



6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion
**Congressional Gold
Medal Celebration**



Members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion participate in a VE Day parade.

Major Charity Adams, commander of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, stands next to Lieutenant General John C.H. Lee as he reviews her troops. Captain Abbie Noel Campbell stands next to the podium.



Women's Army Corps members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (CPDB) company passes in review, Birmingham, England, 1945. The 6888th CPDB is the only all African American Women's Army Corps (WAC) unit to serve overseas during World War II.



Agenda

Wednesday, 15 June 2022, 11:30–1:00

Welcome

COL Edna Cummings, U.S. Army, Retired
& **MSG Elizabeth Helm-Fraizer, U.S. Army, Retired**
Six Triple Eight Documentary Producers and Advocates

Moment of Gratitude

Dr. Toni Draper
Chairman of the Board & Publisher, The Afro-American

6888th Tribute

Mr. James Therese
Executive Producer, Six Triple Eight Documentary

Remarks

BG Hope Rampy, U.S. Army
The 62nd Adjutant General of the Army

Mr. Elwood L. Robinson, PhD
Chancellor, Winston-Salem State University

The Honorable Jerry Moran
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Special Recognitions

"All I Want"

From "6888, A New Musical," a Broadway-bound production

Mr. Blair Underwood
Actor, Executive Producer, 6888

Closing Remarks

CW5 Phyllis Wilson, U.S. Army, Retired
President, Military Women's Memorial

Reception

The Six Triple Eight Scholarship

To keep the legacy of the 6888th alive, the **Six Triple Eight Scholarship** has been established through the U.S. Army Women's Foundation. This scholarship provides a minimum \$2,500 one-time award, with recipients chosen based on the following criteria:

- a minimum of 30 credit hours;
- daughter or granddaughter of an Army Veteran; and
- evidence of longstanding (minimum one year) community service benefiting veterans.

The first award is planned for March 2023.

We Need Your Support

This scholarship is only possible with support from people like you. All contributions are tax-deductible. You may donate:

- online at <https://awfdn.square.site> by using the QR code
- or by mailing a check, payable to the **U.S. Army Women's Foundation**, to the address below. Include "Six Triple Eight Scholarship" in the memo line.

U.S. Army Women's Foundation
PO Box 5030
Fort Lee, Virginia 23801

For more information, contact the U.S. Army Women's Foundation at 804-734-3078 or info@awfdn.org.



Event Sponsors



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY



The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Scholarship

The U.S. Army Women's Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of the "**Six Triple Eight**" scholarship in honor and recognition of the service of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, nicknamed the "**Six Triple Eight**", was an all-black Women's Army Corps (WAC) battalion comprised of 855 women who deployed during WWII. Their mission was the unenviable, but crucial task of sorting and routing millions of pieces of unprocessed mail that the Army could not get to the troops on the front lines. Despite the Army's and society's restrictions due to their gender and race, the 6888th excelled under the most difficult circumstances and solved the Army's morale and mail crisis. On March 14, 2022, the 6888th received the nation's highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal, for their pioneering service, devotion to duty, and contributions to increase the morale of all United States Army personnel. The 6888th's service imparts lessons that are timeless, genderless and boundless. These women were trailblazers—pioneers in a time when no one wanted them to be. This annual scholarship will help to ensure the service and memory of the 6888th members will never be forgotten.

Scholarship Award – One scholarship in the amount of \$2500 will be awarded annually.

Use of Scholarships –The scholarship funds may be used to assist with tuition, fees, books, and school documented room and board. Scholarships are awarded only to students attending accredited institutions. The funds will be sent to the academic institution for documented expenses and must be used in the academic year awarded.

Basis of Award –Selection of the Six Triple Eight Scholarship recipients are made by a Scholarship Committee appointed by the U.S. Army Women's Foundation Board of Directors.

Eligibility - All recipients must meet the established criteria of the AWF Legacy Scholarship Program, including the requirements that applicants must be women who are serving or have served honorably in the U.S. Army – Active Component, Reserves, or Army National Guard; or be the lineal descendent (male or female) of an Army woman who has served in any component of the U.S. Army. Eligibility requirements are non-negotiable, and appropriate evidence of Army service must be provided (e.g. DD214 discharge papers, letter from commander, etc.)

How To Apply – Go to the AWF website <https://www.awfdn.org/scholarships/general-information/>

To Donate – If you wish to make a donation to support the 6888th Scholarship Fund, you may do so by going to <https://awfdn.square.site/>, using the QR Code below, or mailing a check to US AWF, ATTN: 6888th Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 5030, Fort Lee, Virginia 23801.



The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion

The U.S. Army's 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was the only all-Black Women's Army Corps (WAC) unit to serve overseas during World War II.

The primary mission of the "Six Triple Eight," as the unit was popularly known, was to sort and route the nearly three-year backlog of undelivered mail for U.S. servicemembers in England and France. On February 12, 1945, the unit arrived in Birmingham, England, and contained about 850 officers and enlisted personnel who formed four companies. Whereas most Black units in the military contained white officers, every position in the 6888th was staffed by Black women.

The WAC was created on July 1, 1943, from the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), which did not have official military status. Black women were allowed into the segregated WAAC, but after its conversion into the WAC, only white units served overseas until African American organizations pressured the War Department to allow for the deployment of a Black WAC unit. The War Department approved the 6888th's deployment in November 1944.

The Army initially gave the 6888th six months to clear several warehouses filled with returned mail and packages. By working around the clock in three eight-hour shifts, including on weekends, the women accomplished their mission in only three months. When the war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945, members of the 6888th shipped to Rouen, France, where they were assigned to clear another mail backlog. Again, they did it in three. When they completed their mission, the women of the 6888th had broken all records for redirecting mail, sorting an average of 5.85 million parcels per month.

Through their dedicated service in the face of discrimination, members of the 6888th challenged barriers of both race and gender. This unit forever changed the U.S. military, helping it to better reflect the country's diverse population. They proved, like others had before them, that African American women wanted to serve their country nobly in a time of crisis, and they provided an enduring legacy for future generations of military women.

Approved by the Senate in 2021, the decision to award the 6888th the Congressional Gold Medal was unanimously passed by the House of Representatives on February 28, 2022 and approved by the President on March 14, 2022. Other commemorations and honors include a 2009 Army commendation ceremony at the Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery; the 6888th Monument at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, in 2018; a 2019 Meritorious Unit Commendation awarded by the Army; a documentary; and a Blue Plaque at the King Edwards School in Birmingham, England.

As of March 2022, fourteen known members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Their names and gravesites are:

- **Gatha Louise Amos**
Section 67, Grave 1603
- **Catherine Louise Bowie**
Section 54, Grave 1432
- **Hortense Pollard Cole**
*Columbarium Court 7,
Section NN, Column 19, Niche 1*
- **Lila Virginia Burt Dale**
Section 68, Grave 1308
- **Allie Harshaw**
Section 64, Grave 5494
- **Margaret Y. Jackson**
*Columbarium Court 8,
Section PP, Column 23, Niche 1*
- **Margaret Ellen Barnes Jones**
*Columbarium Court 6,
Section N1, Column 14, Niche 3*
- **Annie B. Jordan**
Section 3, Grave 4353-B
- **Willia G. Knighton**
Section 64, Grave 6306
- **Mary Louise Peterson**
Section 66, Grave 1657
- **Ardella C. Pitts**
Section 59, Grave 1762
- **Mary Crawford Ragland**
*Columbarium Court 7,
Section PP, Column 2, Niche 5*
- **Bessie Lee Robinson**
Section 43, Grave 887
- **Blanche L. Scott**
Section 64, Grave 2962



MILITARY
WOMEN'S
MEMORIAL™



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**Download the
ANC Explorer app!**

Arlington National Cemetery's app, ANC Explorer, enables families, visitors and the public to locate gravesites, events or other points of interest throughout the cemetery.



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