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April 6, 2010

Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service – Stamp Development
1735 North Lynn Street, Suite 5013
Arlington, Virginia 22209-6432

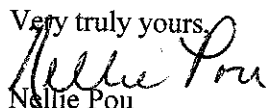
Dear Stamp Committee Members:

Loyalty. Honor. Courage. These are just some of the landmark traits exhibited by the 65th Infantry Regiment, "The Borinqueneers" -the only all-Hispanic unit in the history of U.S. Army.

The infantry fought valiantly and were integral to the United States military successes in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. Their bravery has been recognized for participation in nine major campaigns. They earned a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic Korea Unit Citations. Individual members earned ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 163 Silver Stars and 421 Bronze Stars.

The infantry's contribution in the face of segregation not only in the barracks and battlefield but at home is even more remarkable. Puerto Ricans occupy a special place in the history of the U.S. Army. Because of the island's commonwealth status, although Puerto Ricans are U.S. Citizens, they do not have the right to vote in U.S. elections. Yet, these young men and women courageously serve our country. For many of the veterans of the 65th Infantry this paradox became an incentive to be even more patriotic and proving themselves in battle.

I enthusiastically support the petition to honor the 65th Infantry with a commemorative stamp. Honoring "The Borinqueneers" with a commemorative U.S. Stamp would be a fitting tribute for these brave and often overlooked soldiers.

Very truly yours,

Nellie Pou
Assemblywoman 35th