

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1709 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CALTAGIRONE, ROZZI, MILLARD, TOEPEL, COHEN,
THOMAS, KOTIK, HENNESSEY, DUSH, SONNEY, McNEILL, YOUNGBLOOD,
DIGIROLAMO, VEREB, BARBIN, KIM, D. COSTA, V. BROWN, HAHN,
NEILSON, WATSON, HARHART, A. HARRIS, WHEELAND, COX, SCHWEYER,
SAMUELSON, GROVE, WARD, MARSICO, MAHONEY, READSHAW, FARINA,
MAJOR, BENNINGHOFF, JOZWIAK, BRADFORD, GILLEN AND KORTZ,
NOVEMBER 18, 2015

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
FEBRUARY 8, 2016

AN ACT

1 Designating the bridge carrying ~~U.S. Route 222 Business~~ STATE <--
2 ROUTE 2005 (BUSINESS ROUTE 222) over the Schuylkill River,
3 Riverfront Drive and Norfolk Southern Railroad in the City of
4 Reading, Berks County, commonly referred to as the Bingaman
5 Street Bridge, as the 65th U.S. Infantry Regiment,
6 Borinqueneers Memorial Bridge.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. 65th U.S. Infantry Regiment, Borinqueneers
10 Memorial Bridge.

11 (a) Findings.--The General Assembly finds as follows:

12 (1) "The Borinqueneers" were the only all-Hispanic unit
13 in the history of the United States Army.

14 (2) "The Borinqueneers" is a nickname for the 65th
15 Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Division in the United States
16 Army, an all-volunteer Puerto Rican unit. The name was
17 derived from the name borinquen meaning "land of the brave

1 lord."

2 (3) The unit was founded in 1899 and remained a vital
3 part of the United States Armed Forces until 1956.

4 (4) "The Borinqueneers" displayed valiant and
5 meritorious service in World War I, World War II and the
6 Korean War.

7 (5) More than 62,000 Puerto Ricans joined the military
8 during World War II and more than 43,000 Puerto Ricans served
9 in the Korean War.

10 (6) While in Korea, "the Borinqueneers" served in nine
11 separate military campaigns, where hundreds of men gave their
12 lives in service to their country.

13 (7) In 1959, the regiment was allotted to the Puerto
14 Rico Army National Guard, where the 1st Battalion, 65th
15 Infantry still serves.

16 (8) Since inception of the unit, more than 20,000 Puerto
17 Ricans have served as "Borinqueneers," but their
18 contributions and sacrifices have gone largely unnoticed by
19 the country at large.

20 (9) While defending the United States, these brave
21 soldiers have earned 628 Bronze Stars, 258 Silver Stars, 10
22 Distinguished Service Crosses and more than 2,700 Purple
23 Hearts.

24 (b) Designation.--The bridge carrying ~~U.S. Route 222~~ <--
25 ~~Business~~ STATE ROUTE 2005 (BUSINESS ROUTE 222) over the <--
26 Schuylkill River, Riverfront Drive and Norfolk Southern Railroad
27 in the City of Reading, Berks County, commonly referred to as
28 the Bingaman Street Bridge, is hereby designated the 65th U.S.
29 Infantry Regiment, Borinqueneers Memorial Bridge.

30 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and

- 1 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the bridge to
- 2 traffic in both directions on the bridge.
- 3 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.