



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Capitol Building, Suite 100
700 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(502) 564-2611
Fax: (502) 564-2517

January 29, 2021

Honorable Joseph Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

Let me start by saying congratulations on your election. It is with great hope and confidence that I convey my most sincere best wishes as you lead our country out of some of the most troublesome of times. I look forward to working with you as we move toward a better nation and world and stand ready to assist in any way.

In February 2020 I has was proud to promote, posthumously, Colonel Charles Young to the rank of Brigadier General within the Kentucky National Guard. Colonel Charles Young is a native Kentuckian, born into slavery in 1864. Colonel Young went on to become the third black graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, the first black military attaché to a foreign country in 1904. In 1917, Colonel Young was medically discharged from the Army, a separation he protested. He travelled 497 miles on horseback and on foot to Washington, DC in an effort to prove his physical fitness to serve honorably. He was reinstated to service and returned to active duty in 1918, just days before the Armistice was signed ending World War I. Colonel Young remained the highest-ranking black officer in the United States Armed Forces from 1894 up to his death in 1922. I truly believe his service to our great country to be invaluable and but for the racism of the time, Buffalo Soldier Colonel Young would have been properly promoted to the rank of General and would have been the first black American to do so.

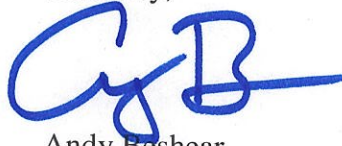
I write you today to ask that KyNG Brigadier General Charles Young be granted the honorary title of Major General in the United States Army. As we strive to end the racial injustices that persist to this day, we must recognize the contribution that those like Charles Young made to the successes and freedoms that we enjoy as Americans. I believe him to be more than deserving of this rank and support his promotion posthumously to Major General.

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
January 27, 2021
PAGE 2

The restoration of Colonel Young's birth cabin in Mason County, Kentucky was completed in 2014. The designation or annexation of the cabin as a National Monument would be a substantial educational resource regarding black history in the United States, specifically black military history and would surely be visited for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide additional information regarding the life and service of KyNG Brigadier General Charles Young.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CyB', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andy Beshear
Governor