N. Villahermosa, Honor and Fidelity The 65th Infantry in Korea, 1950–1953, pp 46-179. Available at [http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/korea/65Inf\\_Korea/65Inf\\_KW.pdf](http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/korea/65Inf_Korea/65Inf_KW.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> "General Order 38," Department of the Army, 30 July 1957, pp. 2–3. Available at <http://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/pdf/go5738.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> "Puerto Rico's 65 Infantry Regiment U.S. Army." Available at <http://www.valerosos.com/Honorpg1.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> "Puerto Rico's 65 Infantry Regiment U.S. Army." Available at <http://www.valerosos.com/Honorpg1.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> Villahermosa, pp 237-263.

<sup>7</sup> Department of the Army, Lineage and Honors, 65th Infantry Regiment (The Borinqueneers). Available at <http://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lineages/branches/inf/0065in.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> 110th CONGRESS, 1st Session, H. CON. RES. 253, Recognizing the service, courage, and patriotism of Hispanic Americans who have served and continue to serve as members of the United States Armed Forces.

<sup>9</sup> Lineage and Honors, 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (THE BORINQUENEERS).

The Congressional Gold Medal is an expression of public gratitude by Congress for distinguished contributions, dramatic acts of virtue and patriotism, and the remembrance of great events.<sup>10</sup> Since the American Revolution, Congress has commissioned gold medals as its highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. Each medal honors a particular individual, institution, or event. Although the first recipients included citizens who participated in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War, Congress broadened the scope of the medal to include actors, authors, entertainers, musicians, pioneers in aeronautics and space, explorers, lifesavers, notables in science and medicine, athletes, humanitarians, public servants, and foreign recipients.<sup>11</sup> The tradition of the Congressional Gold Medal is a medal made of gold with the portraits of those being honored or images of events in which they participated.<sup>12</sup>

According to Rule X, 2 (h) of the House Committee on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Domestic Policy and Technology when considering such Congressional Gold Medal legislation must be cosponsored by at least two-thirds (290) of the Members of the House. The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee requires at least 67 Senators cosponsor any Congressional Gold Medal legislation before the committee will consider it.<sup>13</sup>

Since its inception, hundreds of medals have been issued, including those for George Washington, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the Wright Brothers, and Robert Frost. Groups that have received this honor include the Byrd Antarctic Expedition, the American Red Cross, the 1980 U.S. Summer Olympic Team, the Little Rock Nine,<sup>14</sup> the Tuskegee Airmen,<sup>15</sup> the Native American Code Talkers,<sup>16</sup> Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II,<sup>17</sup> the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team<sup>18</sup> and the Military Intelligence Service of the U.S. Army,<sup>19</sup> and the Montford Point Marines.<sup>20</sup>

### Effect of Changes

This memorial recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of the Borinqueneers to the United States' military campaigns in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the War on Terrorism. Therefore, the Florida Legislature urges the President and the Congress of the United States to award the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment the Congressional Gold Medal.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

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<sup>10</sup> Matthew Eric Glassman, Congressional Research Service, Congressional Gold Medals, 1776-2012, p. 1. Available at [http://www.senate.gov/CRSReports/crs-publish.cfm?pid=0E%2C\\*PL%5B%3C%230%20%20%0A](http://www.senate.gov/CRSReports/crs-publish.cfm?pid=0E%2C*PL%5B%3C%230%20%20%0A).

<sup>11</sup> United States House of Representative; History, Arts & Archives. Available at <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Gold-Medal/Gold-Medal-Recipients/>.

<sup>12</sup> Glassman, p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> United States House of Representative; History, Arts & Archives. Available at <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Gold-Medal/Gold-Medal-Recipients/>.

<sup>14</sup> The first African American students to attend a previously all-white school after the forced integration from *Brown v. Board of Education*.

<sup>15</sup> The first African-American military aviators in the United States armed forces.

<sup>16</sup> Serving the Marines in World War II, the Navajo Code Talkers transmitted tactical information over telephone and radio in every major operation in the Pacific theater. During the invasion of Iwo Jima, six Navajo Code Talkers sent more than 800 messages, all of transmitted without error. Their code was never broken.

<sup>17</sup> The 1,074 civilian female pilots who flew over 60 million miles in every type of military aircraft under the direction of the United States Army Air Forces during World War II.

<sup>18</sup> A World War II fighting unit composed almost entirely of Japanese-American soldiers who volunteered to fight even though their families were subject to internment.

<sup>19</sup> Japanese-Americans trained as linguists who provided translation, interpretation, and interrogation services to other United States military units during World War II.

<sup>20</sup> The first African-American Marines, who served in World War II after segregated basic training at Camp Montford Point and were denied civil rights and military promotions.

1. Revenues:  
None.

2. Expenditures:  
None.

**B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:  
None.

2. Expenditures:  
None.

**C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**  
None.

**D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**  
None.