



General Assembly

***Substitute House Joint
Resolution No. 6***

January Session, 2025



***RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE 6888TH CENTRAL
POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION.***

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, in November 1944, the United States War Department
2 lifted the ban on African-American and Latina women serving in the
3 Women's Army Corps, leading to the formation of the 6888th Central
4 Postal Directory Battalion; and

5 WHEREAS, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was a
6 unique unit of the United States Army in that said unit had the
7 distinction of being the only battalion deployed to the European Theater
8 of Operations during World War II predominantly composed of
9 African-American and Latina women; and

10 WHEREAS, eight hundred fifty-five African-American and Latina
11 women, consisting of eight hundred twenty-four enlisted personnel and
12 thirty-one officers, served in "the Six Triple-Eight", which was
13 commissioned from February 1945 to March 1946; and

14 WHEREAS, the specific mission of the 6888th Battalion was to sort
15 and clear a multiyear backlog of mail for members of the United States
16 Army, Navy and Air Force, American Red Cross workers and
17 uniformed civilian specialists, who were stationed in Europe,

18 representing roughly seven million persons awaiting mail; and

19 WHEREAS, the 6888th Battalion trained at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia,
20 and learned to identify enemy aircraft, ships and weapons, to climb
21 ropes, jump trenches and crawl under logs wearing gas masks, to board
22 and evacuate ships and to march long distances with rucksacks; and

23 WHEREAS, in February 1945, the first of the 6888th Battalion
24 embarked from Camp Shank, New York, to sail across the Atlantic
25 Ocean aboard the *Ile de France*, during which voyage said ship survived
26 close encounters with German U-boats and a German V-1 rocket
27 explosion near the dock upon arrival in Glasgow, Scotland; and

28 WHEREAS, upon reaching Birmingham, England, by train, the
29 6888th Battalion was met with warehouses stacked to their ceilings with
30 letters and packages; and

31 WHEREAS, despite enduring air raids and inhumane working
32 conditions in dark, unheated and rat-infested aircraft hangars with
33 broken windows, the 6888th Battalion developed a new mail tracking
34 system, worked seven days a week in three separate eight-hour shifts to
35 process an average of sixty-five thousand parcels each shift and cleared
36 a six-month backlog in three months; and

37 WHEREAS, the 6888th Battalion then traveled to its next assignment
38 in Rouen, France, where it encountered undelivered mail dating as far
39 back as three years and proceeded to successfully process and clear that
40 backlog in three months; and

41 WHEREAS, upon conclusion of its final assignment in Paris, France,
42 the last of the 6888th Battalion returned to the United States aboard the
43 *Claymont Victory*, and said battalion was disbanded in March 1946 at
44 Fort Dix, New Jersey, with no parade, public appreciation or official
45 recognition of its accomplishments; and

46 WHEREAS, the 6888th Battalion adhered to its motto of "No mail,
47 low morale" and provided essential support to the United States

48 military in Europe by connecting servicemembers to their loved ones
49 back home, thereby achieving unprecedented success and efficiency in
50 overcoming the military's postal problems; and

51 WHEREAS, the 6888th Battalion was the largest contingent of
52 African-American and Latina women to ever serve overseas, dispelled
53 stereotypes and represented a change in racial and gender roles in the
54 military; and

55 WHEREAS, on February 25, 2009, the 6888th Battalion was honored
56 by President Barack Obama at the Women in Military Service for
57 America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery; and

58 WHEREAS, on November 30, 2018, a monument inscribed "Women
59 of Determination, Dedication and Distinction" was dedicated to the
60 6888th Battalion at the Buffalo Soldier Commemorative Area in Fort
61 Leavenworth, Kansas; and

62 WHEREAS, the 6888th Battalion was awarded the Women's Army
63 Corps Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign
64 Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory
65 Medal.

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General
67 Assembly hereby recognizes the 6888th Central Postal Directory
68 Battalion and honors said battalion for its outstanding contributions to
69 the United States military during World War II.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*