

2013-J4060

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the memory of Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron, United States Army, upon the occasion of his posthumous designation as recipient of the Medal of Honor

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Forces, who have served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which our Nation's freedom was at stake deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to pay tribute to the memory of Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron, United States Army, upon the occasion of his posthumous designation as recipient of the Medal of Honor; this meritorious honor will be presented at a White House ceremony on Tuesday, March 18, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is the highest military medal bestowed by the United States; it is awarded for valor in action against an enemy force; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1929 in Corozal, Puerto Rico, Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron is being recognized for his valorous actions during the Korean War on April 28, 1951, while serving with the 65th Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of Kalma-Eri, Korea; and

WHEREAS, On that day, then-Sergeant Juan E. Negron took up the most vulnerable position on his company's exposed right flank after an enemy force had overrun a section of the line; when notified that elements of the company were withdrawing, this courageous soldier refused to leave his exposed position, but delivered withering fire at hostile troops who had broken through a roadblock; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Negron held the position throughout the night, accurately hurling hand grenades at short range when hostile troops approached his position; after the enemy had been repulsed, fifteen

enemy dead were found only a few feet from his position; and
WHEREAS, Following the war, Juan E. Negron returned to the United States and remained on Active duty, serving a total of 23 years and achieving the rank of Master Sergeant; his positions include the senior non-commissioned officer for the Directorate of Doctrine, which would help define the Army's combat strategy, and the Inspector General in Thailand; and

WHEREAS, During his distinguished service Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron became a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Legion of Valor, and The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry; upon retirement he became very involved in education and entered into federal service in Bayamon, Puerto Rico where he died in 1996; and

WHEREAS, A truly valiant soldier, Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron received the Distinguished Service Cross, which will be upgraded to the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman Badge, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal, and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation; and

WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron is the first Medal of Honor recipient, posthumously, from the 65th Infantry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, The banner of freedom will always wave over this great Nation, the land of the free and the home of the brave; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreci-

ation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron, United States Army, upon the occa-

sion of his posthumous designation as recipient of the Medal of Honor, and to pay tribute to him for his courageous actions; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron's daughter, Iris Negron, Anthony Mele, Chairman, 65th Honor Task Force, and to Ruben Estrada, Deputy Director, 65th Honor Task Force.