



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
8 Theater of Operations during World War II exclusively 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
12 and 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,
20 Georgia, and learned to identify enemy aircraft, ships and weapons, to
21 climb ropes, jump trenches and crawl under logs wearing gas masks,
22 to board and evacuate ships and to march long distances with
23 rucksacks; and

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

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

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

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

42 WHEREAS, upon conclusion of its final assignment in Paris, France,
43 the last of the 6888th Battalion returned to the United States aboard the
44 *Claymont Victory*, and said battalion was disbanded in March 1946 at

45 Fort Dix, New Jersey, with no parade, public appreciation or official
46 recognition of its accomplishments; and

47 WHEREAS, the 6888th Battalion adhered to its motto of "No mail,
48 low morale" and provided essential support to the United States
49 military in Europe by connecting servicemembers to their loved ones
50 back home, thereby achieving unprecedented success and efficiency in
51 overcoming the military's postal problems; and

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

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

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

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

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

VA *Joint Favorable*