

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 80 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, ACOSTA, YOUNGBLOOD, BROWNLEE, V. BROWN, KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, THOMAS, SCHLOSSBERG, D. COSTA, SAMUELSON, READSHAW, WATSON, MURT, SCHWEYER, A. HARRIS AND McCARTER, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Citizens' Advisory Committee of the United States
 2 Postal Service to issue a United States postal stamp honoring
 3 the heroism of the "Borinqueneers" of the 65th Infantry
 4 Regiment of the United States Army, the only all-Hispanic
 5 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 was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, a
 18 Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic of Korea Unit

1 citations; and

2 WHEREAS, Individual members of the unit during the Korean War
3 earned ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 421 Silver Stars and
4 156 Bronze Stars; and

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

9 WHEREAS, The 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment was
10 assigned to the 92nd Infantry Brigade and today continues its
11 service during the Global War on Terrorism; and

12 WHEREAS, Since inception of the unit, more than 20,000 Puerto
13 Ricans have served as Borinqueneers, but their contributions and
14 sacrifices have gone largely unnoticed by the country at large;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Honoring the Borinqueneers with a commemorative
17 United States postal stamp would be a fitting and lasting
18 tribute for the brave soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment and
19 would serve to educate the American public about their existence
20 and service; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
22 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Citizens' Advisory
23 Committee of the United States Postal Service to issue a United
24 States postal stamp honoring the heroism of the "Borinqueneers"
25 of the 65th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army, the
26 only all-Hispanic unit in the history of the United States Army.