

**THE AMBASSADOR  
HO-YOUNG AHN**

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2014

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United States, I write to express my government's support for H.R. 1726 and S. 1174. These bills would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, a unit composed primarily of soldiers from the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico.

It is fitting that the US Congress recognize this unit's valor. For its service in the Korean War, the Regiment received numerous unit-level awards, including two ROK Presidential Unit Citations. Soldiers in the Regiment also received many individual awards for valor. Last month, Master Sergeant Juan Negrón, a member of the Regiment, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama for his actions in Korea.

The ROK-US Alliance is rooted in shared values and shared sacrifices. As President Park said before a Joint Session of Congress on May 8, 2013, Koreans will always have "profound gratitude to America's veterans" because their "blood, sweat and tears helped safeguard freedom and democracy." The men of the 65th Infantry Regiment were part of a generation of Americans who "answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met," as the eloquent words etched in granite at the Korean War Memorial describe.

Because we honor members of the US armed forces who fought in Korea, my government is proud to support this legislation that recognizes the service and sacrifice of the 65th Infantry Regiment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ho-Young Ahn", written in a cursive style.

Ho-Young Ahn