

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3302**

April 4, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

We are alarmed that the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has removed dozens of pages dedicated to sharing the stories of our nation's heroes, including the 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion, from some of its websites in response to President Trump's executive orders relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) policies. We strongly urge DOD to reinstate the wrongfully removed webpages in question and request clarification regarding the nature and purpose of their removal.

The 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion of the Women's Army Corps was the only all-black, all-female unit to serve overseas during World War II. The battalion was tasked with sorting and distributing an estimated six-month backlog of mail for U.S. servicemembers. Mail distribution was considered essential to lift the spirits and morale of service members on the front lines.

The battalion exceeded expectations, working around the clock to process 65,000 pieces of mail per shift, and eliminating the six-month backlog within three months. Erasing this extraordinary legacy is an egregious betrayal of their service. Removing their stories is a shameful indication of your priorities and is disrespectful to all veterans, not just the members of the 6888<sup>th</sup>. This timing is especially egregious when the country is just starting to appreciate the story of the 6888<sup>th</sup>.

We therefore urge you to immediately restore the page honoring the battalion. We also request that you provide answers to the following questions:

1. How does a webpage highlighting the extraordinary accomplishments of a World War II postal directory battalion fall under the "DEIA" category of content?
2. Does your department plan to further eliminate evidence of the 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion's service on all of its webpages?

3. How does your department anticipate that the removal of “DEIA” content helps tell the story of America rather than hurting it?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah K. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress