

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 867

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion and celebrating Black History Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself and Ms. MOORE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion and celebrating Black History Month.

Whereas, since 1976, the United States has celebrated Black History Month each February to seize the opportunity to honor the accomplishments of African Americans in every area of endeavor throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States honor the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (referred to in this preamble as the “6888th”), which was the first and only African-American unit in the Women’s Army Corps to deploy overseas during World War II;

Whereas the 6888th consisted of 855 Black women, both enlisted and officers, who served honorably in Europe dur-

ing World War II from February 1945 to February 1946;

Whereas First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt encouraged the military to provide meaningful positions for Black women to serve in the war overseas;

Whereas during World War II there was a significant shortage of postal workers across the European Theater;

Whereas the 6888th was a self-sufficient unit consisting mainly of postal clerks, but also cooks, mechanics, and other support positions;

Whereas the 6888th trained at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and deployed overseas to Birmingham, England, in February 1945;

Whereas once the 6888th arrived in Birmingham, they were met with rooms full of mail stacked from floor to ceiling, dating as far back as 2 years;

Whereas much of the mail was difficult to sort, often only addressed to first names or nicknames;

Whereas the 6888th devised a system to handle the backlog and worked in 3 shifts around-the-clock, sorting millions of pieces of mail;

Whereas the project was estimated to take 6 months to complete, but the battalion finished the task in an impressive 3 months in May 1945;

Whereas the 6888th went on to Rouen and Paris, France, to address other backlogs of mail as old as 3 years, again with remarkable speed, accuracy, and professionalism;

Whereas members of the 6888th were awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal,

and the World War II Victory Medal during their service;
and

Whereas Black History Month provides all individuals in the United States an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of African Americans, including the remarkable service of the 6888th: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) during Black History Month encourages all
3 individuals in the United States to celebrate the his-
4 tory of the United States and the important accom-
5 plishments and contributions of African Americans;
6 and

7 (2) appreciates the contributions of and sac-
8 rifices made by the soldiers of the Women’s Army
9 Corps assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Direc-
10 tory Battalion during World War II, who served
11 honorably and are members of the “Greatest Gen-
12 eration”.

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