

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Member Amaro:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-569-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
7 FLORITA SMITH, A MEMBER OF THE 6888TH CENTRAL
8 POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION, AND EXPRESSING
9 GRATITUDE FOR HER MILITARY SERVICE, EDUCATIONAL
10 IMPACT AND LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO HER COMMUNITY;
11 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12
13 **WHEREAS,** Florita Smith was born on April 6, 1920, in
14 Jacksonville, Florida, to George Henry Smith and Maude Jones; and

15 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Smith enlisted in the U.S. Women's Army Corps on
16 August 16, 1943, and was one of the 855 black women who comprised the
17 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, also known as "The Six
18 Triple Eight," the only all-black female battalion deployed overseas
19 during World War II; and

20 **WHEREAS,** the 6888th was assigned the extraordinary task of
21 processing more than 17 million pieces of mail that had accumulated
22 in warehouses and needed to be sorted and delivered to U.S. troops
23 overseas. Despite racial- and gender-based discrimination, the
24 battalion completed this mission in just three months - half the
25 allotted time - restoring vital lines of communication and morale to
26 soldiers during the war. For their service, members of the unit,
27 including Ms. Smith, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on
28 April 29, 2025; and

29 **WHEREAS,** following her honorable military service, Ms. Smith
30 earned her teaching certification and became a certified teacher in
31 the Duval County Public School District. She pursued higher education

1 at Edward Waters College (now Edward Waters University), Florida
2 Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), and Florida Normal and
3 Industrial Institute in St. Augustine, commuting 90 miles daily to
4 obtain her Bachelor of Science degree; and

5 **WHEREAS**, from the 1960s until she was no longer able, Florita
6 Smith was a beloved and dedicated member of Faust Temple Church of
7 God in Christ. She was a spiritual mentor and educator who empowered
8 generations of youth, including her daughter Dr. Cynthia Smith, who
9 went on to earn a Ph.D. from Yale University; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Florita Smith passed away on December 6, 1992, under
11 the compassionate care of her only child, leaving behind a legacy of
12 service, faith, strength, and educational excellence that continues
13 to inspire; now therefore

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

15 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the life
16 and legacy of Florita Smith, a member of the 6888th Central Postal
17 Directory Battalion, and expressing gratitude for her military
18 service, educational impact and lifelong commitment to her community
19 and faith, and her lasting impact on the Jacksonville community and
20 beyond.

21 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
22 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
23 without the Mayor's signature.

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25 Form Approved:

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27 /s/Mary E. Staffopoulos

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Nayeli Jimenez, City Council Research

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