

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 108 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, SAMUELSON, READSHAW, YOUNGBLOOD, FREEMAN, SCHWEYER, CALTAGIRONE, MURT, JAMES, O'BRIEN, SOLOMON, SCHLOSSBERG, WATSON, MILLARD, BULLOCK, V. BROWN, WARREN, W. KELLER AND D. COSTA, MARCH 1, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 1, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United
 2 States Postal Service to issue a United States postal stamp
 3 honoring the heroism of the 65th Infantry Regiment
 4 "Borinqueneers" of the United States Army, the only all-
 5 Hispanic unit in the history of the United States Army.

6 WHEREAS, The 65th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army
 7 was created in 1899 by the Congress of the United States as a
 8 segregated unit composed primarily of Puerto Ricans with mostly
 9 continental officers; and

10 WHEREAS, The unit was nicknamed the "Borinqueneers" after
 11 Borinquen, the word given to Puerto Ricans by the island's
 12 original inhabitants, the Taino Indians; and

13 WHEREAS, The Borinqueneers displayed valiant and meritorious
 14 service in World War I, World War II and the Korean War; and

15 WHEREAS, During the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment
 16 earned praise from General MacArthur, participated in nine major
 17 campaigns and received numerous military acknowledgments,
 18 including two Presidential Unit Citations, a Meritorious Unit

1 Commendation and two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit
2 Citations; and

3 WHEREAS, Individual members of the unit during the Korean War
4 earned one Medal of Honor, nine Distinguished Service Crosses,
5 approximately 250 Silver Stars, more than 600 Bronze Stars and
6 more than 2,700 Purple Hearts; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1956, the Borinqueneers became the last
8 segregated unit to be deactivated and the only unit ever to be
9 transferred from an active United States Army component to the
10 Puerto Rico National Guard; and

11 WHEREAS, The 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment was
12 assigned to the 92nd Infantry Brigade and continues to serve
13 during the Global War on Terrorism; and

14 WHEREAS, Since the inception of the unit, more than 61,000
15 Puerto Ricans have served as Borinqueneers, yet their unsung
16 heroic contributions and sacrifices have only recently been
17 recognized; and

18 WHEREAS, On June 10, 2014, President Barack Obama signed into
19 law H.R. 1726, known as the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold
20 Medal Act (Public Law 113-120), sponsored by Congressman Bill
21 Posey of Florida; and

22 WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest
23 civilian honor bestowed by Congress, was awarded to the 65th
24 Infantry Regiment by leaders of the United States Senate and the
25 United States House of Representatives during a national
26 ceremony on April 13, 2016; and

27 WHEREAS, Honoring the Borinqueneers with a commemorative
28 United States postal stamp would be a fitting and lasting
29 tribute for the brave soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment and
30 would serve to educate the American public about their existence

1 and service; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory
4 Committee of the United States Postal Service to issue a United
5 States postal stamp honoring the heroism of the 65th Infantry
6 Regiment "Borinqueneers" of the United States Army, the only
7 all-Hispanic unit in the history of the United States Army.