



Representative Melanie Miller  
Ohio House District 67

House Veterans and Military Development Committee  
House Bill 204 – Sponsor Testimony  
Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairwoman Richardson, Vice-Chair Matthews, Ranking Member Hall and members of the House Veterans and Military Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity for Representative White and I to present our sponsor testimony on House Bill 204, legislation which designates the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March in Ohio as 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion Day.

The 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion, nicknamed the “Six Triple Eight” was an all-Black battalion of the US Women’s Army Corps that managed postal services. The “Six Triple Eight” included 855 women and was led by Major Charity Adams, the highest ranking black female officer in the US Army in World War II. It was the only all Black US Women’s Army Corp sent overseas during World War II.

I would like to take a moment to highlight why it is important that we remember and honor the 6888<sup>th</sup>

- **A Critical Mission:** This remarkable group of women worked 7 days a week, in 3 shifts, processing and delivering mail to the troops fighting in Europe. Each shift handled an estimated 65,000 pieces of mail. In total, the unit handled mail for over 4 million military and civilian personnel and untangled massive mail backlogs in the UK and France, proving that no task was too big for them.
- **Unsung Heroes:** Their efforts were crucial to maintaining the morale of soldiers who were depending on mail for connection with home, yet their contribution was largely overlooked and unacknowledged at the time.
- **Pioneers in Service:** The women served at a time when racial segregation was the law, and opportunities for women outside the domestic sphere were limited.
- **Overcoming Obstacles:** They faced prejudice and discrimination within the military and in the communities they served, persevering and excelling in their mission.
- **A Legacy of Service:** Their dedication and hard work demonstrated the strength, resilience, and capability of women in service to their country.

On February 27, 1946, the “Six Triple Eight” boarded the Claymont Victory for its return to the United States. The battalion was disbanded on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1946, at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

These remarkable women are worthy of recognition as the unsung heroes of WWII. They preserved through numerous obstacles and challenges, making the impossible possible, and, accomplishing the mission critical task that boosted the moral of the American people and American soldiers. This legislation is also a salute to all of our service men and women who have served and are currently serving the United States of America.

On behalf of Representative White and myself, we ask that you give favorable consideration to House Bill 204. We will do our best to answer any questions you may have.