

National Borinqueneers Day—April 13: A Brief History of the 65th Infantry Regiment



On April 13, 2016, the [Congressional Gold Medal was presented to the 65th Infantry Regiment](#). At the time, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan said the Borinqueneers "showed us time and again that, courage does not know color; decency does not pick sides. These men did not fight to preserve the status quo; they fought to make their country better. And they succeeded."

In 2020, Congress passed the [National Defense Authorization Act](#), which included legislation supporting April 13th as National Borinqueneers Day. President Donald Trump vetoed the legislation, but on January 1, 2021, members of Congress overrode the presidential veto making the legislation law. The United States celebrated the first National Borinqueneers Day on April 13, 2021.

"The Borinqueneers" have a legacy of being an elite fighting force, serving in critical roles through both World Wars and the Korean War. Solely during the Korean War, the unit received one Medal of Honor, nine Distinguished Service Crosses, approximately 250 Silver Stars, over 600 Bronze Stars, and more than 2,700 Purple Hearts.



History of the 65th Infantry Regiment

by Dr. Harry Franqui Rivera

The 65th U.S. Army Infantry Regiment--also known as *el sesenta y cinco de infanteria*, originated as a Puerto Rican outfit in the form of the Battalion of Porto Rican Volunteers (May 20, 1899) in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War of 1898. In 1908, and by then a regiment, the unit officially became part of the U.S. Army. It came to be known as the Porto Rican Regiment. During WWI the regiment was sent to the Canal Zone in Panama. In 1920, the unit's name changed to the 65th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army.

The 65th served in North Africa and Europe during World War II. Military authorities, reflecting the racial prejudice of the time, kept the regiment far from the front. The military followed a policy of racial segregation in which combat roles, with a few exceptions, were reserved for White troops. This policy had unintended consequences. As the 65th was kept from combat it underwent all kinds of training and its men and officers dutifully prepared for war. By WWII's end the 65th was a superbly trained and well-disciplined combat regiment.

On June 24, 1950, war broke out in Korea. An unprepared U.S. military was hard-pressed for battle ready units. The 65th was mobilized and ordered to

Korea. The *Borinqueneers*, as the men of the 65th were known, were going to war as first-line combat troops. Once in Korea, the 65th performed admirably.

The actions of the *Borinqueneers* during the first half of the war elevated them to iconic status- living proof of what Puerto Ricans could do when given the opportunity, showing they were second to none, inferior to no one. Then, tragedy struck. The replacement of highly-trained, combat-hardened troops with poorly trained yet enthusiastic recruits who spoke little English; an acute dearth of bilingual sergeants; and new Continental officers that did not speak Spanish led to tragic events during the battles of Outpost Kelly and Jackson Heights in the autumn of 1952. In the spring of 1953, the Army integrated the 65th with Continental troops and redistributed to other units the excess Puerto Rican troops.

In 1954, the 65th returned to Puerto Rico. The island had its regiment back, but not for long. It was deactivated in 1956. Colonel César Cordero, who had led the 65th during the tragic battle for Outpost Kelly, led a campaign that culminated with the reactivation and transfer of the 65th from the Army to the Puerto Rico National Guard in 1959 - where it continues to serve to this day.

**ATTENTION: Upcoming VAB Public Session Wednesday,
April 19th at York College**

NYC VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD PUBLIC SESSIONS



QUEENS PUBLIC SESSION

Wednesday, April 19th

Wednesday, June 7th (Staten Island)

Wednesday, August 9th (Bronx)

Wednesday, October 18th (Brooklyn)

For those joining **IN PERSON** the location is:

York College
The Academic Core Building
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11451

Refreshments will be served.

For those choosing to attend via **ZOOM**, follow the link below. Meeting ID: 861 1325 9398 – Passcode: 355418

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86113259398?pwd=R1d2dk1BUWplUVVlOXBsHo1ZFhRUT09>

BOTH SESSIONS (In-person & Zoom) will begin at 6pm sharp!

All Veterans, their family members and caregivers are encouraged to attend!
Please use the link below to gain access to the session.

If you are an organization that provides services that can assist NYC Veterans and their families, please contact the VAB to publicly share information about your organization to our veteran audience. If you have a question that you want answered at the public session, please use this **Email:** nycveteransadvisoryboard@gmail.com

The NYC Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) will hold its second hybrid meeting Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at York College in Jamaica, NY.

Visit www.nyc.gov/vetboard for the zoom link to the session and more information about the VAB.

Additionally, if you are an organization that provides services that can assist NYC Veterans and their families, please contact the VAB to publicly share information about your organization. If you have a question that you want answered at the public session, please use this Email: nycveteransadvisoryboard@gmail.com

CUNY Civil Service Pathways Fellowship



The Civil Service Pathways Fellowship is a joint effort between CUNY and NYC DCAS to put you on the fast track to becoming a City employee. Open only to CUNY graduates, the Fellowship is a two-year program in which you will work full time at a City agency, receive training and become eligible to take the civil service exam after the first year. Unlike other fellowships, the Civil Service Pathways Fellowship helps to prepare and facilitate a seamless transition from fellow to a City employee.

The Fellowship is set to begin in August 2023 and is subject to the requisite approvals for city agency placement.

The Civil Service Pathways Fellowship has three distinct career tracks that are in high demand at City agencies.

THREE TRACKS

- Policy and Program Analysis
- Data and Digital Services
- Procurement and Finance

REQUIREMENTS

- Graduated from CUNY with a Bachelor's
- A cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Prior work, internship or project experience related to your chosen track
- This program is only open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

- *The fellowship position for the NYC Department of Veteran Services' highly encourages student veterans and student veteran spouses to apply!*

Application Deadline: Monday April 24, 2023

Fellowship Placement at NYC Department of Veterans' Services

The CUNY Pathways Fellow will build upon the work established by the previous Affordable Housing Coordinator. The Fellow will be administratively assigned to DVS' Housing and Support Services Team Init (HSS).

HSS focuses on assisting housing-insecure NYC Veterans and their families (www.nyc.gov/vethousing ... www.nyc.gov/vetladder). HSS currently has three core tasks:

#1: Helping unsheltered or Veterans in the shelter system obtain stable housing in the form of low-income or supportive housing. In either case, the housing is subsidized by government vouchers.

#2: Identifying landlords who will accept the Veteran clients whom we endeavor to house per Task #1. A component of this includes providing monetary incentives to landlords -- when available -- and ensuring that said landlords will accept certain subsidies.

#3: Performing aftercare, or check-ins on those whom we have housed six, eleven, and eighteen months after they have been placed into housing. The main purpose of aftercare is to ensure that our Veterans do not regress backwards towards housing insecurity.

The Fellow will focus on enhancing our services in an area that we have begun to explore in-depth as an agency. That area is aiding Veterans who have traditional affordable housing needs. We have a very strong idea of what the road map looks like to promote these services ourselves. In the past, we have closely coordinated with representatives from the NYC Department of Housing and Planning Development, the NYS Department of Homes and Community Renewal, and the

VA's Loan Guaranty Department. Based on those experiences, we see the need for providing Housing Navigator-style counseling with a specific emphasis on offerings that are unique to the Veteran community. Ideally, the Fellow will help us create a service blueprint in this space that we will build upon in years to come.

How to Apply

Applications for fellowships are posted at various times throughout the year. To receive notifications when the applications open, create an account on our application portal by completing the below steps:

1. Click here to register: [CIP Portal](#)
2. Check your email and the job board often for notifications that a fellowship has been posted.
3. Follow the application directions listed in the posting.

Where to Direct Inquiries

For program-specific questions, please email the program [here](#). You can also attend the remaining information sessions between now and the application deadline, listed [here](#).

For questions about the role, please reach out to Assistant Commissioner of Operations and Administrative Services, Jason Parker, at jparker@veterans.nyc.gov.

Honoring Veteran Community Changemakers (HVCC)



The DVS Veteran Community Changemaker Series is our way of highlighting Veterans, spouses/caregivers, civilian volunteers, and other practitioners who actively support the NYC Veteran community. Each month DVS will honor two New York City Veteran champions with a Certificate and feature in this newsletter and on social media.

This month's Veteran Changemaker Honorees are **Viviana Decohen** and **Rev. Dr. Jacob Kelly**. **Viviana DeCohen**, affectionately called "Mama V", became the Director of the New York State Division of Veterans' Services in December of 2021, which, at the start of this month, has been elevated to the NYS Department of Veterans' Services. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Mama V continues to dedicate her time and talent to assisting veterans by ensuring they have--food, shelter, clothing, education, employment, and a little motivation. **Rev. Dr. Jacob Kelly** served over 25 years on reserve and active duty as an Army officer. After his service, he was hired as the Senior Army Instructor for the cadet leadership program at Eastside High School located in Paterson, NJ. After growing the program to the largest cadet leadership program in NJ, he was hired as the Senior Army Instructor for the prestigious Xavier High School leadership program in New York City.

Thank you for all of the work you've done and continue to do for our Veterans!

VETERAN NEWS

" The Humble Haitian Warrior" Brooklyn Street Renamed after U.S. Army SGT. Mario Nelson



BROOKLYN - Family and friends gathered in Brooklyn Saturday to rename a street after U.S. Army Sergeant Mario Nelson in Canarsie on the corner of East 83rd and Avenue N.

Nelson was killed in combat in Iraq in 2006. He was just 26 years old and left behind his wife, Mecca, and their three-year-old daughter, Mia, who is now a sophomore in college.

"I may not have as many memories of my father that my mother and his family may have, but everyone would tell me....he was humble, he was great, he was a giver and most importantly he had faith," Mia said. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

More Veteran-related Headlines

Salon (Video): ["That's f**king corruption!": Jon Stewart corners top Pentagon official in epic confrontation](#)

Norwood News: [Vietnam Vet Finds Solace in Sharing the Unsaid](#)

NEW YORK (1010 WINS): [NYC Council bill would require personal sleeping cubicles in homeless shelters](#)

Governor Kathy Hocu: [Governor Hochul Announces New Initiative to Double Buying Power for SNAP Recipients at Farmers' Markets](#)

Harlem World Magazine: [Veteran Affairs Secretary Sen. Gillibrand Visit NYC's God's Love We Deliver](#)



We are looking to highlight Veterans in the arts community! Whether it's an upcoming free exhibition, performance, or piece/installation you've created, we want to showcase your work and help spread the word. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and promoted at our discretion. We want this to be a space for Veteran artists to express themselves in an authentic way.

Please email submissions to connect@veterans.nyc.gov with a brief bio, an artist statement, art medium, and your affiliation to the Veteran community.

The Neon Nutrition Kitchen: Veteran-Only Pantry Days

Attention NYC Veterans! [The NeON Nutrition Kitchen](#) will be hosting Veterans-only Pantry days on Staten Island and The Bronx, providing non-perishable foods as well as a meat/fish to Veterans and their families.

There will also be a Veterans Benefit Coordinator on site to help with claims and benefits.



The NeON Nutrition Kitchen logo is at the top right. Below it, a circular image shows a person packing groceries. The text 'The NeON Nutrition Kitchen' is written in a stylized font. Below the image, the text 'FREE HEALTHY FOODS' is displayed. Underneath, a 'WHAT' box says 'NeON Nutrition Kitchen Veterans Only Day Free Packaged Groceries, Produce and Dairy'. A 'WHEN' box says 'Every Friday - 10am to 1pm from March 3 - May 26'. A 'WHERE' box says 'Staten Island 340 Bay Street'. At the bottom, logos for NYC Department of Veterans Services, NYC Young Men's Initiative, and NeON are shown. A small disclaimer at the bottom reads: 'For requests regarding accessibility or language interpretation services please email disabilityfacilitator@probation.nyc.gov or call 212-510-3862.'

Staten Island:

📅 Fridays, March 3 - May 26

📍 340 Bay Street

🕒 10a-1p



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The Bronx:

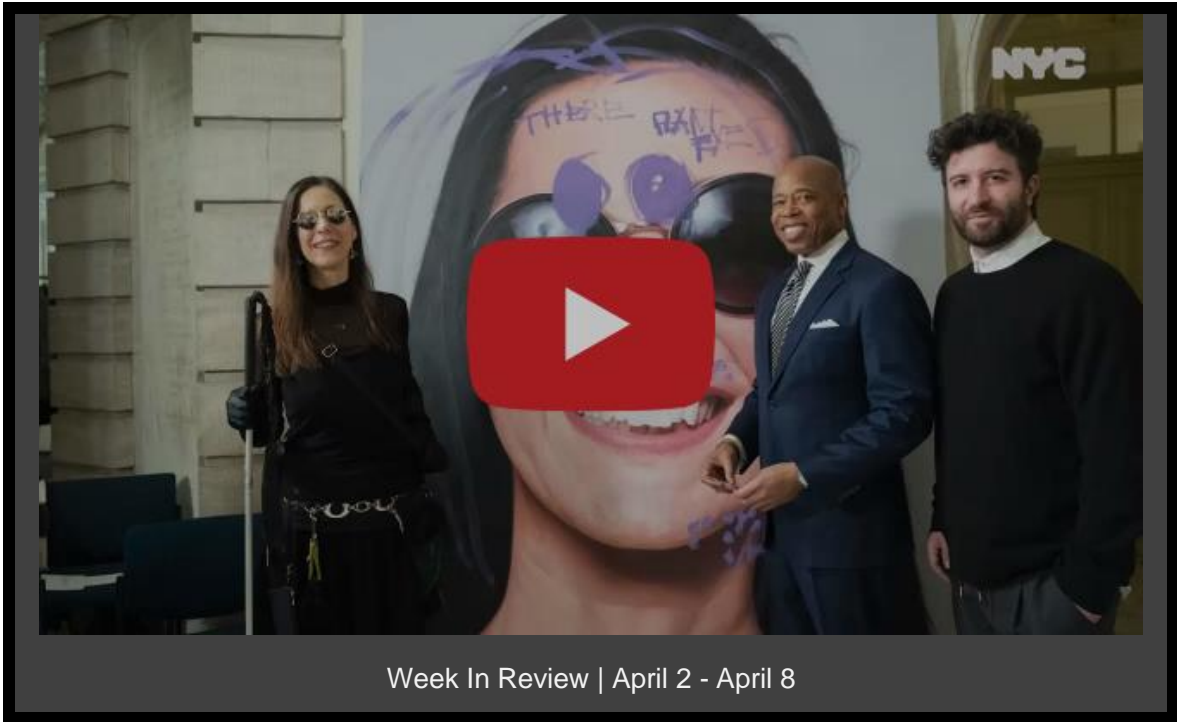
📅 Mondays, March 13 - June 6

📍 198 East 161st

🕒 9:30a-12:30p

A Message From Mayor Adams:

Each week DVS will share a short update about how our administration is getting stuff done for New Yorkers.



The Adams administration is dedicated to cutting through the noise and delivering information directly to you and all New Yorkers.

Sign up to "Hear From Eric" and get direct messages from City Hall, tailored to your interests and neighborhood, sent directly to your inbox

– at [nyc.gov/hearfromeric!](https://nyc.gov/hearfromeric)

Critical Financial Assistance Programs



Financial assistance support for post-9/11 New York veterans and their families

We believe warriors can thrive with access to integrated services focused on their individual and collective well-being.

Critical Needs Program

Hope For the Warriors Critical Needs program serves as a short-term financial bridge for post 9/11 veterans and their families, and for survivors of traumas as they navigate through long-term recovery.

Support includes financial education and financial assistance to help offset income loss due to:

- Delays in disability claims processing
- Combat related loss of income
- Homelessness and homeless prevention
- Increased care due to injury progression
- Housing support for veteran to engage in intensive outpatient and/or inpatient psychiatric treatment for PTSD, MST, depression, anxiety, or equivalent mental health diagnoses
- Assistance in the form of financial grants, resource referrals, supportive counseling and financial literacy training



To learn more about these services visit hopeforthewarriors.org/connect-to-services

For questions, please contact: jsooklal@hopeforthewarriors.org



This program is supported by a grant from The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of New Yorkers, bolster the health outcomes of vulnerable communities, eliminate barriers to care, and bridge gaps in health services. Named after a tireless advocate for immigrants, children, and the poor, the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation funds programs and initiatives across New York State that either provide direct healthcare services or address the social determinants of health. For more information, visit www.cabrinihealth.org.



Elizabeth Dole Foundation

CARING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Goal: The Hope Fund for Critical Financial Assistance provides financial relief to all eras of military and Veteran caregivers through a grant that aims to put you and your family on the path to financial wellness. These grants aim to provide high-impact financial assistance to prevent or address a significant crisis or to improve the quality of life of the caregiver family. These grants fill the gaps that other programs may not cover.

Who is eligible for the grant program?

- Adult caregiver, (18 years and older), for a military service member or veteran
- Demonstrates financial assistance need
- Vendor or name of Company is legally able to receive taxable income in the U.S., this includes they're being a citizen, green card holder, and/or permanent resident who can provide a W9 and SSN or (TIN)

Amount: Depending on need, grants will be made on a case-by-case review at the discretion of EDF staff. These are grants that aim to assist with larger needs to put you on a path of financial wellness.

How do you define “financial assistance needs”?

If you are experiencing an unforeseen emergency with life-changing consequences, we encourage you to apply.

Examples of grants:

Natural Disaster Assistance

Medical/Dental bills not covered by insurance

Home repairs/additions due to safety of Veteran

Car modifications needed for the Veteran

Certificate program to build job readiness skills for caregiver

Transportation

Hope Fund for Critical Financial Assistance Program through the
Elizabeth Dole Foundation

April 2023 - Calendar of Citywide Hiring Events



Saturday, April 22, 2023

Event: NYC Government Hiring Hall

Location: Bronx - Monroe College

Time:

Targeted Titles: Clerical Associate, Maintenance Worker, Inspector, Assistant Highway Repairer, Case Manager, Eligibility Specialist, and Clerical Associate

Friday, April 28, 2023

Event: NYC Government Hiring Hall

Location: Queens: Location TBD

Targeted Titles: Engineer(Civil, Electrical, Environmental), Inspector, and Project Manager

Join Our Team! Be Part of the Mission!



Current DVS Job Openings

Being part of our team is a great way to continue to serve.

[Visit NYC.gov/jobs and select "Veterans' Services" from the agency menu to learn more about and apply to the job below.](#)

Veteran Housing Coordinator - The NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) Veteran Housing Coordinator (VHC) program provides peer-to-peer housing assistance for homeless veterans living within the five boroughs of New York City. This program is designed to help NYC reach and sustain "functional zero", the point at which veteran homelessness has effectively ended and there is a system in place to rapidly rehouse any new veteran entering the homeless system. The VHCs are at the front line in the ongoing citywide commitment to providing safe and affordable housing to every veteran that becomes homeless.

VA Work Study Positions at DVS

The NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) supports VA Work-Study Positions! Here is a current list of available VA Work-Study openings:

- [Administrative Intern](#)
- [Benefit Intern](#)
- [Care Coordination Intern](#)
- [Data Analyst Intern](#)
- [Information Technology Intern](#)
- [IT Support Intern](#)

- [Legal Intern](#)
- [Outreach Coordinator Intern](#)
- [Veteran Business Promotion Intern](#)

If you are interested in applying for a DVS-specific Work-Study position and meet eligibility requirements, please submit the following to VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov:

- Resume
- Job Specific Cover Letter
- Supporting Documents found in the Job Description

[Check Here for VA Work-Study Postings](#)

NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



Open Competitive Exams

Police Officer - Police Officers perform general police duties and related work in the New York City Police Department including connecting and building relationships with the community. They patrol an assigned area on foot or in a vehicle to prevent crime; apprehend crime suspects; intervene in various situations involving crimes in progress, aided cases, complaints, emotionally disturbed persons, etc.; respond to and investigate vehicular accidents; investigate specific offenses; interact with prisoners; operate and maintain patrol vehicles; issue summonses; obtain information regarding incidents by interviewing witnesses, victims, and/or complainants; safeguard and voucher found, seized or recovered property; provide information to the public; handle situations involving maltreated, abused, or missing children; interact with juveniles; may be assigned to crowd control for large-scale events such as demonstrations, rallies and parades; prepare forms and reports; and testify in court.

Plant Maintainer (Hospitals)/Oilers (NYC H+H) - Plant Maintainers (Hospitals)/Oilers (NYC H+H) perform the duties and functions of a Plant Maintainer (Hospitals)/Tender (NYC H+H) in a hospital or healthcare setting: may inspect, maintain, repair, and/or tend equipment used in heating, ventilating, refrigeration, air conditioning and related mechanical systems; inspect and read meters, gauges and other controls of operating equipment; may tend and/or operate stoker equipment, boilers and incinerator furnaces and related equipment; except that where equipment requires a New York City high pressure boiler or refrigeration mechanic operator's license, may assist in this function; may dismantle and/or assemble equipment associated with the heating, ventilating, refrigeration, air conditioning or mechanical systems and make operational; requisition parts as required; and maintain necessary work records and logs.

Steam Fitter - Steam Fitters perform work relating to installing, maintaining, and repairing piping, controls, and equipment for heating systems, compressed air systems, refrigerating systems, air conditioning systems, steam and hot water systems, fire suppression systems, cooling systems, and sprinkler systems. They install boilers, feedwater, vacuum and condensate equipment, fuel oil piping, and related auxiliary equipment; lay out work from plans, specifications, and sketches; may work with welding and brazing equipment; supervise the work of Steam Fitter's Helpers; and may drive a motor vehicle during work.

To receive monthly updates on upcoming civil service exams click the button below to be directed to the Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter page. On the registration form, select "City Jobs and Civil Service Announcements".

[Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter Here](#)

Programs and Initiatives

Affordable Housing For Veterans



The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) maintains a list of federal, state, and city programs that offers a limited, but selective list of affordable housing options for veterans seeking financial relief for their housing arrangements. Visit our [Affordable Housing for Veterans](#) page to learn more.

Empowering Veteran Business Owners



The primary mission of the [VBLA](#) is to serve Veterans seeking support and assistance with running a business and in their pursuit of New York City Government contracting opportunities. Our leadership association engages with the private sector, government, advisory board, and local partners to build a consortium that

facilitates the growth and development of Veteran Businesses.

VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship

DVS has launched [VetBizNYC](#), an interactive map that identifies Veteran-owned businesses across the five boroughs. New Yorkers can use our interactive map to find and support Veteran-owned businesses in their community.



Are You Getting the Benefits You Deserve?

The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) represents NYC Veterans in claims for benefits from the [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#). Our team is also qualified to assist with PACT Act related claims. If you had a toxic exposure during your service, time is crucial for you to get the benefits you deserve. To file a claim, fill out the [VetConnectNYC.org](#) form and select **Benefits Navigation** as your preferred service.



VetConnectPro: A First-in-the-Nation Employment Tool



[VetConnectPro](#), is a new employment tool designed to help Veterans find employment within NYC government. The platform features a military skills translator that can match your service experience and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) to City jobs and civil service exams. Upload your resume and get started today: nyc.gov/vetconnectpro.

Newsletter Sign-up

If you received this newsletter by way of a friend or colleague and have yet to sign-up on your own, click [here](#), and stay up-to-date with the latest news impacting the community, updates on city services, info on DVS programs, Veteran-specific resources & more.

Contact Us

- Complete a service request form at vetconnectnyc.org
- [Message the Commissioner](#)
- [Partner with DVS](#)
- [Press Inquiries](#)
- [Event Request Form](#)

Stay tuned on our website www.nyc.gov/vets and social media platforms [@nycveterans](#), or via email at connect@veterans.nyc.gov.