

**BY:** M. of A. Manktelow

**COMMEMORATING** the 80th Anniversary of the 6888th  
Central Postal Directory Battalion's deployment

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate significant events which represent turning points in our unique history and which are indelibly etched in the saga of our great Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion's deployment; and

**WHEREAS,** The 80th Anniversary of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion's deployment is a significant moment in history, marking the courage, resilience, and pioneering spirit of African American women who served in the United States Army during World War II; and

**WHEREAS,** Formed in 1945, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was the only all-Black, all-female battalion deployed overseas during the war; its primary mission was to sort and deliver mail to American troops stationed in Europe, an essential task that had been severely delayed due to the war's disruptions; and

**WHEREAS,** The first unit of 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was deployed on February 3, 1945, with 20 of its known members being from the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite facing racial and gender-based discrimination, the members of the 6888th, led by Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley, defied expectations and demonstrated exceptional leadership, teamwork, and determination; and

**WHEREAS,** The battalion was deployed to England and later to France, where it successfully cleared a massive backlog of undelivered mail, ensuring that soldiers could reconnect with their loved ones; their efforts boosted morale and provided vital support to the war effort; and

**WHEREAS,** The significance of the 6888th Battalion goes beyond their practical contribution to the war effort; their deployment was a groundbreaking moment in the history of women's military service and racial integration in the armed forces; and

**WHEREAS,** These brave women faced unimaginable challenges, from enduring harsh conditions in foreign lands to overcoming systemic racism within the military itself, yet, they persevered, proving their capabilities and reshaping perceptions about women and African Americans in the military; and

**WHEREAS,** As we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion's deployment, it is essential to

recognize their legacy; the bravery and determination of these women paved the way for future generations of women and people of color in the military, leaving an indelible mark on both military history and the broader struggle for civil rights; their service exemplifies the power of overcoming adversity and the profound impact of their contributions to the success of the United States during World War II; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion's deployment.