

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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May 28, 2014
Start: 1:13 p.m.
Recess: 1:19 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
ERIC A. ULRICH
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Fernando Cabrera
Andrew Cohen
Alan N. Maisel
Paul A. Vallone

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: Okay. [gavel] Good afternoon; I am Council Member Eric Ulrich, Chair of the City Council Committee on Veterans. Today the Committee will vote on two important resolutions which were considered at our hearing last Friday.

First the Committee will vote on Reso 103, introduced by Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, urging the President to sign H.R. 1726 and Senate Bill 1174, legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

The 65th Infantry Regiment performed many remarkable military accomplishments in conflicts spanning the 20th century. We heard some inspiring testimony from veterans of this outfit last Friday and this resolution rightfully honors their patriotism.

The Committee will then vote on a resolution I recently introduced, Reso 200, which calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign, Senate Bill 4714 and the Assembly version, 6974, legislation that would allow public employees who rendered peacetime military service to purchase and apply credit towards New

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2 York's retirement systems. Currently New York State
3 law only allows certainly honorably discharged
4 veterans working in the public sector the opportunity
5 purchase and apply up to three years of their
6 military credit toward their retirement, however,
7 this law, as it stands, excludes all peacetime
8 veterans and even some who served during designated
9 periods of conflict. This legislation would
10 rightfully extend eligibility to all honorably
11 discharged veterans.

12 I want to acknowledge the work and the
13 leadership of our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, for
14 introducing Reso 103 and the members of this
15 committee, all of whom have been supportive of both
16 measures.

17 Now the Committee will vote on the first
18 item. So we'll have the clerk call the roll, unless
19 there's any discussion on the vote. Any dis... I
20 should have asked. [background comment] Okay.
21 [background comment] I would appreciate your
22 indulgence. Okay, thank you. We've been joined by
23 Council Members Maisel, Cohen, Cabrera, Vallone and
24 the Committee Counsel, Kelly Taylor. And I'll ask
25 the Clerk to call the roll.

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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Penn [sp?],
Committee Clerk, roll call on the Committee on
Veterans. Council Member Ulrich.

CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

[background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative; no abstentions, the
items have been adopted. Members, please sign the
Committee Reports.

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: 'Kay. So we're
gonna call the roll on the second reso too; we just
[background comments] had a technicality; that roll
was for Reso 103 and now we'll take the roll on Reso
200, the buyback provision.

[pause]

[background comment]

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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reso 200. Council
Member Ulrich. [background comments]

CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Both pass, 5 in the
affirmative.

[pause]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date _____ May 30, 2014 _____