

Please Support Bill 6336

Good Morning member of the Senate and House of Representatives:

My name is Milta Feliciano and I am the Councilwoman for the 137th District in Bridgeport. I represent the district in which, I completely support the renaming of East Main Street from Artie Street to Boston Avenue, in honor of the 65th Infantry Regiment, the Borinqueneers. In a City of about 144, 000 people, 38 % are Hispanic. It would be a great honor to have all members here today support this bill .

As mandated by Congress in 1899, the 65th Infantry Regiment from Puerto Rico was established. It was the largest, longest-standing, and only active-duty segregated Latino military unit in US history. The Borinqueneers played a prominent role in World War I, World War II and particularly the Korean War.

The 65th Infantry Regiment performed many remarkable military accomplishments despite the additional burdens of segregation and prejudice.

The 65th Infantry was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in June, 2014 with the assistance of US Senator Richard Blumenthal.

I am also the Director of Veterans Affairs for the City of Bridgeport, where in 2011 we opened up the very first Veteran Support Center in the Nation., we merged City, State and Federal VA offices to assist Veterans.

About two years ago during a Veterans Day Celebration held at Luis Munoz Marin School, I had the pleasure of speaking to the children of the services I provide the veterans in Bridgeport and I was able to bring with me, a Borinqueneer, from New Haven. It was an honor to speak to a member of this regiment. It gave me a great sense of pride, that I was able to share this veteran with the children of the school. There are only a few left, so let's honor the story of these forgotten soldiers while they are still with us. We do not want the sacrifices of these men and their valor to be forgotten, ever! by Please support Bill #6336!