



Borinqueneers Stamp Committee

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October 21, 2010

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

Dear Stamp Committee Members,

We are writing in response to your letter dated May 11, 2010 wherein you state that the Committee had reviewed at an earlier meeting and rejected our proposal for a Borinqueneers Stamp. The reason you note for this rejection is because the Committee does not issue stamps to honor individual military units.

We would like to bring to your attention the exceptions that have been made to this guideline for stamps that were issued in honor of specific military units:



The **Rough Riders** was the name bestowed on the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, one of three such regiments raised in 1898 for the Spanish-American War and the only one of the three to see action. A U.S. Postage Stamp was issued in 1948 commemorating the 50th anniversary of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.



The **Buffalo Soldiers** originally were members of the U.S. 10th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army, formed on September 21, 1866 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. A stamp commemorating them was issued in 1994.

We understand The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee's concern about being overwhelmed by requests from military units to be honored with stamps. On the other hand, we feel that the CSAC needs to again make an exception in their internal guideline and realize that certain military units such as THE BORINQUEENERS and some of our other minority veteran groups like the Tuskegee Airmen, the Japanese-American Nisei and the Native American Code Talkers, held a special and unique role in American history (just as the Rough Riders and Buffalo Soldiers did) and are particularly worthy of being honored with a stamp. It is obvious from the various stamp campaigns currently working to obtain commemorative stamps for these minority groups, that the American public strongly supports the creation of these stamps by the Postal Service and, as such, the CSAC should listen to the sentiment reflected by the public. All these factors for approval of a stamp are required by the Committee's own guidelines: "stamp subjects that have the strongest appeal, that reflect public sentiment, and have the greatest historical significance and are educational."

In addition, we feel that honoring our military and its soldiers is a more important reason for recognizing them with a stamp than many of the other subjects that have been chosen for stamps in the past. Although we understand the social value that a Micky Mouse (seven stamps issued so far), The Simpsons or Star Wars stamp offers the country, these cannot compare to the greater historical significance provided by honoring our minority veterans who overcame unique

challenges of discrimination and segregation. Issuing a stamp series to honor our various minority groups would, in the words of William Gicker, creative director for the stamp program, "uplift the public and celebrate the best of America."

We urge you to reconsider and forward the Borinqueneers Stamp Proposal to the CSAC for discussion in its next meeting. The voice of the tens of thousands of supporters who have supported this recognition to our various minority veterans should be heard. In either case, the Borinqueneers Stamp Committee is committed in continuing its efforts to obtain a commemorative stamp honoring THE BORINQUENEERS of the 65th Infantry Regiment. As such, we are enclosing an additional 1,007 signatures and 312 online signatures in support of the campaign, as well as copies of State Resolutions from Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania (original Resolutions were mailed directly to CSAC). Below is also a listing of the support submitted to date.

Sincerely,

Noemi Figueroa Soulet – Co-Chair
BORINQUENEERS STAMP COMMITTEE

Signed Petitions	9,182 signatures
Online Petition	1,616 supporters
English Facebook page	4,178 supporters
Spanish Facebook page	<u>355 supporters</u>
TOTAL:	15,331

Resolutions/Resolves supporting the Stamp Campaign:

Resolution 9069 Florida House of Representatives (adopted April 22, 2010)
Resolve from Springfield, MA (adopted April 5, 2010)
Resolution 701 Pennsylvania House of Representatives (adopted September 29, 2010)
Resolution 78 New Jersey Assembly (adopted October, 2010)

Letters of Support received from:

NY State Senate Letter signed by 15 members of the New York Senate (William Larkin, John L. Sampson, John J. Bonacic, George D. Marziaz, John A. DeFrancisco, Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., Eric T. Schneiderman, Michael J. Rzenhofer, Dale M. Volker, George Onorato, Elizabeth A. Little, Joseph A. Griffo, David J. Valesky, William J. Stachowski, Owen H. Johnson)
State Representative Darren Soto of Florida
Congressman Robert A. Brady of Pennsylvania
State Senator William Larkin of New York
State Representative Andres Ayala of Connecticut
Hon. Hector Ferrer Rios (Puerto Rico Commonwealth Representative)
Eddie A. Perez (Mayor of Hartford, CT)
Nellie Pou (Assemblywoman – New Jersey)
Councilor Jose Tosado (Springfield, MA)
Councilwoman Nidia Lopez (Jersey City, NJ)
Councilman Carlos Gonzalez (Newark, NJ)
65th Infantry Retired and Veterans Association, Inc. (San Juan, PR)
New York League of Puerto Rican Women
Senator Stan Rosenberg (Massachusetts)