

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 31, 2024

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Members of the Committee:

We write to express our support for the issuance of a postal stamp commemorating the life and achievements of Charity Adams Earley. While we will be introducing symbolic legislation in the House recommending that this stamp be created, we recognize that your Committee has the authority to recommend such a stamp be issued. It is our understanding that the Advisory Committee will be discussing this nomination in an upcoming meeting and we want to reiterate why we believe Colonel Adams Earley is an appropriate honoree.

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, nicknamed the "Six Triple Eight," was the only all-Black Women's Army Corps (WAC) battalion deployed overseas 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 in the European Theater. Despite challenges due to their gender and race, the 6888th excelled under the most challenging circumstances. During their deployment in Britain and France, they cleared millions of pieces of back logged mail, in a record time working in eight hour shifts, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

These unsung heroes of the 6888th paved the way for female servicemembers for generations to come. At the head of this deployment was a formidable leader, then-Major Charity Adams, who would rise to the highest ranks of the Women's Army Corps. Her leadership, vision, courage, and perseverance under trying circumstances were integral to the unit's accomplishments.

Charity Adams Earley became the first Black officer in the U.S. Army's Women's Army Corps (WAC), persevering through the Army's segregated environment and ultimately leading the 3rd Company, 3rd Training Regiment, made up of two white platoons and one Black platoon. After the end of World War II, Adams went on to finish her academic studies at The Ohio State University, completing her master's degree in vocational psychology, and went on to raise a family with her husband, Stanley A. Earley, Jr., in Dayton, Ohio.

In addition to being a trailblazer in the military, Charity Adams Earley was a dedicated community leader: In 1982, she became the founder of the Black Leadership Development Program which focused on teaching young African Americans to be leaders in their communities.

Adams Earley has been recognized by the National Postal Museum, National Women's History Museum, Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, Smithsonian Institute, the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame, and many others for her dedicated service to the country and work on promoting opportunities for Black Americans. On March 14, 2022, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to the members of the WAC assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, including posthumously to their commander, Charity Adams Earley.

We appreciate your consideration of our request to issue a stamp in honor of Charity Adams Earley, and are happy to provide any additional information that you may find helpful. We would appreciate your response about next steps and your process of consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael H. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Mike Turner
Member of Congress