



SPONSOR: Rep. K. Johnson & Sen. Pinkney & Rep. Baumbach & Rep. Briggs King & Rep. Carson & Rep. Hilovsky & Rep. Osienski & Rep. K. Williams & Rep. Wilson-Anton & Sen. Hansen & Sen. Mantzavinos & Sen. Pettyjohn & Sen. Sokola & Sen. Townsend
Reps. Bush, Dorsey Walker, Griffith, Neal, Schwartzkopf, Spiegelman; Sens. Brown, Buckson, Gay, Hocker, Hoffner, Huxtable, Lawson, Lockman, S. McBride, Paradee, Poore, Richardson, Surgeon, Walsh, Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE 6888TH CENTRAL POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION OF THE WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS.

1 WHEREAS, in November 1944, the U.S. War Department lifted the ban on African-American women in the
2 Women's Army Corps (WACs), leading to the formation of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion; and

3 WHEREAS, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was a unique U.S. Army unit that had the distinction of
4 being the only all African-American, all-female battalion to be deployed to the European Theater of Operations (ETO) during
5 World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, 855 African-American women - 824 enlisted and 31 officers - served in the 6888th Central Postal
7 Directory Battalion (nicknamed the "Six Triple Eight"), and the 6888th Battalion was commissioned from February 1945 to
8 March 1946; and

9 WHEREAS, the specific mission of the 6888th Battalion in World War II was to sort and clear a multi-year backlog
10 of mail for American Army, Navy, Air Force, Red Cross and uniformed civilian specialists who were stationed in Europe,
11 and this represented seven million people awaiting mail; and

12 WHEREAS, the 6888th Battalion trained at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and learned to identify enemy aircraft, ships
13 and weapons; to climb ropes, jump trenches and crawl under logs wearing gas masks; to board and evacuate ships; and to do
14 long marches with rucksacks; and

15 WHEREAS, in February 1945, the first contingent of the 6888th embarked from Camp Shank, New York to sail for
16 Britain, and their ship, the *Ile de France*, survived close encounters with Nazi U-boats and arrived in Glasgow, Scotland,
17 where a German V-1 rocket exploded near the dock, causing the women to run for cover; and

18 WHEREAS, upon arrival by train in Birmingham, England, the Battalion confronted warehouses stacked to the
19 ceiling with letters and packages; and

20 WHEREAS, despite enduring inhumane working conditions (dark, unheated, rat-infested aircraft hangars with
21 broken windows) and air raids, the Battalion created a new mail tracking system, worked 3 separate 8-hour shifts, 7 days per
22 week to process an average of 65,000 parcels per shift (195,000 daily) and cleared the six-month backlog of mail in 3 months;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, having resolved the immense mail backlog in Birmingham, the 6888th Battalion sailed to France for
25 their next assignment in Rouen, where they encountered undelivered mail dating back two to three years, which the Battalion
26 successfully processed and cleared in 3 months; and

27 WHEREAS, after concluding their final assignment in Paris, the last of the Battalion returned to the United States
28 aboard the ship *Claymont Victory* and was disbanded in March 1946 at Fort Dix, New Jersey, with no parades, public
29 appreciation or official recognition of their accomplishments; and

30 WHEREAS, the Battalion adhered to the motto “No mail, low morale” and provided essential support to the U.S.
31 military in the European Theater by linking service members to their loved ones back home, thereby achieving unprecedented
32 success and efficiency in solving the military’s postal problems; and

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

35 WHEREAS, on February 25, 2009, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was honored by President Barack
36 Obama at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery; and

37 WHEREAS, on November 30, 2018, a monument, inscribed “Women of Determination, Dedication and Distinction”
38 was dedicated to the 6888th Battalion at the Buffalo Soldier Memorial Park at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and

39 WHEREAS, the 6888th Battalion was awarded the Women’s Army Corps Service Medal, the European African
40 Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal; and

41 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Army awarded the 6888th Battalion the Meritorious Unit Commendation; and

42 WHEREAS, on March 14, 2022, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to members of the Women’s Army
43 Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Battalion; and

44 WHEREAS, four members of the 6888th Battalion were residents of the State of Delaware at the time of enlistment:
45 CPL Grace Evelyn Bryant (Elbert), 1917-2000; CPL Edith Marguerete Carter, 1918-2000; PVT Mary Crawford (Ragland),
46 1922-2010; and PVT Evelina Rachel Griffin, 1917-1988.

47 NOW, THEREFORE:

48 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 152nd General assembly of the State of Delaware, the
49 Senate concurring therein, recognizes the contributions that the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion made to the United
50 States and offers gratitude for their outstanding efforts during World War II.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members do hereby acknowledge the service of then-Delaware residents CPL
52 Grace Evelyn Bryant (Elbert), CPL Edith Marguerete Carter, PVT Mary Crawford (Ragland) and PVT Evelina Rachel
53 Griffin.

SYNOPSIS

This Resolution honors the contributions of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion of the Women's Army Corps.