



# *The* FORGOTTEN FRONT

MONDAY, MARCH 31 ★ 6 P.M. WINE RECEPTION 6:30 P.M. PROGRAM



**ERIES MENTZER** is an Air Force veteran with over 25 years of military service. She has persisted as often the first, only, or one of the few Black or female leaders in her formations—and is among an elite collective of officers trusted to lead an American military base. Her passion for securing more “Freedom to Serve” (a reference to President Truman’s landmark report on integrating the U.S. Armed Forces) inspires her work as an executive leader and strategic advisor to identify barriers to service and ensure pride for the past doesn’t impact preparedness for the future.

Her recent appearance on the TEDx stage was hailed as an unqualified triumph.

## “Extraordinary . . . inspired!”

– TEDx Jacksonville, Florida

**JOIN US** for an unforgettable Women Rising event with self-described “Status Quo Challenger” Eries Mentzer. A retired US Air Force colonel and the first Black woman to command Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, Eries recognizes that she stands on the shoulders of the Six Triple Eight, women who rose, so that she might rise.

The 6888th Central Directory Postal Battalion was the only unit of Black American women to be sent overseas during the Second World War. The mission? Boost the morale of 7 million war-weary American service members stationed throughout Europe in 1945 by labeling, sorting and clearing millions of pieces of mail. The stockpile, left languishing in warehouses for months, even years, was predicted to take six months to process. The battalion, nicknamed “Six Triple Eight,” did it in just three. Their work is the subject of Tyler Perry’s newest Netflix film.

In this inspired and exuberant program, straight from the TEDx stage, Eries will connect the stories of her own path, President Truman’s leadership on civil rights, and female trailblazers like the Six Triple Eight, whose courage 80 years ago is still helping women rise today.

Truman Forum, KCPL Plaza Branch, 4801 Main, KCMO  
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