



Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Sponsor Testimony - Senate Bill 17

Senator Michele Reynolds and Senator Hearcel F. Craig

House General Government Committee

April 8, 2025

Chair Ray, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Brent, and other members of the House General Government Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify about Senate Bill 17. I am honored to bring forth this historic legislation with my joint sponsor, Senator Reynolds.

It is imperative that we recognize the bravery and courage of the 688th battalion. The Six Triple Eight served overseas during World War II, the only unit made up of women of color within the Women's Army Corps to do so. They were tasked with delivering mail to our soldiers on the front lines. At the time, there was an estimated backlog of 17 million parcels of mail that had not been delivered. Important military letters had been delayed, leading to miscommunication among military leaders and our soldiers had spent several months fighting the Nazi army, without having heard from their friends and family.

Generals and military leadership knew that morale was low, and it became vital to the war effort to ensure that this mail was delivered. The motto of the Six Triple Eight became, "No mail, Low Morale." A motto that these women took seriously, and they worked diligently to combat low morale among the troops. The 688th battalion was given six months to complete their task, but they worked day and night, and completed their first mission in only three months. The Battalion pulled off the same feat twice more before they left Europe.

Their efforts helped solve a serious problem during a critical time for the Allied powers. The 6888th battalion was vital to our victory against the Nazis, and upon returning home to the United States, they were never given public recognition for their service. The U.S. military utilized the efforts and abilities of hundreds of women of color, and they were given no recognition for their bravery and contributions to the United States and to the collective history of the world.

We have introduced this legislation to honor and celebrate the 6888th battalion and we hope that their legacy is never forgotten.

This bill was unanimously passed out of the Senate. Thank you, Chair Ray, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Brent, for allowing us the opportunity to testify. We humbly urge this committee to support this significant piece of legislation and designate March 9th as “6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day.”

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.