

Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance

In support of H.R.1726 & S.1174!

February 1, 2014

BORINQUENEERS ALERT: Required Co-Sponsors of Congressional Gold Medal bills NEEDED NOW!

- ⇒ NOW or NEVER: we must complete our historic task in 2014!
- ⇒ 2/3 of Senate & House MUST become Co-Sponsors as EARLY as possible this year!
- ⇒ Time MUST be allowed in 2014 for additional Congressional protocols!
- ⇒ EMPOWER YOURSELF to take ACTION right NOW!
- ⇒ See page 2 to help make HISTORY!



2014:

Our youngest remaining Borinqueneers are in their 80's & 90's, having bravely served in WWII & Korea. We cannot allow Congress to drag their feet on this. Mission completion must occur as early as possible in 2014. All Co-Sponsors of the bills must be secured ASAP, & all additional Congressional protocols must be completed prior to the end of 2014 for complete victory. We have one shot at this!



CRITICAL: the bills in Congress will disappear at the end of 2014 (the end of the 113th Congress) if the needed Co-Sponsors are not secured & other procedures in Congress are not completed. The time is NOW!

US Senate S.1174 Co-Sponsor Countdown!

Total Co-Sponsors: 29
Total Remaining: 38
Minimum Required: 67

US House H.R.1726 Co-Sponsor Countdown!

Total Co-Sponsors: 252
Total Remaining: 38
Minimum Required: 290

[Updated Info Available Here!](#)

- [Website](#)
- [Facebook Page](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube Video](#)
- [In The News](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)

A TRIBUTE:
 See brief video with clips from the song 65 Infanteria.
[Clic Aqui!](#)



See the **LATEST HONOR ROLL** of Co-Sponsors of the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act:

- ◆ [US House of Representatives bill H.R.1726](#)
- ◆ [US Senate bill S.1174](#)

More great links:

- [Recent Commentary on Fox News Latino](#)
- [Special Hispanic Heritage Report](#)

Simply put, the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers are the Latino-American equivalent of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and Navajo Code Talkers. The Borinqueneers must be recognized in like fashion with the Congressional Gold Medal, & take their rightful place in American history now!

Contact YOUR U.S. lawmakers to Co-Sponsor the bills before time runs out!



The 1st & only Latino 4-star US Army general got his start as a young Borinqueneer officer in Korea: Richard E. Cavazos, a Mexican-American hero!

Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance is asking

YOU to team up with us & join this historic cause to honor our legendary heroes!

Adoption of the **Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act**, H.R.1726 in the House of Representatives & S.1174 in the Senate, will require the Co-Sponsorship by a whopping **two-thirds** of each chamber **early in 2014!**

Currently, H.R.1726 has 252 of the required 290 Co-Sponsors & S.1174 has 29 of the necessary 67 Co-Sponsors.

Here are 5 different ways to Contact YOUR U.S. lawmakers & ask them to Co-Sponsor the bills!!!

WHY?

Of the 155 Congressional Gold Medals awarded since 1776, ONLY ONE has been to a Latino-American.



(1) **CALL** the Military Legislative Assistant (MLA) at your 2 U.S. Senators' offices and your 1 US House of Representatives member's office in Washington, D.C.!

(2) You can **MAIL A LETTER** to their district/state offices, NOT Washington DC offices because of extra delays in mail delivery for security reasons.

(3) But, you can **FAX YOUR LETTER** to the DC office!!!

(4) You can complete the quick & easy email **WEB FORMS** on their official gov't websites!

(5) You can send **REGULAR EMAILS** to the primary D.C. staffers of your elected Congressional officials. To email your elected officials' D.C.

Contact Congress to honor the Borinqueneers!

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Email Congressman Richard Neal

Sample email web form!

Dear Congressman Neal, I am a resident of the 1st District and I am pleased that legislation we work on here in Congress can affect every American. If you would like to leave a message with me please fill out this form and I will be sure to review your comment.

Prefix	First Name	MI	Last Name	Suffix (Jr., Sr.)
Name:	Mr. George	A	Santiago	
Address:	000 Sun			
Address 2:				
Phone number:	111 111-1111			
City:	Springfield	State:	MA	Zip: 01103
Email:	gsantiago@email.com			

Response: (Required) Please select the issue to which your letter most relates.

How would you like to be written in the response? (Required)

Dear Congressman Neal, I am a resident of the 1st District and I am pleased that legislation we work on here in Congress can affect every American. If you would like to leave a message with me please fill out this form and I will be sure to review your comment.

Please send me e-mail updates from Richard Neal:

Quick & easy!

Send yours AHORA to:
your 2 Senators &
your 1 House of Rep.'s
member!

Above: the quick & easy email Web Forms are 1 of 5 basic ways to contact your 2 Senators & 1 US House member.

staffers, see our [D.C. Staffer Email Contact List](#).

To find the contact information of your two U.S. Senators & one U.S. House member:

US Senators list (Contact 2 of them): http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

US House of Representatives list (Contact 1 of them): <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

To see if all of your elected U.S. officials have already co-sponsored or not, see our Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act [Bill Co-sponsor Countdowns](#).

If your local elected officials (2 Senators & 1 House member) have co-sponsored already, contact the rest of your state's House members and urge them to co-sponsor bill H.R. 1726 for a **clean sweep** of your state's Congressional delegation!

Thank you very much!



FACTS:

They successfully executed the last regimental bayonet assault in US military history in 1951 during the Korean War.

Near Hungnam, they valiantly defended as rear-guard the retreating 1st Marine Division in one of the epic military withdrawals of history.

In Korea, they earned 2,771 Purple Hearts. 750 were killed in action & 120 are still missing in action.

The 1st & only Latino 4-Star Army general, a Mexican-American, got his start as a young Borinqueneer officer in Korea.



www.65thCGM.org



In support of

H.R.1726
S.1174

The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act



Ask your US lawmakers to Co-Sponsor the bills NOW!

What are we waiting for?

Shown in collage: Borinqueneer Don Arcadio Torres at a Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance event in May 2013. Sadly, Don Arcadio passed away in August.

All of our remaining & beloved Borinqueneer veterans are in their 80's & 90's, having bravely served in WWII & Korea.



From some of our National Supporters!



League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC):

"The Congressional Gold Medal will be the highest award ever for the 65th Infantry Regiment and for ALL Latino Veterans. This distinction will catapult Hispanic veterans into the national spotlight and will honor all Hispanic veterans past, present and future."

"Borinqueneers" valiantly overcame as a segregated unit defending our Nation."

Association of the United States Army (AUSA):

"I urge Congress to recognize the service and sacrifice of this unique unit which has endured the hardships of segregation, discrimination, language and cultural barriers while serving this nation."

National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS):

"NGAUS strongly supports H.R.1726 (& S.1174). The Congressional Gold Medal would



be the highest award ever for the 65th Infantry Regiment.

This distinction would honor all Hispanic veterans."

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA):



"On behalf of the membership of Vietnam Veterans of America, I want you to know that VVA fully supports enactment of H.R.1726 (& S.1174), which would award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico, known officially as the Borinqueneers."

"We will NOT allow the legendary Borinqueneers to become a fading footnote in American history, & in the history of Latino-Americans & Puerto Ricans in the US!"



American GI Forum (AGIF): "We hope that the US Congress will recognize the sacrifices and obstacles the

Visit our website: www.65thCGM.org

Facts in support of H.R. 1726 & S. 1174!

Simply put, the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers are the Latino-American equivalent of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and Navajo Code Talkers. The Borinqueneers must be recognized in like fashion with the Congressional Gold Medal, & take their rightful place in American history **NOW!**

Hailing from **Puerto Rico**, the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers were the largest, longest-standing (1899-1959), and **only** active-duty segregated Latino military unit in U.S. history.

Like the Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers, Women Airforce Service Pilots, Nisei Soldiers, and Montford Point Marines who've **already** been recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal, the Borinqueneers overwhelmingly distinguished themselves in service and heroism, all the while enduring the **additional hardships of segregation, discrimination, and adverse circumstances.**

The remaining Borinqueneers are in their 80's & 90's, having served in **WWII and Korea.**

A nationwide, non-partisan, all-volunteer group, the **Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance** has been advocating the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to these **elderly WWII & Korea veterans** since late last year. Made up of veterans, Latino-Americans, and like-minded patriots, the organization has worked closely with members of the U.S. Congress to facilitate the successful introduction and subsequent support of special **bipartisan** legislation. Now they are seeking **Co-Sponsors** of the bills, S.1174 in the Senate and H.R.1726 in the House of Representatives.

In its early years, the unit was termed the "**Porto Rico**" Regiment of the "American Colonial

Army."

The Borinqueneers fired the **1st shot** in defense of freedom at the onset of **WWI** when an armed German supply ship attempted unsuccessfully to leave San Juan Bay in Puerto Rico to resupply German submarines.

The unit defended the strategic Panama Canal Zone during WWI. While in Panama, 335 Puerto Rican soldiers were **wounded by the chemical gas experimentation** which the United States conducted as part of its active chemical weapons program.

During **WWII**, the 65th again defended the canal, and also saw action in North Africa and Central Europe. **General Douglas MacArthur** had requested that the Borinqueneers be assigned to him in the Pacific during **World War II. The Pentagon denied his request because of prejudice toward the 65th.** MacArthur was glad to have them later in Korea.

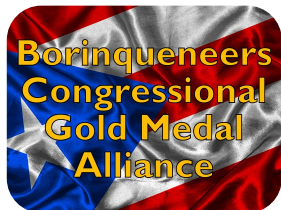
During the Korean War, **2,771** Borinqueneers earned Purple Hearts. **750** of them were killed in action, and more than **120** are still missing in action. **These never came home, living or dead.**

Heroic successes include the **last Regimental bayonet assault** in US military history, **providing heroic rear-guard fighting cover** for the US Marines' withdrawal to Hungnam, and many others.

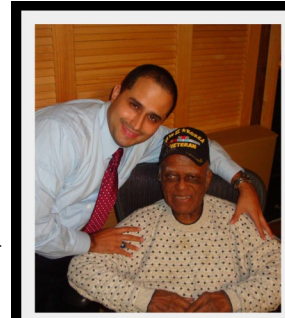
As cited in the bills, the Regiment faced unique challenges



In support of
**H.R. 1726
S. 1174**
The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act
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**Team up
with us!**



Saluting
**91 year old Lt. Col.
Julius Dickerson (Ret.)
WWII & Korea,
BORINQUEENER**



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S. 1174**
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Above: He found a home with the Borinqueneers in Korea when he was assigned to the 65th due to prejudice... Julius Dickerson (LTC ret.), 91, graduated from Howard University as an architect. A WWII & Korea veteran, this African-American served as the Borinqueneers artillery company executive officer.

due to discrimination and prejudice, including the humiliation of being ordered to shave their moustaches "until such a time as they gave proof of their manhood"; being forced to use separate showering facilities from their non-Hispanic "Continental" officers; being ordered not to speak Spanish under penalty of court-martial; flawed personnel-rotation policies based on ethnic and organizational prejudices; and a catastrophic shortage of trained noncommissioned officers.

The Borinqueneers **also** were forced to wear "**I am a coward**" signs, ordered to paint over their unit designation "Borinqueneers" on their military vehicles, and ordered to discontinue their rations of rice and beans, termed "creole rations" at the time.

During Korea, the unit also had some Mexican-Americans, African-Americans, Virgin Islanders, Filipinos, & several other nationalities.

[Learn more here!](#)

READ Mambo on Hill 167, a captivating story of heroism & sacrifice despite prejudice, by Bart Soto, Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance national steering committee member, author, & historian. The story is in our special Hispanic Heritage report: <http://www.borinqueneers.org/hispanic-heritage.html>. Pictured in collage & featured in the story: 2nd Platoon C Company 65th INF, & 1LT Walt B. Clark.



MAMBO ON HILL 167

“Many officers at the time thought it was the kiss of death to be assigned to the Puerto Rican Regiment.”

“No platoon member living or dead was left behind.”

“Arriba muchachos!”

“One general called it a regiment of “colored” troops, unreliable and inferior to continental “white” soldiers.”

- from Mambo on Hill 167

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NEEDED: These U.S. Senators have NOT Co-Sponsored S.1174 yet; please ask them to become Borinqueneers CGM Co-Sponsors NOW!

CRITICAL!!!
These Senators are NEEDED to become Co-Sponsors NOW:



ATTENTION:
 Latinos, veterans, & like-minded patriots: Contact YOUR U.S. lawmakers NOW to Co-Sponsor the bills!

- AL-Richard Shelby
- AL-Jeff Sessions
- AZ-John McCain
- AZ-Jeff Flake
- AR-Mark Pryor
- AR-John Boozman
- CO-Mark Udall
- DE-Tom Carper
- GA-Johnny Isakson
- HI-Mazie Hirono
- ID-Mike Crapo
- ID-Jim Risch
- IN-Dan Coats
- IN-Joe Donnelly
- IA-Chuck Grassley
- IA-Tom Harkin
- KS-Pat Roberts
- KS-Jerry Moran
- KY-Mitch McConnell
- KY-Rand Paul
- LA- Mary Landrieu
- LA-David Vitter
- ME-Susan Collins
- ME-Angus King

- MD- Barbara Mikulski
- MD-Ben Cardin
- MI-Debbie Stabenow
- MI-Carl Levin
- MN- Amy Klobuchar
- MN-Al Franken
- MS-Thad Cochran
- MS-Roger Wicker
- MO-Claire McCaskill
- MO-Roy Blunt
- MT-Max Baucus
- MT-John Tester
- NE-Mike Johanns
- NE-Deb Fischer
- NV-Harry Reid
- NV-Dean Heller
- NJ-Cory Booker
- NM-Tom Udall
- NM-Martin Heinrich
- NC-Richard Burr
- NC-Kay Hagan
- ND-John Hoeven
- ND-Heidi Heitkamp
- OH-Sherrod Brown

- OK-Jim Inhofe
- OR-Ron Wyden
- OR-Jeff Merkley
- RI-Jack Reed
- RI-Sheldon Whitehouse
- SC-Lindsay Graham
- SC-Tim Scott
- SD-Tim Johnson
- SD-John Thune
- TN-Lamar Alexander
- TN-Bob Corker
- UT-Orrin Hatch
- UT-Mike Lee
- VT-Patrick Leahy
- VT-Bernie Sanders
- VA-Mark Warner
- VA-Tim Kaine
- WA-Maria Cantwell
- WV-Jay Rockefeller
- WI-Ron Johnson
- WI-Tammy Baldwin
- WY-Mike Enzi
- WY-John Barrasso

It's **NOW** or **NEVER!**

BORINQUEENERS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ALLIANCE

[Website](#)

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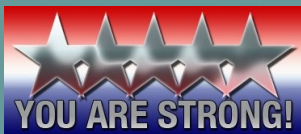
[In the News!](#)

[US House H.R.1726 Co-Sponsor Countdown](#)

[US Senate S.1174 Co-Sponsor Countdown](#)

[Email our National Chair Frank Medina](#)

Executive Sponsor:
[You Are Strong! Center on Veterans Health and Human Services](#)



They must take their rightful place in American history AHORA!

Our youngest remaining Borinqueneer veterans are in their 80's and 90's, having served bravely in **WWII and Korea**. We cannot allow Congress to drag their feet on this. Mission completion must occur as early as possible in 2014!

All Co-Sponsors of the bills must be secured now, & **all additional Congressional protocols** must be completed prior to the end of 2014, our **deadline!**

See if your **2 US Senators** are onboard as Co-Sponsors yet! If not, please **contact them ASAP!!! 38 MORE Senators** needed! See: <http://www.borinqueneers.org/senate-bill-s-1174.html>!!!!

We still **NEED 38 Co-Sponsors** in the **US House!** Please check if your **1 US House of Representatives member** has become a Co-Sponsor yet! If not, please contact your Rep. **NOW!!!** See: <http://www.borinqueneers.org/house-bill-hr-1726.html>!!!!

THANK YOU!

Montford Point Marines Congressional Gold Medal

Navajo Code Talkers Congressional Gold Medal

Nisei Soldiers Congressional Gold Medal

Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Gold Medal

65th Inf. Reg. Borinqueneers???

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The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act

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Above: other segregated/minority military units have already received the well-merited Congressional Gold Medal!

See page 2 for ways that you can easily contact these Senators and other U.S. law-makers! More details are available on our website by [clicking here!](#)

Your help **WANTED:** New Co-Sponsors needed **NOW!**

Borinqueneer veterans reside in these states! See their **US Senators** who have **NOT** Co-Sponsored yet!

NEEDED: (Borinqueneers reside in these states!)

In support of

H.R.1726

S.1174

The Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Act

- Sen. Mark Udall, CO
- Sen. Jeff Sessions, AL
- Sen. Richard Shelby, AL
- Sen. James Inhofe, OK
- Sen. John McCain, AZ
- Sen. Jeff Flake, AZ
- Sen. Barbara Mikulski, MD
- Sen. Benjamin Cardin, MD
- Sen. Tom Carper, DE
- Sen. Johnny Isakson, GA
- Sen. Claire MacCaskill, MO
- Sen. Roy Blunt, MO
- Sen. Cory Booker, NJ
- Sen. Sherrod Brown, OH
- Sen. Mark Warner, VA
- Sen. Tim Kaine, VA
- Sen. Mike Crapo, ID
- Sen. James Risch, ID