

H. R. BILL 1012: 6888th CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Reason for Contact

To call urgent attention to H.R. Bill 1012—before the break—asking you to **co-sponsor this bill** authorizing the **Congressional Gold Medal for the WWII 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion**. Senate Bill 321 passed April 2021, authorizing a Gold Medal for this distinguished unit of military women veterans.

Why Action is Needed NOW

There are only *six known surviving women* of the 6888th, all between 97 and 102 years of age and some in declining health.

Why the Need: More than 75 years have passed without the 6888th being adequately recognized and honored by their Country, Army or Congress.

What is Needed: An additional 28 co-sponsors for the required 290, two-thirds majority.

About The 6888th: The only **all-Black Women Army Corps (WAC) unit deployed overseas during WWII**. Consisted of 855 women from **40 states**. Trained at Fort Oglethorpe, GA from Nov 1944 to Jan 1945 and departed Fort Shanks, NY in Feb 1945. Returned home in Mar 1946 and were immediately deactivated at Fort Dix, NJ with no fanfare, accolades, or parade.

The 6888th Mission: Due to **over two years of backlogged mail** in England and France, soldiers and their families were not getting letters and packages. General Patton complained to President Eisenhower about the negative impact on the morale of all military and civilian personnel in Europe. The 6888th was formed and sent to clear the nearly **18-million-piece backlog** in England and millions more in France. In England, large mail bags were stacked to the ceiling in aircraft hangar-size warehouses and buildings that were cold, dingy, poorly lit, smelly, and rodent infested from rotting packages with food from home.

What the 6888th Accomplished: Despite working under harsh conditions, segregation, and gender discrimination, they committed to their mission and motto, **“No Mail, Low Morale,”** and . . .

- a. “Broke all army records sorting mail,” said LTC Anna W. Wilson, WAC Staff Director, Europe.
- b. Completed a six-month Army task in only three months by working 24 hours, 7 days a week.
- c. Sorted an average of 5.85 million parcels monthly, compared to the 624,000 done by a White unit.
- d. Collected and donated \$4,503.70 to the United Negro College Fund.

A detailed **6888th Fact Packet** is available upon request. The official website **WomenOfThe6888th.org** contains info, articles, videos, a photo gallery, and images from the 6888th Monument dedication.



Source: National Archives

Thank you for your consideration and action.

CONTACT:

Dixie Thompson	(702)436-6796	sgtdixie@gmail.com
Elizabeth Helm-Frazier	(240) 604-2400	DEEfiveAT@outlook.com
Carlton G. Philpot	(816) 679-1734	atf96ff1081@gmail.com