



July 25, 2019

The Honorable C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Co-Chairman, Army Caucus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Carter  
Co-Chairman, Army Caucus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Army Caucus Co-Chairman Ruppertsberger and Co-Chairman Carter:

The Association of the United States Army and The ROCKS, Inc. give our full support to the proposed bipartisan legislation, Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019, S.633 and H.R.3138. This important legislation recognizes the women of the 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion ("The Six Triple Eight"), the only African-American Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during World War II.

During WWII, approximately 6,520 African American women served in the Army; of which 855 (824 enlisted and 31 officers) served in The Six Triple Eight and deployed to Europe. Eager to serve, they joined the Army from throughout the United States. Due to Jim Crow segregation laws, many of them had to enlist in recruiting stations located in the northern states.

In February 1945, The Six Triple Eight departed for Europe to clear a multi-year mail backlog for the seven million Americans (soldiers and civilians) serving in the European Theater of Operations. Subsequently, they adopted the motto, "No Mail, Low Morale."

These courageous women faced racism, sexism, and worked in austere conditions. Additionally, the Six Triple Eight operated under the challenges of "dual segregation" by race and gender. Through conducting 24/7 operations in England, they cleared more than 17 million pieces of mail and package backlog in three months; well under the Army's six-month time estimate. They then continued this task in France.

Until recently, the Six Triple Eight's history and accomplishments remained largely unheralded. In November 2018, a monument was dedicated at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and in February, 2019, the Secretary of the Army awarded them a Meritorious Unit Commendation. Most recently, in May, 2019, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom dedicated a Blue Plaque at the King Edward School for Boys, Birmingham, England, to mark where the Six Triple Eight worked.

Seven known Six Triple Eight veterans are still alive, ages 95-99. Now is the time for Congress to recognize these heroes and celebrate their bravery and service. Please support H.R. 3138 to honor these extraordinary soldiers for their unyielding dedication to our country.

Respectfully,

Carter F. Ham  
General, U.S. Army Retired  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Association of the United States Army

Lawrence E. Gillespie, Sr.  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army Retired  
Chairman  
The ROCKS, Inc.