

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico, known as the Borinqueneers

WHEREAS, American military heroes who served valiantly and honorably in our nation's wars should be recognized by the people of this state and nation and the courage with which they fought should never be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico, known as the Borinqueneers; and

WHEREAS, Mandated by Congress in 1899, the 65th Infantry Regiment from Puerto Rico played a prominent role in American military history, participating in three United States wars: World War I, World War II and, most notably, the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Enlisting in the United States Armed Forces, the soldiers from the 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico courageously shed their blood in service to this great nation; and

WHEREAS, On February 2, 1951, the Borinqueneers, in the face of overwhelming odds, earned the sole distinction of conducting the last battalion-sized bayonet charge in American military history when they engaged the Chinese 149th Division in mortal combat; and

WHEREAS, The soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico served with distinction and valor, earning two Presidential Unit Citations, an Army Unit Superior Award, a Navy Unit Citation, two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations and the Bravery Gold Medal of Greece; and

WHEREAS, In the spirit of true American heroism, the 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico is an inspiration to every American; they are exceptional soldiers who deserve to be recognized, commended and remembered by the people of the State of New York and by all Americans; and

WHEREAS, As Americans, it is our responsibility to ensure that our history is documented and reverence is given to our war heroes; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that we, the benefactors of the sacrifices and courageous acts of the men and women who served and continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their service to our great nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico, known as the Borinqueneers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ruben Estrada, Co-Chairman, The Borinqueneers Stamp Committee, Anthony Mele, Chairman of the 65th Infantry Regiment Honor Task Force and great-grandson of Leoncio Beauchamp (65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico - 1917); Javier Morales, President of the 65th Infantry Veterans Association in Puerto Rico; Pedro Pierluisi, Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner; Danny Nieves, 65th Infantry Regiment Archivist and Borinqueneers.net webmaster; and to the following members of the Congress of Puerto Rican Veterans - Borinqueneers Post: Modesto Cartagena, Luis Quinones, Antonio Rodriguez-Balinas, Israel Montalvo, Angel Pagan, Felix Ortiz, Augustin Ramirez, Angel Rivera, Anthony Melendez, Jesus Ojeda, Tomas Lopez, Julio Mercado, Jamie Lopez, Luis Martinez, Eugenio Quevedo, Angel Alvarez, Samuel Vazquez, Franciso Alicea, Juan Carrion, Pedro Torruellas, Rafael Cordero, Candido De La Paz, Eladio Cordero, Ramon S. Velez, Jose Ernesto Cordero, Cruz Martinez, and Pedro J. Vanga.