

Good evening, my name is Minnie Gonzalez and I am the State Representative for the 3rd Assembly District in Hartford.

It is a pleasure to be here today as we proudly send off our Borinqueneers to Washington, D.C. to receive the highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, for their service in the U.S. armed forces.

The 65th Infantry is a Puerto Rican regiment of the United States Army that served in combat roles during including World War I, World War II, and the Korean War, and has distinguished itself many times over the years.

We must all never forget - their service on the front lines of war opened doors to many Latinos from all parts to be able to count themselves as full participants in American commercial participation, and social and political discourse.

I am able to serve as a State Representative in large part because the Borinqueneers put Puerto Rico on the map. In my opinion, this Gold Medal presentation is past due.

I thank all the Legislative leaders that agreed to support the various pieces of legislation, proclamations and letters of support that led to this appropriate event to recognize the sacrifice of these Puerto Rican servicemen and their contributions to making the U.S. what it is today.

And, while I believe this should have happened years ago, I also believe it's better late than never.

Congratulations, Borinqueneers, I am very proud to be here tonight with everyone to wish you all the very best.