

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**116–57**

**OFFERED BY MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN**

Add at the end the following:

**1 DIVISION F—SIX TRIPLE EIGHT**  
**2 CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

**3 SEC. 6001. SHORT TITLE.**

**4** This division may be cited as the “‘Six Triple Eight’  
**5** Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2020”.

**6 SEC. 6002. FINDINGS.**

**7** Congress finds the following:

**8** (1) On July 1, 1943, President Franklin D.  
**9** Roosevelt signed into law legislation that established  
**10** the Women’s Army Corps (referred to in this section  
**11** as the “WAC”) as a component in the Army. The  
**12** WAC was converted from the Women’s Army Auxil-  
**13** iary Corps (referred to in this section as the  
**14** “WAAC”), which had been created in 1942 without  
**15** official military status. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt  
**16** and Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder of the Na-  
**17** tional Council of Negro Women, advocated for the  
**18** admittance of African-American women into the

1 newly formed WAC to serve as officers and enlisted  
2 personnel.

3 (2) Dubbed “10 percenters”, the recruitment of  
4 African-American women to the WAAC was limited  
5 to 10 percent of the population of the WAAC to  
6 match the proportion of African-Americans in the  
7 national population. Despite an executive order  
8 issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941  
9 banning racial discrimination in civilian defense in-  
10 dustries, the Armed Forces remained segregated.  
11 Enlisted women served in segregated units, partici-  
12 pated in segregated training, lived in separate quar-  
13 ters, ate at separate tables in mess halls, and used  
14 segregated recreational facilities. Officers received  
15 their officer candidate training in integrated units  
16 but lived under segregated conditions. Specialist and  
17 technical training schools were integrated in 1943.  
18 During World War II, a total of 6,520 African-  
19 American women served in the WAAC and the  
20 WAC.

21 (3) After several units of White women were  
22 sent to serve in the European theater of operations  
23 (referred to in this section as the “ETO”) during  
24 World War II, African-American organizations advo-  
25 cated for the War Department to extend the oppor-

1       tunity to serve overseas to African-American WAC  
2       units.

3           (4) In November 1944, the War Department  
4       approved sending African-American women to serve  
5       in Europe. A battalion of all African-American  
6       women drawn from the WAC, the Army Service  
7       Forces, and the Army Air Forces was created and  
8       designated as the 6888th Central Postal Directory  
9       Battalion (referred to in this section as the  
10      “6888th”), which was nicknamed the “Six Triple  
11      Eight”.

12          (5) With the exception of smaller units of Afri-  
13      can-American nurses who served in Africa, Aus-  
14      tralia, and England, the 6888th was the only Afri-  
15      can-American WAC unit to serve overseas during  
16      World War II.

17          (6) Army officials reported a shortage of quali-  
18      fied postal officers within the ETO, which resulted  
19      in a backlog of undelivered mail. As Allied forces  
20      drove across Europe, the ever-changing locations of  
21      servicemembers hampered the delivery of mail to  
22      those servicemembers. One general predicted that  
23      the backlog in Birmingham, England would take 6  
24      months to process and the lack of reliable mail serv-  
25      ice was hurting morale.

1           (7) In February 1945, the 6888th arrived in  
2           Birmingham. Upon their arrival, the 6888th found  
3           warehouses filled with millions of pieces of mail in-  
4           tended for members of the Armed Forces, United  
5           States Government personnel, and Red Cross work-  
6           ers serving in the ETO.

7           (8) The 6888th created effective processes and  
8           filing systems to track individual servicemembers,  
9           organize “undeliverable” mail, determine the in-  
10          tended recipient for insufficiently addressed mail,  
11          and handle mail addressed to servicemembers who  
12          had died. Adhering to their motto of “No mail, low  
13          morale”, the women processed an average of 65,000  
14          pieces of mail per shift and cleared the 6-month  
15          backlog of mail within 3 months.

16          (9) The 6888th traveled to Rouen, France later  
17          in May 1945 and worked through a separate backlog  
18          of undelivered mail dating back as far as 3 years.

19          (10) At the completion of their mission, the en-  
20          tire unit returned to the United States. The 6888th  
21          was discontinued on March 9, 1946, at Fort Dix,  
22          New Jersey.

23          (11) These women faced racism and sexism,  
24          and worked in austere conditions, but were able to  
25          clear more than 18,000,000 pieces of backlog mail

1 for Americans in the ETO. Three died in France  
2 and are buried in Normandy, France, while three  
3 others were beaten in a bus station in Kentucky.

4 (12) According to the Department of Defense,  
5 during the period between February 1945 and Feb-  
6 ruary 1946, the members of the “Six Triple Eight”  
7 “displayed meritorious service while deployed to  
8 England and France” and “conducted combat sup-  
9 port operation which impacted the morale and wel-  
10 fare of U.S. service members fighting across the Eu-  
11 ropean continent”.

12 (13) The Department of the Army awarded its  
13 Meritorious Unit Commendation award to the mem-  
14 bers of the “Six Triple Eight” noting that their  
15 “professionalism and dedication are in keeping with  
16 the finest tradition of military service and reflect  
17 great credit upon themselves, the Women’s Army  
18 Corps, and the U.S. Army”.

19 (14) The accomplishments of the 6888th in Eu-  
20 rope encouraged the General Board, United States  
21 Forces, European Theater of Operations to adopt  
22 the following premise in their study of the WAC  
23 issued in December 1945: “[T]he national security  
24 program is the joint responsibility of all Americans  
25 irrespective of color or sex” and “the continued use

1 of colored, along with white, female military per-  
2 sonnel is required in such strength as is proportion-  
3 ately appropriate to the relative population distribu-  
4 tion between colored and white races”.

5 (15) The members of the “Six Triple Eight” re-  
6 ceived the European African Middle Eastern Cam-  
7 paign Medal, the Women’s Army Corps Service  
8 Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal for  
9 their service.

10 (16) While over 850 African-American women  
11 from across the United States have been docu-  
12 mented to serve overseas with the “Six Triple  
13 Eight”, only a few are still alive including Anna Mae  
14 Wilson Robertson of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Delores  
15 L. Ruddock of Mt. Rainer, Maryland, Lena  
16 Derrieott Bell King of Las Vegas, Nevada, Elizabeth  
17 Bernice Barker Johnson of Hickory, North Carolina,  
18 Maybelle Rutland Tanner Campbell of Alexandria,  
19 Virginia, Fannie Mae McClendon of Arizona, and  
20 Indiana Hunt Martin of Maryland.

21 **SEC. 6003. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

22 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the  
23 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore  
24 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the  
25 award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of

1 appropriate design in honor of the women of the 6888th  
2 Central Postal Directory Battalion (commonly known as  
3 the “Six Triple Eight”) in recognition of—

4 (1) the pioneering military service of those  
5 women;

6 (2) the devotion to duty of those women; and

7 (3) the contributions made by those women to  
8 increase the morale of all United States personnel  
9 stationed in the European theater of operations dur-  
10 ing World War II.

11 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the  
12 award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the  
13 Treasury (referred to in this division as the “Secretary”)  
14 shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices,  
15 and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

16 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold  
18 medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given  
19 to the Smithsonian Institution, where the medal  
20 shall be available for display, as appropriate, and  
21 made available for research.

22 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
23 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should  
24 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)  
25 available elsewhere, particularly at—

1 (A) appropriate locations associated with  
2 the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion;

3 (B) the Women in Military Service for  
4 America Memorial;

5 (C) the United States Army Women's Mu-  
6 seum;

7 (D) the National World War II Museum  
8 and Memorial; and

9 (E) any other location determined appro-  
10 priate by the Smithsonian Institution.

11 **SEC. 6004. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

12 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-  
13 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
14 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 6003 at a  
15 price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including  
16 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead ex-  
17 penses.

18 **SEC. 6005. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

19 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this  
20 division are national medals for purposes of chapter 51  
21 of title 31, United States Code.

22 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
23 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck



1 under this division shall be considered to be numismatic  
2 items.

