

House Resolution 1559

By: Representative Marin of the 96th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the 65th Infantry Regiment; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, this nation owes an enormous debt of gratitude to the brave men and women
3 who proudly served in our armed forces to support and defend the Constitution of the United
4 States of America; and

5 WHEREAS, the greatest service or sacrifice that can be expected of any individual is that of
6 life itself; no greater sacrifice can amount or compare to willingly giving up one's own life
7 in service for the protection of our country; and

8 WHEREAS, we should never forget the military heroes who valiantly and honorably fought
9 and died to protect freedom and democracy around the world and should remember their
10 unparalleled service in time of insecurity or when our freedoms were in question; and

11 WHEREAS, noting these sacrifices and in accordance with our long-standing tradition of
12 honoring and remembering the valiant veterans of foreign wars, this body recognizes the
13 great work and sacrifice of the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers; and

14 WHEREAS, by an act of Congress in 1899, the 65th Infantry Regiment was established and
15 was composed only of Puerto Rican soldiers; and

16 WHEREAS, the Borinqueneers played a vital role in World War I, World War II, and were
17 instrumental during the Korean War; this group of men served their country valiantly and
18 honorably, with some giving the greatest sacrifice; and

19 WHEREAS, since the first shot of World War I which originated from "El Morro" San Juan,
20 Puerto Rico, to the end of the Korean War, more than 100,000 Borinqueneers have
21 distinguished themselves as true American war heroes, living by their motto "Honor Et
22 Fidelitas"; and

23 WHEREAS, the Borinqueneers are credited with carrying out the last military regimental
24 bayonet assault in US Army history; in early 1951 while fighting in Korea, two battalions of
25 the 65th fixed bayonets charged straight uphill toward the enemy, overrunning them and
26 overtaking the enemy's strategic position; and

27 WHEREAS, remaining the last segregated unit to serve in the United States Armed Forces
28 and against all odds, the 65th Infantry Regiment has been awarded two Presidential Unit
29 Commendations, an Army Superior Award, a Navy Unit Citation, two Republic of Korea
30 Presidential Unit Citations, and the Bravery Gold Medal of Greece for their honorable and
31 unyielding service in combat during three of our nation's hardest fought wars; and

32 WHEREAS, the Congressional Gold Medal has been historically awarded to great groups
33 of military heroes who have valiantly and against all odds fought and defended the
34 Constitution of the United States of America, defending freedom and democracy around the
35 world; and

36 WHEREAS, recognizing and noting that the Borinqueneers are deserving of such an honor
37 for serving our country with distinction and for bravely fighting while enduring the hardships
38 of segregation and discrimination, this group of brave war veterans has been collectively
39 awarded 10 Service Crosses, 258 Silver Stars, 628 Bronze Stars, and 2,700 Purple Hearts.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
41 the members of this body commend the 65th Infantry Regiment for the service to our great
42 nation during various military combats and wars; their exceptional level of service, sacrifice,
43 and selfless devotion to duty reflect great credit upon themselves and are in keeping with the
44 highest traditions of the United States Armed Forces.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.