



(April 15, 2016)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: Congress Honors Army's Borinqueneers with Gold Medal**

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House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin presents a Congressional Gold Medal to Sgt. Maj. Jose Colon and Col. Manuel Siverio Sr., in honor of the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers, on Capitol Hill, April 13, 2016. AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta

Associated Press | Apr 14, 2016

WASHINGTON -- Leaders of the House and Senate have awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Army's 65th Infantry Regiment, also known as the Borinqueneers (bohr-ehn-kin-EERS').

The unit fought in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. The soldiers have earned numerous military awards, including a Medal of Honor, about 250 Silver Stars and more than 2,700 Purple Hearts.

The unit was first formed as Puerto Rican volunteers, and was redesignated as the 65th Infantry Regiment in 1920.

In a ceremony at the Capitol on Wednesday, House Speaker Paul Ryan and other leaders presented regiment members with the award.

Ryan said the members of the regiment "showed us time and time again that courage does not know color -- that decency does not pick sides."