

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory
2 Battalion for its outstanding service to the United States during World War II.

3 WHEREAS, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, also known as "the Six
4 Triple Eight", was the first and only all-female, African American unit in the Women's
5 Army Corps to be deployed overseas during World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, 855 African American women, both enlisted and officers, served with
7 distinction in the European Theater of Operations after the United States War Department
8 lifted the ban on African American women serving in the Women's Army Corps; and

9 WHEREAS, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt encouraged the military to create
10 impactful positions for African American women in which to serve, and there was a
11 significant shortage of postal workers in the European Theater. This shortage allowed for
12 the utilization of the new unit; and

13 WHEREAS, after training at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, "the Six Triple Eight" was
14 given the mission to organize and clear a prolonged backlog of mail for nearly seven
15 million service members representing the United States Army, Navy, Air Force,
16 uniformed civilian specialists, and American Red Cross workers stationed in Europe
17 during World War II; and

18 WHEREAS, under the command of Major Charity Adams, "the Six Triple Eight"
19 was deployed in February 1945, and arrived in Birmingham, England, where they
20 discovered warehouses overflowing with millions of mail pieces and packages that were
21 stacked from the floor to the ceiling. Much of the mail was difficult to sort due to its
22 being addressed only to first names or nicknames; and

23 WHEREAS, "the Six Triple Eight" worked in difficult conditions that involved
24 both racism and sexism. In addition, they had a poor work environment that included rats,
25 no heat, minimal lighting, and military air raids; and

26 WHEREAS, despite these brutal circumstances, "the Six Triple Eight" was a self-
27 sufficient unit that consisted of postal clerks, cooks, mechanics, and other support

1 positions, all who operated under the motto "No mail, low morale." They devised their
2 own system of sorting the parcels that involved three shifts working around the clock,
3 turning a six-month backlog into an astounding three-month delivery; and

4 WHEREAS, "the Six Triple Eight" received its next assignment in Rouen, France,
5 to complete a similar job, except that this mail was dating as far back as three years.
6 However, despite this monumental task, they proceeded to successfully process and clear
7 it three months ahead of schedule; and

8 WHEREAS, the efficient delivery of mail by "the Six Triple Eight" Battalion
9 significantly boosted troop morale, strengthened the connection between service
10 members and their loved ones, and contributed materially to the overall effectiveness of
11 the United States Armed Forces during the war; and

12 WHEREAS, in February 1946, "the Six Triple Eight" returned to the United States
13 and was disbanded at Fort Dix, New Jersey, with no further fanfare or official recognition
14 of its accomplishments; and

15 WHEREAS, "the Six Triple Eight" was the largest contingent of African American
16 women to ever serve overseas, and during their service they dispelled stereotypes and
17 represented a change in racial and gender roles in the military. They were recognized for
18 their efforts not instantly, but decades later, being awarded the Women's Army Corps
19 Service Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern
20 Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. In 2022, President Joseph R.
21 Biden signed a bill granting the Congressional Gold Medal to the women of the 6888th
22 Battalion; and

23 WHEREAS, at least 18 women from Kentucky served in the 6888th Central Postal
24 Directory Battalion, including Technician Henrietta G. Adams, Corporal Jennetta
25 Schooler Blythe, Private 1st Class Emma H. Brock, Private Effie Chambers, Corporal
26 Alberta Coleman, Private Venus B. Cox, Private 1st Class Minnie Grace Cross,
27 Technician Marilyn E. Gill, Corporal Ruth Henrielle Hammond, Staff Sergeant Norene

1 Harris, Private 1st Class Vivian G. Hayden, Private Julia M. Jackson, Private 1st Class
2 Sara Elizabeth Longmire, Private Grant Esther Marshall, Private Evelyn Eva Miller,
3 Private 1st Class Carrie Ethel Nelson, Private 1st Class Adele Ricketts, and Private Nettie
4 Mae Saunders; and

5 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth admires the nobility of the Kentucky daughters
6 who selflessly and admirably served the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, honoring the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion acknowledges
8 not only their military excellence, but their perseverance, professionalism, and patriotism
9 in the face of widespread discrimination;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

11 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
12 ***Kentucky:***

13 ➔Section 1. The Senate honors and commends the 6888th Central Postal
14 Directory Battalion for its outstanding service to the United States during World War II;

15 ➔Section 2. The Senate recognizes and expresses its profound gratitude to the
16 members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion and their families for their
17 lasting contributions to military history, racial equality, and the advancement of women
18 in the Armed Forces.

19 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
20 Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal.