



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

**UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

NOV 1 2021

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Secretary of Defense, I have approved a posthumous honorary promotion to the grade of brigadier general for Colonel Charles Young, United States Army Retired, under title 10, United States Code, section 1563. The Army will not make this honorary promotion until 60 days after the date of this letter.

My approval is based on Colonel Young's distinguished career in the United States Army. As the first African-American officer to reach the grade of colonel, he overcame the personal and societal prejudices that afflicted the United States at the turn of the 20th century and, in doing so, broke many of the racial stereotypes of that era.

Following his graduation from West Point in 1889, Colonel Young served in cavalry units in the grades of second lieutenant through lieutenant colonel. He commanded a troop in combat in the Philippines in 1902 and commanded a squadron during the 1916 Punitive Expedition in Mexico. On three occasions, then-Lieutenant Colonel Young assumed temporary command of the 10th Cavalry "Buffalo Soldier" Regiment in the absence of the commander.

After being medically retired on July 22, 1917, as a colonel, Colonel Young helped organize an Ohio National Guard regiment and conducted military training at Wilberforce University. Recalled to active duty in November 1918, he commanded a training unit at Camp Grant, Illinois, and from February 1920 until his death in January 1922, he served in Liberia as military attaché.

Similar letters have been sent to the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and Representative James E. Clyburn, who requested an honorary promotion for Colonel Young.

Sincerely,



Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.

cc:

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Ranking Member



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The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.

cc:

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers  
Ranking Member