

Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance kicks off National Campaign

Government 2013-01-18 08:19:53

Orlando, FL– A nation-wide, all-volunteer group of individuals and organizations has formed the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance, and is launching an intense campaign to secure the Congressional Gold Medal for the US Army's 65th Infantry Regiment, better-known as the "Borinqueneers". The Borinqueneers are the largest and longest-standing, segregated military unit in US history, having fought in WWI, WWII, and the Korean War.

The Congressional Gold Medal has been bestowed to other minority veterans who served in segregated units, including:

- 03/26, 2001 – της Νατιώε Αμερικαν Ναύαφο Χοδε Τάλκερσ
- Μαρχη 29, 2007 – της Αφρικαν–Αμερικαν Τυσκεγγε Αιρμεν
- Νοεμβερ 2, 2011 – της θαπανεσε–Αμερικαν Νισει Σολδιερσ
- 03/28, 2012 – της Αφρικαν–Αμερικαν Μοντφορδ Ποιντ Μαρινεσ

The alliance currently is asking all liked-minded Americans to write to or email their US congressional representatives, including their two US Senators and one US House of Representatives member to support this initiative. The Congressional Gold Medal requires the support of a majority of our US legislators. This should be completed before the end of February, the organization noted.

An additional priority is to identify all living Borinqueneers. They, or friends and relatives, should email the alliance at 65thCGM@gmail.com.

This Latino-American unit was mainly made up of Puerto Ricans, but also included some recruits with other Latino backgrounds, as well as continental officers. The Borinqueneer who later achieved the highest rank, a Mexican-American from Texas, became the first ever Latino-American Four-Star Army General.

His name is Richard E. Cavazos. He holds numerous awards for heroism, military leadership, and service. These include two Distinguished Service Crosses, our nation's second highest individual military honor for heroism, one earned in Korea and the other from Vietnam.

The late Modesto Cartagena, a Borinqueneer who served in WWII and Korea, is the most decorated Puerto Rican soldier in US history. He holds the Distinguished Service Cross, as well as the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster and "V" device, the Purple Heart, and many others.

The Borinqueneers are credited with the final battalion-sized bayonet assault in US Army history. In early 1951 while fighting in Korea, two battalions of the 65th fixed bayonets and charged straight up hill toward the enemy, over running them and overtaking the enemy's strategic position.

General Douglas MacArthur said of the Borinqueneers, "The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry give daily proof on the battlefields of Korea of their courage, determination and resolute will to victory, their invincible loyalty to the United States and their fervent devotion to those immutable principles of human relations which the Americans of the Continent and of Puerto Rico have in common. They are writing a brilliant record of heroism in battle and I am indeed proud to have them under my command. I wish that we could count on many more like them."

During Korea, the Borinqueneers were awarded 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, 256 Silver Stars, 606 Bronze Stars, and 2,771 Purple Hearts. Deaths in Korea among the Borinqueneers numbered 750 men. Of these, over 100 are still listed as Missing in Action.

The national chair of the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance is Frank Medina, an engineer and 2002 graduate of West Point. His Army tenure included serving a combat tour in Iraq before transitioning to civilian life. Medina has helped to bring together this coalition of veterans groups, military supporters, Latino-American organizations, and others. His grandfather is a Borinqueneer. The alliance is sponsored by the 65th Infantry Veterans Association, Inc. of Puerto Rico.

Raul Castañeira of Florida, the youngest of four Borinqueneer brothers, recently pleaded with Medina passionately that, "I and many 65th Infantry veterans will rest in peace knowing that the Borinqueneers will be bestowed such an award (the Congressional Gold Medal)," and thereby bringing emotional closure after the

many adverse experiences they faced while serving in the 65th Inf. Regiment long ago. Supporters should send letters or email their US legislators as follows.

- Χονταχτ ψουρ (2) Υ.Σ. Σενατορσ ανδ ψουρ (1) ΥΣ Ηουσε οφ Ρεπρεσεντατιωεσ μεμβερ. Τηε αδοπτιον οφ τηε Βορινθυενεερσ Χονγρεσσιοναλ Γολδ Μεδαλ ωιλλ ρεθυιρε τηε ωοτε/συππορτ φρομ α μαφοριτυ οφ ουρ ΥΣ λεγισλατορσ. Χονταχτ τηεμ πια λεττερ ορ εμειλ βεφορε τηε ενδ οφ Φεβρυαριψ.

ΥΣ Σενατορσ λιστ: http://www.senate.gov/generals/chontachit_informacion/senadores_chi.chi

ΥΣ Ηουσε οφ Ρεπρεσεντατιωεσ λιστ: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

- Α σαμπλε λεττερ/εμειλ ισ απαιλαβλε ατ:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/119819233/Borinqueneers-XGM-Ρεθυεστ-φορ-Χονγρεσσιοναλ-Συππορτ-Λεττερ-ΡΕς-1>

More information on this important initiative is available at the alliance's website: <http://www.65thCGM.org>

and their official Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/BorinqueneersCGMAlliance>.

WHAT : Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance kicks off National Campaign

WHEN : 2013-01-18 08:19:53

WHERE :

CONTACT:

Volunteer Promoter

Larry Bystran, larry@latinoalliance.net

National Chair

Frank Medina, 65thcgm@gmail.com