

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 78

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Madden and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Designates April 13th as Borinqueneers Day in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2022)

SJR78 POU, CRUZ-PEREZ

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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating April 13th as Borinqueneers Day
2 in New Jersey.

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4 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey residents include persons of Puerto Rican and
5 Hispanic descent, many of whom have served in the Armed Forces
6 of the United States; and

7 **WHEREAS**, The 65th Infantry Regiment was comprised largely of
8 Puerto Rican soldiers, members of which were colloquially known
9 as Borinqueneers; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Borinquen is the historical name of Puerto Rico; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Members of the 65th Infantry Regiment fought in World
12 War I, World War II, and the Korean War; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Borinqueneer soldiers served with distinction in these
14 conflicts, receiving numerous combat awards, including the
15 Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and many
16 Purple Hearts; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The 65th Infantry Regiment was awarded the Presidential
18 Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and two
19 Korean Presidential Unit Citations in recognition of its service in
20 Korea; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Borinqueneers endured years of unfair treatment and
22 discrimination while fighting for the United States, despite their
23 distinguished service; and

24 **WHEREAS**, In 2016, the 65th Infantry Regiment was awarded the
25 Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of the Borinqueneers'
26 service to the United States; and

27 **WHEREAS**, The Borinqueneers' service is now honored by the federal
28 government on April 13 of every year pursuant to an act of
29 Congress; and

30 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey similarly recognizes the
31 contributions of its Puerto Rican and Hispanic service members and
32 veterans, now, therefore,

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34 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
35 *State of New Jersey:*

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37 1. April 13th is designated Borinqueneers Day.

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39 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This joint resolution designates April 13th as Borinqueneer's
45 Day. Borinqueneer refers to members of the 65th Infantry
46 Regiment, a unit comprised largely of Puerto Rican soldiers.
47 Borinequeneer is derived from the indigenous, precolonial name for
48 the island of Puerto Rico.

SJR78 POU, CRUZ-PEREZ

1 The 65th Infantry Regiment saw action in World War I, World
2 War II, and the Korean War. Its members served with distinction in
3 these conflict. Borinqueneers were awarded 90 Purple Hearts in
4 World War II and over 2,000 during the Korean War.
5 Borinqueneers received many accolades for their service in Korea,
6 including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, and the
7 Bronze Star. Additionally, the regiment was awarded the
8 Presidential Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation,
9 and two Korean Presidential Unit Citations.

10 Despite the Borinqueneers' distinguished wartime service,
11 members were subject to years of unfair treatment and
12 discrimination, even while fighting for the United States. In April
13 of 2016, the regiment was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal in
14 recognition of its achievements. As part of the 2016 National
15 Defense Authorization Act, Congress designated April 13 as the day
16 to honor the Borinqueneers' service and "the sacrifices made and
17 adversities overcome by Puerto Rican and Hispanic members of the
18 armed forces."