

Mr. Speaker, I don't think I had ever been to any other war memorial. The World War II Memorial, as we know, was not there at the time. But I went to the Wall, the Vietnam War Memorial, to look for the name of a friend. It is kind of hard to find, as we all know, the small engraved names on the wall. Of course they direct you how to do that. I think a lot of us just go to the wall and start looking.

As I think back on those years ago when I looked up to see my friend Dick Ulmer's name, and think about that classmate, teammate, friend, weight-lifting buddy when we were in the sixth, seventh, eighth grade, and thinking about the fact, Mr. Speaker, that he had given his life. I thought about his parents, who are now deceased, and of course his wife and his sister.

This opportunity today to control the time on our side, and I thank Ms. SHEA-PORTER for that opportunity, to reflect back on a great hero. I think an important thing for us to remember today as we vote, and I think we will have a unanimous vote on this, is that no matter how popular a conflict, or maybe in the case of the Vietnam War, with many people unpopular, the men and women that paid the price, the ultimate sacrifice, and their families, it doesn't matter what the conflict, they do their duty.

God bless them and God bless America.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, our nation prides itself on establishing monuments and memorials in remembrance of the past. We shape marble, bronze, granite and stone into physical commemorations, hoping that they will reflect particular ideals of justice, principles, and beliefs from our country's history and encourage those who visit to embody the same ideals. Twenty-five years ago, the Nation found itself dedicating a memorial to a war that was bitterly fought both at home and abroad and trying to find within that memorial the peace and solace that had been elusive for so long.

The memorial design created by 21-year-old Yale University undergraduate Maya Lin, and managed by the National Park Service, wrought emotional reactions from the crowd when it was dedicated in November 1982. Thousands of veterans, regardless of their personal feelings on what the war had meant to them, found themselves moved by the Wall. Their faces reflected against the names of the dead etched into the black granite, visitors found that this memorial was not simply a standing block of stone, but instead was a moving tribute that refused to separate the past from the present, merging the two and forcing them to coalesce into a semblance of calm.

Now 25 years later we continue to see the effect of the memorial. Families and friends leave at the base of the memorial personal belongings of those whose names lie above. Boisterous crowds traveling noisily from monument to monument fall silent when entering the cut of earth that starts the Wall, their eyes skipping from name to name, recognition on their face that each one represents an individual who gave their life for their country. And those who fought and returned home see the

names of fellow soldiers, an attempt not to justify or explain those losses, but simply to honor and remember them.

Early this month, the Wall was vandalized and the face of the granite desecrated. While long-term damage is not expected, this act of dishonor flies in the face of what the memorial represents. I hope that every single one of my colleagues will join me in denouncing those who committed this vandalism.

With each new year the wounds of the Vietnam War further heal, the passage of time helping to wear away the dissonance and divide. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial plays a large role in this process, bringing us together not only to remember what occurred and what was lost, but also to ensure that we do not forget. It is fitting that we commemorate the anniversary of this memorial and again offer the grateful thanks of our Nation to those who served.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 326, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Comprised of the Wall of names, the three Servicemen Statue and Flagpole, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces who lost their lives in service to the United States in the Vietnam War and recognizes all those individuals who served during that time.

The Memorial is a national treasure. When seen from a distance, the smooth angular blackness of the Wall of names cuts into a gently rising knoll of green grass on the National Mall, symbolizing the collective sacrifice made by the tens of thousands of American youth who, in the prime of their lives, fought and perished in distant fields of battle in Southeast Asia to defend democratic government under siege. Standing at arm's length the sacrifice honored by the Wall comes into clearer focus. The white letters etched in black stone reveal the names of soldiers lost forever to their country, to their military service and, tragically, to their families and loved ones. Closer still, the image of our reflection seen in the Wall's mirror-like stone reminds us each name recorded there represents a person—an individual no different than us. The act of reading their names keeps alive our cherished memories of them. The act of the reading their names also helps keep them alive and well in our hearts.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial we recall all of those individuals involved in its authorization, design, construction, and dedication. Most especially, we acknowledge the work of Maya Ying Lin, and we recognize the vision, sentiment, and artistry she has shared with the world through this project. We also recognize the work that is being undertaken today pursuant to an Act of the 108th Congress to construct the visitor center at the site, which will contribute to visitors' understanding and appreciation for the Memorial and what it signifies.

Mr. Speaker, etched and engraved on that Memorial Wall are the names of 70 sons of Guam. Our community suffered the highest casualty rate per capita of any State or Territory in the Nation during the Vietnam Era. Today, we recall the members of our own community, in addition to their fellow soldiers, who were the uniform and served in the Vietnam era.

To visit the Wall of names, the three Servicemen Statue and Flagpole, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial is to pay respect to those Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors and to renew our commitment that their mission, their sacrifice, and their lives will never be forgotten. This resolution commemorating the Memorial on its 25th anniversary also helps accomplish those goals.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the bipartisan Vietnam Memorial Resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, H. Res. 326. This memorial honors the more than 58,000 brave men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam war for our great Nation. We must never forget the brave service members who served in Vietnam.

Millions of people visit this breathtaking memorial to pay their respect to those people who lost their lives between 1956 and 1975 or are still missing in action. The memorial has been a source of comfort and healing for those families and friends who have lost loved ones in the Vietnam war.

I also wish to express my support and gratitude for all the men and women who served with valor in our armed services protecting our freedom and democracy. I believe that the Vietnam memorial encourages all people of the United States, and the world, to remember the sacrifices of American veterans of this war, especially those who served in Vietnam. This memorial is a beautiful work of art and this resolution has my full support.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 326, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THE 65TH INFANTRY BORINQUENEERS

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 443) recognizing the service of the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers during the Korean War, honoring the people of Puerto Rico who continue to serve and volunteer for service in the Armed Forces and make sacrifices for the country, and commending all efforts to promote and preserve the history of the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 443

Whereas the 65th Infantry Regiment, the only Hispanic-segregated unit in United States military history, was mandated by

Congress to be comprised primarily of Puerto Ricans;

Whereas the 65th Infantry Regiment became better known as the Borinqueneers from the word Borinquen, the name that the native Taino Indians called Puerto Rico;

Whereas the Borinqueneers, throughout their service in World War I, World War II, and, most notably, the Korean War, served with distinction;

Whereas the Borinqueneers demonstrated their military prowess in Korea and earned the respect and admiration of their fellow soldiers and military authorities, most notably General Douglas MacArthur;

Whereas the Borinqueneers were sent to battle on the front lines in Korea and participated in nine major campaigns during the Korean War;

Whereas the Borinqueneers made valuable contributions to the war effort, including by suffering a tremendous number of casualties that was disproportionate to the population of Puerto Rico;

Whereas the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers earned well-deserved praise, including two United States Presidential Unit Citations, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations;

Whereas the 65th Infantry Regiment 1st Battalion continues its fine tradition as an active unit in the Puerto Rico Army National Guard; and

Whereas Puerto Ricans have continued to volunteer freely and serve in the Armed Forces and have served ably during wartime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the service of the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers during the Korean War;

(2) honors the people of Puerto Rico, who continue to serve and volunteer for service in the Armed Forces and make sacrifices for the country; and

(3) commends all efforts to promote and preserve the history of the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 443, recognizing the service of the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers during the Korean War, honoring the people of Puerto Rico who continue to serve and volunteer for services in the Armed Forces and make sacrifices for this country, and commending all efforts to promote and preserve the history of the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers. I thank my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for bringing this measure before the House.

In 1908 the United States Congress directed that a unit be established and

comprised primarily of individuals from Puerto Rico, which was then renamed in 1920 as the 65th Infantry Regiment. Our brothers and sisters of the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers fought valiantly and gave their lives during the Korean War and the two World Wars.

Since 1917 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has been a part of the United States and home to almost 4 million U.S. citizens. During the Korean War, Puerto Rico lost a disproportionate number of servicemembers relative to the population of the island as a whole. Eight soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment received the Distinguished Service Cross, and 129 were awarded the Silver Star for their heroism during the Korean conflict.

House Resolution 443 highlights an important group of servicemembers who have helped forge the foundation of the freedoms that we enjoy today. The 65th Infantry Borinqueneers are to be recognized for their tremendous sacrifice. We should not forget those who are serving today in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The people of Puerto Rico and all Americans can be proud of the tremendous contributions these men have made to the defense of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 443.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of House Resolution 443, which recognizes the service of the 65th Infantry Regiment, Puerto Rico National Guard.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the First Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, Puerto Rico National Guard, continues a tradition of outstanding service in the Army established by members of that regiment in World War I, World War II, and in Korea. Their motto, "Honor and Fidelity," summarizes that service.

Mr. Speaker, in Korea, as an active Army unit, the regiment fought with particular distinction, participating in nine major campaigns from 1950 until 1953. For its actions, the unit was awarded two Presidential Unit Citations, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations.

Such outstanding service led General Douglas MacArthur to say: "The Puerto Ricans of the gallant 65th Infantry on the battlefields of Korea are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle, and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that I had many more like them."

In achieving such recognition for their competence and valor, the men of the 65th Infantry suffered heavy casualties and numerous vicious battles against determined North Korean and Chinese units. Moreover, the men of the 65th not only had to overcome severe weather and terrain and shortages of clothing and equipment, but also the

elements of prejudice and unfavorable bias that they encountered.

Mr. Speaker, given the history of outstanding service by the 65th since its inception back in 1898, as well as the continuing commitment and dedication shown by the current members of this unit, it is fitting that we take the time today to recognize and to honor that service.

I strongly urge all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from New Hampshire for her remarks and for yielding me the time and for her leadership on the Armed Services Committee. I also want to thank my good friend from Georgia for his words in support of this resolution, House Resolution 443, which pays tribute to the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers and to the men and women of Puerto Rico who continue to serve our country with honor and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I will insert into the RECORD a letter from Anibal Acevedo Vila, the Governor of Puerto Rico, endorsing this legislation.

JULY 18, 2007.

Hon. JAMES MCGOVERN,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCGOVERN: Thank you for your efforts to recognize the service of Puerto Ricans in the armed forces of the United States, and in particular, the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers, by introducing H. Res. 443. Puerto Ricans have served with great distinction in the military, and I appreciate your efforts to highlight their service.

The 65th Infantry Borinqueneers were founded as an all-Puerto Rican regiment in 1899, and served in World War I, World War II, and in the Korean War. It was in this last campaign that the 65th Infantry earned their renown, leading General Douglas MacArthur to remark: "[t]he Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry . . . are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that we might have many more like them." During the Korean War, members of the 65th Infantry were awarded 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, 256 Silver Stars, and 606 Bronze Stars.

As H. Res. 443 acknowledges, Puerto Ricans have a tradition of dedicated and honorable service in the armed forces of the United States. Military units from Puerto Rico were among the first to deploy following the attacks of September 11, 2001, and over 7,000 members of our National Guard have since been deployed in support of current operations. Over 55 soldiers, sailors and airmen of Puerto Rican descent have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are over 144,000 veterans living in Puerto Rico, and four sons of the Island have earned the Medal of Honor since Vietnam, the second highest per capita of any jurisdiction in the United States.

Puerto Rican soldiers in the armed forces today continue the tradition of the 65th Infantry by serving with honor and distinction and make all Puerto Ricans proud of their service. Once again, I appreciate your introduction of H. Res. 443 to recognize and commend those Puerto Ricans who have served

in the past and present in our nation's armed forces, and I look forward to the resolution's adoption.

Sincerely,

ANIBAL ACEVEDO VILÁ,
Governor, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a privilege to learn about the proud service of the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers, the only Hispanic-segregated unit in the United States Military history. The first native Puerto Rican troops were approved by Congress in 1899, designated as the Puerto Rican Regiment U.S. Volunteers.

The regiment was ordered to war strength in 1917 and served in defense of the Panama Canal during World War I. On June 4, 1920, the regiment was officially re-designated as the 65th Infantry, U.S. Army.

After serving ably in France and Germany during World War II, the 65th was ordered to Korea in 1950. It was during the Korean War where the 65th Infantry invoked the name Borinqueneers, and it is also where they demonstrated their military prowess.

The name Borinqueneers comes from the word Borinquen, which is the original native Taino Indians of the island we now call Puerto Rico. Many members were direct descendants of these native people.

The Borinqueneers fought on the front lines in Korea, participating in nine major campaigns throughout the war. They were the protection force for marines withdrawing from far inland positions. They were the leading unit in the United Nations offensive of April 1951. In every campaign they performed as one of the most effective infantry regiments in the Army.

Earning the respect and admiration of fellow soldiers and military leaders, General Douglas MacArthur himself remarked, "They showed magnificent ability and courage in field operations," and "they are a credit to Puerto Rico, and I am proud to have them in my command."

Mr. Speaker, it is of the utmost importance that we recognize the valiant service of the Borinqueneers and that we recognize the sacrifices made by the people of Puerto Rico during the Korean War: 61,000 Puerto Ricans served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, the overwhelming majority in the 65th Infantry Regiment.

By the end of the war, 743 Puerto Ricans were killed, and over 2,300 wounded. One of every 42 casualties suffered by U.S. forces in Korea was Puerto Rican. Puerto Rico endured one casualty for every 660 of its inhabitants, a disproportionately heavy burden for the small island. This statistic highlights the enormous sacrifice by Puerto Rico, and it gives testament to the honor and distinction of their service.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to note some current efforts to promote and preserve the history of the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers. In my district,

the Korean War Memorial of Central Massachusetts Committee, along with Colonel Gilbert Villahermosa, Inspector General of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, and the Puerto Rican community of central Massachusetts are working together to commemorate the 65th Infantry.

The efforts have included promotion of the documentary film "The Borinqueneers," construction of a memorial flagpole, and Colonel Villahermosa himself has released a book detailing the critical role which the 65th Infantry played in Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to have introduced this bill with the Representative from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO), and I would also like to thank Chairman SKELTON and all members of the Armed Services Committee who supported its consideration on the suspension calendar.

Again, I want to thank my two colleagues, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), for their words here today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to pass House Resolution 443.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. Before yielding back, I would like to encourage all of our colleagues, both sides of the aisle, and I am sure we will have a unanimous vote on H.Res 443. I thank the gentlewoman from New Hampshire for allowing me to control the time on this side.

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, during this month, our country proudly celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month. In the midst of this celebration, it is with great honor and pride that I stand in support of H. Res. 443 which seeks to recognize the service of the 65th infantry regiment during the Korean War known as the Borinqueneers Regiment. I also want to thank Congressman MCGOVERN for his leadership in honoring these brave soldiers. At a time when there is a national dialogue on the contributions of Hispanic Americans, there is no better way to recognize their achievements, than by voting for H. Res. 443.

We know that since the Civil War, where over 10,000 Hispanic Americans wore uniforms for both sides, the number of soldiers of Hispanic heritage that have served in each conflict has been significant. Their participation in every military conflict is a source of many heroic actions.

In World War I, 200,000 Hispanics were mobilized and to this day we hear stories of their valor, and devotion to spread democracy and freedom around the World.

Roughly half a million Hispanics served during World War II. They fought bravely in all of the major conflicts extending throughout Europe, the Pacific and Africa.

But it is during the Korean War that over 148,000 Hispanics served, of which 20,000 were from my district in Puerto Rico. 4,000 of them comprised the 65th Infantry Regiment, the largest U.S. infantry regiment for that war. This regiment fought in every major campaign of the Korean War and received numerous praises including a Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Commendations and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations for their perform-

ance. I would like to quote General Douglas MacArthur, who said in Tokyo on February 12, 1951: "The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry on the battlefields of Korea . . . are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that we might have many more like them."

It is due to this ever-growing identity in the United States, that Hispanic Americans continue to wear, with honor, the uniforms of our Armed Forces. This legislation honors the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers and the legacy they left behind; a legacy of valor, courage and self-sacrifice in the face of adversity. I am proud to be an American of Hispanic descent and equally proud to represent the members of the 65th Infantry Regiment; it is for them that I stand here today in support of this legislation and urge all my colleagues to unanimously vote in favor of H. Res. 443.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 443, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR THE SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE 303RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) UPON THE OCCASION OF THE FINAL REUNION OF THE 303RD BOMB GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 604) expressing the Nation's sincerest appreciation and thanks for the service of the members of the 303rd Bombardment Group (Heavy) upon the occasion of the final reunion of the 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 604

Whereas the 303rd Bombardment Group (Heavy) was activated on February 3, 1942, at Pendleton Field, Oregon, and trained at Gowen Field, Idaho, from February 11, 1942, until June 17, 1942;

Whereas the 303rd Bombardment Group (H) was stationed in Molesworth, England, and comprised of the 358th Bombardment Squadron, the 359th Bombardment Squadron, the 360th Bombardment Squadron, and the 427th Bombardment Squadron;

Whereas the 303rd Bombardment Group (H), also known as "Hell's Angels", arrived at Molesworth, England on September 12, 1942, and bravely fought in World War II;

Whereas the 303rd Bombardment Group (H) support personnel sailed on the Queen Mary