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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Favor of HB 0370

6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day

Chair Pena-Melynk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 0370. This bill will ensure that March 9 will be a Commemorative Day to honor the service Black women performed during WWII. These 885 women who were members of the Women's Army Corps made history as being a member of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. This was the only all-female, black unit to serve in Europe during World War II. The Battalion became known as the Six Triple Eight.

A chaotic mail backlog resulted in service members deployed in Europe during WWII not being able to hear from loved ones back home, which Army officials said was hurting morale.

Faced with racism, sexism and adverse physical conditions the women of 6888th Battalion worked in three eight-hour shifts, seven days a week. What others had anticipated would take six months to sort 17 million pieces of mail, the 6888th completed in roughly three, processing an average of 65,000 pieces of mail every shift. The women adhered to the motto of, "No mail, low morale." They achieved unprecedented efficiency in solving the military's postal problems. They provided a systematic service that helped soldiers believe they would return home.

Even today with technology, I vividly recall my soldiers' happy faces when there was mail call. There was no social media and cellphones during WWII. March 9 should be a Commemorative day because the 6888th Battalion's contribution during wartime was significant. This honor will cement their place in World War II history.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 0370.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers

Mike Rogers
Maryland Delegate, 32ndDistrict