

## **Testimony of Charlynda Scales**

In Support of Senate Bill 17

136th General Assembly

February 12, 2025

Good afternoon Senator Reynolds, 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 Senate Bill 17, designating March 9th as 6888th Central Postal Battalion Day. I come before you as a fourth-generation veteran, a serial entrepreneur, the founder of Mutt's Sauce, and now as the Executive Director of the OH Taste Foundation, which built the 6888 "Six Triple Eight" Kitchen Incubator—a commercial kitchen in Dayton Ohio dedicated to empowering food entrepreneurs, inspired by the remarkable women we seek to honor today.

The Six Triple Eight was a trailblazing unit of minority women who served in World War II, ensuring that millions of letters reached American troops across Europe. Faced with an overwhelming backlog of undelivered mail, they completed their mission ahead of schedule, proving the power of determination, faith, patriotism, dedication to excellence, and teamwork.

One of the greatest honors of my life has been meeting Judith and Early, the children of Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Early, who led the battalion with grace and excellence. I was humbled to share with them how my cofounders and I honor their mother's legacy through the 6888 Kitchen Incubator just as their mother provided leadership that ensured her unit's success. Their support and presence at our kitchen reaffirmed how important it is to keep this history alive and to continue paying it forward.

As a veteran, I deeply respect the spirit of service and sacrifice these women embodied. Their mission was more than just delivering letters—it was about strengthening morale, fostering unity, and demonstrating the impact of women in leadership. By establishing March 9th as 6888th Central Postal Battalion Day, we ensure that their contributions are permanently woven into our nation's history, inspiring generations to come.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 17 and join me in honoring the incredible legacy of the Six Triple Eight. Thank you for your time and consideration.