

HR 8021

2025

House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the 80th anniversary of the
6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

WHEREAS, recruiting began in late 1944 for the 6888th
Central Postal Directory Battalion, 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, who were deployed to the
European theater in 1945, 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, at least 23 women of the 6888th Central Postal
Directory Battalion were Florida residents, including:
Technician Fifth Grade Edna Cross Burton; Sergeant Gladys
Selucia Clayton; Private First Class Beatrice Cosey; Private
Thelma Ann Duncan; Private Ruby Leania Everett; Private Jennie
Lee Fayson; Private First Class Burnadine Flanagan; Corporal
Jessie Lee Godboldte; Private Sarah L. Greenlee; Staff Sergeant
Dena M. Hutchins; Private Florida Bell Jackson; Private First
Class Elizabeth Ola Lamb; Staff Sergeant Fannie Boyd Little;
Private Josie M. Lowe; Corporal Marion Mackey; Private Erma
Louise Rodriguez; Corporal Dannie M. Singleton; Staff Sergeant
Elaine O. Smith; Private First Class Florita Davis Smith;

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26 Private Geneva Iona Smith; Technician Fifth Grade Essie M.
27 Watts; Private Willie Mae Williams; and Private First Class
28 Ethel Mae Wingo, and

29 WHEREAS, many sergeants of the 6888th Central Postal
30 Directory Battalion were trained as medical technicians, having
31 worked in hospitals before their selection for the battalion,
32 and

33 WHEREAS, more than 3.3 billion pieces of mail went through
34 military postal services to the front lines in 1945 alone, yet a
35 lack of qualified postal officers led to a backlog of more than
36 17 million pieces of mail and packages, many often mislabeled or
37 incorrectly addressed, and

38 WHEREAS, the lack of communication from families, friends,
39 and loved ones in the United States was having a measurable
40 impact on troop morale on the front lines, with some personnel
41 not having received mail in more than 6 months, and

42 WHEREAS, to eliminate the impact that the lack of
43 communication was having on troop morale, the 6888th Central
44 Postal Directory Battalion was assigned to Birmingham, England
45 and the battalion had 6 months to complete the task of sorting,
46 cataloguing, and delivering the backlog of mail, and

47 WHEREAS, despite working in derelict buildings in dangerous
48 territory, without adequate lighting or heat, the women of the
49 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion worked around the

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50 clock, sorting roughly 195,000 pieces of mail a day, and
51 completed their assignment in 90 days, and

52 WHEREAS, the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory
53 Battalion accomplished this extraordinary feat while overcoming
54 segregation, meager rations, and harsh conditions, and

55 WHEREAS, in June 1945, the 6888th Central Postal Directory
56 Battalion was relocated to Rouen, France, to continue its
57 mission, beginning its work a few weeks after victory was
58 declared in Europe, and the women cleared a similarly sized mail
59 backlog as quickly as they did in England, and

60 WHEREAS, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was
61 awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2022, a recognition of
62 the battalion's training and meritorious service which also
63 acknowledged the racism and sexism of the times, and

64 WHEREAS, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion's
65 efficiency, dedication, and hard work provided a valuable and
66 essential wartime service to the United States, especially to
67 the many thousands of soldiers and their families, NOW,
68 THEREFORE,

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70 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
71 Florida:

72
73 That, in recognition of the battalion's 80th anniversary,
74 the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion are

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75 | commended for their unwavering service to the United States Army
76 | and its personnel during World War II.