

# City of Buffalo

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

- WHEREAS, The Army Appropriation Bill created by Congress on March 2, 1889 authorized the first body of native troops in Puerto Rico. The "Porto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry" was organized in 1901. During World War I, the infantry defended the Panama Canal and upon their return to Puerto Rico in 1919, was renamed "The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment;" and
- WHEREAS, During World War II, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry gallantly served in North Africa and Europe, winning the Naples-Foggian, Rome-Arno, Central Europe and Rhineland battle campaigns, and after the war, were assigned dangerous security, anti-sabotage and other occupation missions around Kaiserslautern and Mannheim, Germany, making the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry among the last units to return home; and
- WHEREAS, In 1950, after arriving in Pusan, Korea, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry joined the United States 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and were amongst the first infantrymen to meet the enemy on the battlefields of Korea; and
- WHEREAS, The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry bravely defended their regiment against the Chinese People's Liberation Army who had joined the war on the North Korean side, allowing the United States 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division to retreat back to Hungnam, averting a potential catastrophic disaster; and
- WHEREAS, Throughout the course of the Korean War, Puerto Rico proportionally suffered more casualties than a majority of the states; and
- WHEREAS, The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry was awarded nine Battle Campaign Awards for bravery: UN Defense-1950, UN Offense-1950, CCF Intervention-1950, First UN Counterattack Offensive-1951, UN and CCF Spring Offensive-1951, UN Summer-Fall Offensive-1951, 2<sup>nd</sup> Korean Winter 1951-1952, Korean Summer-Fall-1952 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Korean Winter-1952-1953; and
- WHEREAS, The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry is credited with the last battalion-sized bayonet assault in United States Army history; and
- WHEREAS, During the Korean War, some 61,000 soldiers from Puerto Rico served with the United States Army, 6,000 with the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry who were decorated with nine Korean Battle Campaign Awards, the Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations, two Korean Presidential Unit Citations, the Greek Gold Medal, Navy Unit Commendation and many other awards for bravery; and
- WHEREAS, Over the span of World War I, World War II and the Korean War, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry earned ten Distinguished Service Crosses, 258 Silver Stars, 628 Bronze Stars, more than 2,700 Purple Hearts and many other individual awards; and
- WHEREAS, The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry fought bravely as they loyally defended America against all enemies while facing discrimination, segregation and unusual obstacles; and
- WHEREAS, Local organizations including the Hispanic American Memorial Monument Committee and the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York Inc. have joined this national effort in procuring the Congressional Gold Medal Alliance for the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

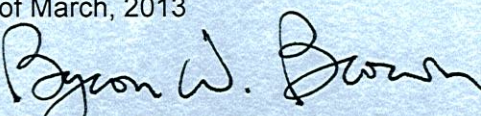
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, BYRON W. BROWN, Mayor of the City of Buffalo, do hereby proclaim March 2, 2013 as

#### **The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Day**

in the City of Buffalo and join my fellow citizens in honoring the dedicated service of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I  
have hereunto set my hand  
and caused the Seal of the  
City of Buffalo to be  
affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day  
of March, 2013

  
BYRON W. BROWN  
MAYOR