

Introduced by Council Member Pittman:

**RESOLUTION 2025-569**

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
FLORITA SMITH, A MEMBER OF THE 6888<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL  
POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION, AND EXPRESSING  
GRATITUDE FOR HER MILITARY SERVICE, EDUCATIONAL  
IMPACT AND LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO HER COMMUNITY;  
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

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

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

**WHEREAS,** following her honorable military service, Ms. Smith  
earned her teaching certification and became a certified teacher in  
the Duval County Public School District. She pursued higher education  
at Edward Waters College (now Edward Waters University), Florida

Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), and Florida Normal and Industrial Institute in St. Augustine, commuting 90 miles daily to obtain her Bachelor of Science degree; and

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

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

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

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

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

Form Approved:

/s/ S MacGillis

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Nayeli Jimenez, City Council Research

GC-#1699131-v1-Honoring Florita Smith (Reso)