

House Resolution 1044

By: Representatives Greene of the 154th, Townsend of the 179th, Mathis of the 149th, Hawkins of the 27th, and Mathiak of the 74th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of PFC Hester Givens Massey; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the people of the State of Georgia posthumously honor the legacy of the late
3 PFC Hester Givens Massey, a native of Randolph County, Georgia, and a citizen of Cuthbert,
4 Georgia. Seventy nine years ago, she served in the Women's Army Corps from 1943 to 1946.
5 She was a member of the 6888th Battalion in the United States Army, one of the 855 Black
6 women soldiers allowed to serve in the army; and

7 WHEREAS, she was a native daughter of the state born on August 18, 1919, to parents
8 Elijah (Dock) Givens and Bertha Smith Givens in Randolph County with three siblings. She
9 moved to New Jersey in her childhood; attended public schools in Linden and Roselle, New
10 Jersey; worked as a nurse; and received education at the Veteran Administration and Seton
11 Hall University. She married the late Samuel Martin Massey Jr., whom she met in
12 Normandy, France, in 1946; and

13 WHEREAS, during World War II in 1946, she received numerous medals and awards that
14 included the W.A.A.C. Service Ribbon, the American Service Medal, the World War II
15 Victory Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, and the Good Conduct
16 Medal; and

17 WHEREAS, she was recognized among her 6888th Battalion soldiers with a historic
18 monument located at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, organizing the soldiers by state. The 6888th
19 Battalion soldiers were all awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for being war heroes and
20 members of the Women's Army Corps; and

21 WHEREAS, she was a member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Roselle, New
22 Jersey. She was employed at the Veterans Administration Hospital located in East Orange
23 for ten years and later retired in 1977. She also worked as a beautician and seamstress. She
24 had many talents, including making and designing church hats. She later passed away in
25 1996; and

26 WHEREAS, a movie on Netflix honoring the Six Triple Eight directed by Tyler Perry will
27 be released in February 2024 in honor of her and her fellow 6888th Battalion soldiers. For
28 their contribution to assisting the win in World War II by boosting morale through mail
29 distribution, we now recognize PFC Hester Givens Massey's contributions to her country and
30 her rich history and legacy.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body honor the life and memory of PFC Hester Givens Massey and
33 remember her many contributions to the Women's Army Corps and the 6888th Battalion.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
36 family of PFC Hester Givens Massey.