

Testimony of Charlynda Scales *In Support of House Bill 204* 136th General Assembly

Good afternoon Chairperson, members of the committee, and distinguished guests.

My name is **Charlynda Scales**, and it is an honor to speak before you today in support of **House Bill 204**, which designates March 9th as **6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day**.

I speak to you as a fourth-generation military veteran, a serial entrepreneur, and the Executive Director of the OH Taste Foundation, which created the **6888 “Six Triple Eight” Kitchen Incubator** in Dayton, Ohio. Our commercial kitchen honors the legacy of the women of the 6888th by empowering food entrepreneurs with the same values these women lived: courage, resilience, and service.

The **Six Triple Eight** was the only all-minority women’s battalion deployed overseas in World War II. These courageous women were tasked with clearing a massive backlog of undelivered mail, over 17 million pieces, and completed their mission ahead of schedule. Their efforts restored communication for American troops, boosted morale across war-torn Europe, and demonstrated excellence in leadership and logistics.

It was one of the greatest honors of my life to meet **Judith and Stanley**, the children of **Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Early**, the commanding officer of the battalion. As Ohioans, we are especially proud that Lt. Col. Early was from Dayton, and her leadership is a legacy we continue to uplift through our work at the 6888 Kitchen.

Most recently, the cofounders of our kitchen incubator were **invited to witness the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony** for the 6888th Central Postal Battalion in Washington, D.C. It was a powerful and emotional moment, standing among fellow Americans as we finally gave these women the credit they deserved for their extraordinary service to our country.

By passing **House Bill 204**, Ohio can permanently recognize these trailblazers, not just in our nation’s history, but right here in the home state of their commander. This bill will ensure future generations know the names, faces, and contributions of the 6888th.

I respectfully urge your support for House Bill 204. Thank you for your time and commitment to honoring this vital piece of American history.