

MILITARY #4



NEW MEXICO STATE CONFERENCE

LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO April 28, 2007



RESOLUTION ESCUADRON 201

WHEREAS, El Escuadron 201 (also known as the "The Aztec Eagles") was a Mexican Fighter Squadron, part of the Fuerza Aerea Expedicionaria Mexicana (FAEM-Mexican Expeditionary Air Force") that aided the Allied war effort during WW II.

WHEREAS, The Aztec Eagles were attached to the 58th Fighter Group of the United States Army Forces during the liberation of the main Philippine Island of Luzon in the summer of 1945.

WHEREAS, the pilots flew P-47D "Thunderbolt" single-seat fighter aircraft carrying out tactical air support missions.

WHEREAS, Escuadron 201 was composed of more than 300 volunteers - 36 experienced pilots and the rest ground crews who trained at Majors Field in Greenville, Texas on November 30, 1944 for advanced training in combat air tactics, formation flying and gunnery.

WHEREAS, In June 1945, the squadron initially flew missions with the 58th FG's 310 Fighter Squadron and flew more than 90 combat missions, totaling more than 1,900 hours of flight time. They participated in the Allied effort to bomb Luzon and Formosa to push the Japanese out of those islands. During their fighting in the Philippines, 5 pilots died (one was shot down, one crashed and three ran out of fuel and died at sea.)

WHEREAS, when the 58th Fighter Group left the Philippines for Okinawa on July 10, the Mexicans stayed behind. They flew their last combat missions as a full squadron on August 26, escorting a convoy north of the Philippines. The 201st returned to Mexico City in November 1945.

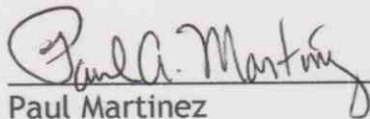
WHEREAS, The 201st Fighter Squadron was commended by General Douglas MacArthur.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT: The United States of America and the Legislature honor Escuadron 201 by awarding the fighter group the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award bestowed by the federal legislature. The Congressional Gold Medal, equivalent to the Presidential Medal of Freedom, is awarded to individuals or groups for singular acts of exceptional service and lifetime achievements.

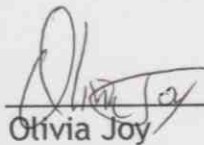
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: By awarding such a prestigious medal will instill pride in the members of Escuadron 201 and give proper recognition by the United States to the Mexican pilots and their ground crews for their contribution and their losses in defending the United States in WWII in the Philippines in 1945.

SUBMITTED BY: Alfredo Lugo, Member New Mexico LULAC Council 120

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand for the League of United Latin America Citizens, New Mexico this 28th day of April, 2007



Paul Martinez
State Director
New Mexico League of United Latin American Citizens



Olivia Joy
State Secretary



Active	July 24, 1944
Country	Mexico
Loyalty	Mexican Air Force (FAM)
Branch	Fuerza Aerea Expedicionaria Mexicana
Type	Fighter-bomber squadron
Role	Air support
Size	25 P-47 aircraft, 36 pilots, 300 personnel
Part of	US. Fifth Air Force
Battles/wars	Battle of Luzon

Escuadrón 201	
Combat Missions	96
Offensive sorties	785
Defensive sorties	6
Flying Hours in Combat	1,966:15
Flying Hours in Combat Zone	591:00
Pre-Combat Flying Hours	281:00
Flying Hours per Pilot	82
Total Flying Hours	2,842:00
Bombs Dropped	1,000 lb: 957 500 lb: 500
Ammo Used (cal. 0.50")	166,922
Planes Lost in Combat	1
Planes Damaged in Combat	5
Pilots Lost in Combat	1
Pilots Lost in Accidents	Crash-landing 1 Fuel exhaustion 3