

**Sponsor testimony by Former State Representative Adam C. Miller in support of Ohio
State Senate Bill 17, "6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day."**

February 11, 2025

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson and Ranking Member Weinstein,

Thank you, Chair, and former legislative colleagues. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill (SB) 17, important legislation that lifts up the amazing true story of Women's Army Corps patriots who made such groundbreaking and unique contributions to the winning Allied War effort in WWII's European theater.

At the end of the last G.A., Sen. Blackshear and I were joint sponsors of HB 278. That measure had the same purpose as the worthy legislation Sens. Craig and Reynolds have put before this Committee today: set March 9 as a special Day to remember, honor, celebrate, and educate Ohioans about the 6888 Central Postal Directory BN. Ohioans have played such a key role in our nation, and we are all familiar with the likes of Generals Grant, Sherman, and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker. But we MUST remember the extraordinary military historic & groundbreaking service of the African American women who served in the 6888 Central Postal Director Battalion. Their story is equally deserving of honor and respect.

I can tell you, firsthand, how important support from home is when serving overseas. Today we have email and the internet, and while not always reliable in theaters, it is so important for troops to hear from their loved ones. It was no different in World War II.

As you know, women were nowhere near combat roles in WWII and President Truman did not integrate the troops until 1947. So, a battalion of all African American women drawn from the WAC, the Army Service Forces, and the Army Air Forces was quite something, particularly when we were fighting an enemy who believed in racial supremacy.

And despite all the challenges, the women of the 6888 BN cleared a 6-month backlog of mail within 3 months. Millions of letters. 65,000 letters a day. Thousands of soldiers with letters from home were reminded why they were fighting, and this helped buttress their morale and mental health.

Then in 1945, they were transferred to take on another massive mail backlog. This required amazing organization, discipline, and dedication – under impossible conditions. And, remember, they were also serving away from home – under extraordinary conditions.

The Six Triple Eight received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal for their service.

Let us establish a 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day so every Ohioan can learn celebrate, and quite frankly be inspired – and be proud, of the work of Major Charity Adams Earley and all the women who served in the Six Triple Eight.

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

Thank you.