



HR1113

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, United States Army National Guard Retired
3 Brigadier General Walter McCostlin of Fox River Grove, age 81,
4 is an honorably discharged veteran of the 65th Infantry
5 Regiment, the "Borinqueneers"; and

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WHEREAS, During "America's Forgotten War", the Korean War,
7 the 65th Infantry earned a significant number of combat honors,
8 including service in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in December
9 of 1950; in the Korean War, members of the 65th Infantry were
10 awarded more than 860 combat decorations for valor and more
11 than 2,700 Purple Hearts; and

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WHEREAS, After being awarded the Purple Heart as a member
13 of the 65th Infantry and being discharged from Korean War
14 service, Gen. McCostlin resumed his service career in the
15 National Guard; after 35 years as a Guardsman and Guard
16 officer, he retired in 1990 as a Colonel; and

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WHEREAS, In retirement from the service, Gen. McCostlin was
18 granted the rank and honors of an Illinois Army National Guard
19 Brigadier General by Governor Jim Edgar; and

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WHEREAS, Gen. McCostlin has spoken with the media about his
21 pride in serving with the 65th Infantry; almost all of its

1 members were Spanish-speaking young men, many of them from
2 Puerto Rico; the regiment served with high honor in World War
3 I, World War II, and the Korean War, before being dissolved
4 into other units as part of the overall U.S. Armed Forces
5 transition from segregated and ethnic-concentrated units into
6 desegregated units; and

7 WHEREAS, In deference to the heroism of the 65th Infantry,
8 their combat missions, and the heritage of the United States
9 Armed Forces Spanish-speaking and Hispanic servicemen and
10 women, the United States Congress has voted, by special
11 resolution, to present to surviving members of the 65th
12 Infantry the Congressional Gold Medal; and

13 WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal, the highest-ranking
14 honor awarded by Congress, is granted to few units and their
15 survivors; among previous recipients of this award are the
16 surviving Tuskegee Airmen; and

17 WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal will be bestowed to
18 surviving members of the 65th Infantry Regiment, the
19 "Borinqueneers", at a ceremony on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, in
20 Washington, D.C.; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
22 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 express our deepest gratitude to Retired Brigadier General
2 Walter McCostlin and to his fellow members of the 65th Infantry
3 Regiment, for dedicating their lives to the service of our
4 country; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we join with the United States Congress in
6 marking this occasion with a moment of remembrance for the
7 service of all members of the United States Armed Forces, and
8 in special recognition of those of Spanish-speaking and
9 Hispanic heritage; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to
11 General Walter McCostlin and his family as a symbol of our
12 respect and esteem.