GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the all-female, all-black 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, also known as the Six Triple Eight, was founded on March 3rd, 1945, to sort a two-year backlog of more than 17 million pieces of mail in Europe; and

WHEREAS, this was after General Dwight D. Eisenhower told President Franklin D. Roosevelt that "not receiving mail had a negative impact on the morale of deployed service members," establishing the battalion's motto: "No Mail, Low Morale;" and

WHEREAS, Women's Army Corps, established on July 1st, 1943, created a structure where women could hold rank and leadership roles in the Army, beyond "auxiliary;" and

WHEREAS, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights leader, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, successfully advocated for African-American women to serve as enlisted personnel and officers in the Women's Army Corps, even though segregation was still enforced; and

WHEREAS, the second Sunday of August is "National Spirit of '45 Day," and the 855 original women of "The Six Triple Eight" exemplify that tireless "Spirit of 1945;" and

WHEREAS, some of the remaining eleven living legends were born even before women won the right to vote on August 18th, 1920; and

WHEREAS, Arizona recognizes that "The Greatest Generation" includes women who served in the United States Military; and

WHEREAS, Arizona honors the 855 women of The Six Triple Eight--including Arizona residents: Major (RET) Fannie Griffin McClendon, and the late Corporal Lydia Thornton.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim August 15, 2020, as

"SIX TRIPLE EIGHT" CENTRAL POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this thirtieth day of July in the year Two Thousand and Twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Fifth.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE