



General Assembly

**House Joint Resolution  
No. 22**

*January Session, 2023*

LCO No. 3643



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND 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 exclusively composed of African-  
9 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.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. BAKER, 124th Dist.

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