



Hearcel F. Craig

State Senator

15th District

Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 17

Ohio Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee

January 29th, 2025

Thank you, Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, and other members of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee for allowing me to testify on 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 6888th 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." This was a motto that these women took seriously, and they worked diligently to combat low morale among the troops. The 6888th Battalion was given six months to complete their task, but they worked day and night to complete 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 the public recognition they deserved 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 or contributions to our country and 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.

Thank you, Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, and members of the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify. I humbly urge this committee to support this significant piece of legislation and designate March 9th as “6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day.”