

By Senator Davis

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion for their unwavering service to the United States Army and its personnel during World War II.

WHEREAS, organized in late 1944, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was an all-black unit of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and the only such WAC unit to be stationed overseas during World War II, and

WHEREAS, the "Six Triple Eight," as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was known, consisted of five companies, totaling 855 women, and was led by Major Charity Adams, and

WHEREAS, more than 3.3 billion pieces of mail went through military postal services to the front lines in 1945 alone, yet a lack of qualified postal officers led to a backlog of more than 17 million pieces of mail and packages, many often mislabeled or incorrectly addressed, and

WHEREAS, the lack of communication from families, friends, and loved ones in the United States was having a measurable impact on troop morale on the front lines, with some personnel not having received mail in years, and

WHEREAS, while assigned to Birmingham, England, the Six Triple Eight had 6 months to complete the task of sorting, cataloguing, and delivering the backlog of mail, and

WHEREAS, despite working in derelict buildings in dangerous territory, without adequate lighting or heat, the women of the Six Triple Eight worked around the clock, sorting roughly

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30 195,000 pieces of mail a day, and completed their assignment in
31 90 days, and

32 WHEREAS, the women of the Six Triple Eight accomplished
33 this extraordinary feat while overcoming segregation, meager
34 rations, and harsh conditions, outperforming other Army units
35 that took weeks to address the same accumulation of mail, and

36 WHEREAS, in June 1945, the Six Triple Eight was relocated
37 to Rouen, France, to continue its mission, beginning its work a
38 few weeks after victory was declared in Europe, and the women
39 cleared a similarly sized mail backlog as quickly as they did in
40 England, and

41 WHEREAS, the Six Triple Eight was awarded the Congressional
42 Gold Medal by President Joe Biden on March 14, 2022, a
43 recognition of the battalion's training and meritorious service
44 which also acknowledged the racism and sexism of the times, and

45 WHEREAS, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion's
46 efficiency, dedication, and hard work was a valuable and
47 essential wartime service to the United States, especially to
48 the many thousands of soldiers and their families, NOW,
49 THEREFORE,

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51 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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53 That the Senate recognizes the women of the 6888th Central
54 Postal Directory Battalion for their unwavering service to the
55 United States Army and its personnel during World War II.