

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Designating April 13, 2020, as “National Borinqueneers Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Designating April 13, 2020, as “National Borinqueneers Day”.

Whereas, in 1898, Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States and, the following year, Congress authorized raising a military unit of volunteer soldiers on the island, which was organized as the “Puerto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry”;

Whereas, in 1908, Congress incorporated the regiment as part of the regular United States Army as the “Puerto Rico Regiment of Infantry”;

Whereas, in 1917, the Puerto Rico Regiment of Infantry was activated after the United States’ entry into World War I, and the unit was sent to Panama to defend the Panama Canal Zone;

Whereas, in 1920, Congress redesignated the unit as the 65th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army;

Whereas during World War II, the 65th Infantry Regiment served in North Africa and Europe, including combat operations in France and Germany for which members of the unit received commendations for valiant service, including 1 Distinguished Service Cross, 2 Silver Stars, 2 Bronze Stars, and 90 Purple Hearts;

Whereas, in 1950, the 65th Infantry Regiment deployed to South Korea, and during the voyage the soldiers nicknamed the unit the “Borinqueneers”, a reference to the native Taíno Tribe’s name for the island of Puerto Rico;

Whereas during the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment (hereinafter, the “Borinqueneers”) engaged in substantial combat operations on the Korean Peninsula, and the unit played a central role in several important offensives and counter-offensives that earned it well-deserved admiration and commendation;

Whereas the Borinqueneers’ extraordinary service during the Korean War resulted in the Regiment receiving 2 Presidential Unit Citations (Army and Navy), 2 Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations, a Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), a Navy Unit Commendation, the Bravery Gold Medal of Greece, and campaign participation credits for United Nations Offensive, Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) Intervention, First United Nations Counteroffensive, CCF Spring Offensive, United Nations Summer-Fall Offensive, Second Korean Winter, Korea Summer-Fall 1952, Third Korean Winter, and Korea Summer 1953;

Whereas the Borinqueneers’ extraordinary service during the Korean War also resulted in numerous individual commendations and awards for its soldiers, including 1 Medal of Honor, 9 Distinguished Service Crosses, more than 250 Silver Stars, more than 600 Bronze Stars, and more than 2,700 Purple Hearts;

Whereas, in 1956, the 65th Infantry Regiment was deactivated from the regular United States Army and, in 1959, its units and regimental number were assigned to the Puerto Rico National Guard;

Whereas, in 1982, the United States Army Center of Military History officially authorized designating the 65th Infantry Regiment as the “Borinqueneers”; and

Whereas, on April 13, 2016, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment in recognition of the Borinqueneers’ numerous contributions to American history and outstanding military service from World War I through the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates April 13, 2020, as “National
3 Borinqueneers Day”;

4 (2) recognizes the bravery, service, and sacrifice
5 of the Puerto Rican soldiers of the 65th Infantry
6 Regiment in the armed conflicts of the United
7 States in the 20th and 21st centuries;

8 (3) expresses deep gratitude for the contribu-
9 tions to the Armed Forces that have been made by

1 hundreds of thousands of patriotic United States
2 citizens from Puerto Rico; and

3 (4) urges individuals and communities across
4 the United States to participate in activities that are
5 designed—

6 (A) to celebrate the distinguished service of
7 the military veterans who served in the 65th In-
8 fantry Regiment, known as the
9 “Borinqueneers”;

10 (B) to pay tribute to the sacrifices made
11 and adversities overcome by Puerto Rican and
12 Hispanic military service members; and

13 (C) to recognize the significant contribu-
14 tions to American history made by the 65th In-
15 fantry Regiment, known as the
16 “Borinqueneers”.