



# THE NATIONAL BLACK VETERANS COALITION COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG PROMOTION CAMPAIGN

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May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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Murfreesboro, TN

The Honorable Barrack Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on the behalf of the National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations who have joined in a unity of purpose in seeking an honorary promotion for the legendary Buffalo Soldier Colonel Charles Young.

We are appreciative of you designating the Colonel's home in Xenia, OH as a National Monument. I was recently joined in Maysville, Kentucky by Dr. Joy Kinard, first permanent Superintendent of the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument site. She accompanied members of our Coalition, educators and elected officials in Maysville for a "Day of Recognition" held in honor of the Mason County High School JROTC Program. The school recently changed the name of the Battalion to honor the late Colonel Young, a native son. We had the opportunity to take Superintendent Kinard for a visit to the cabin where Colonel Young was born in 1864.

We have worked with the community over the past four years in restoring the old log cabin. In its restored state, it will stand for another century. We are currently in dialogue with the Mason County Commission to study how the property will be presented and used as a public resource.

While in Maysville, I met with Mayor David Cartmell who was among the local dignitaries that took part in the festivity to honor the High School Battalion. I spoke with him regarding establishing an Annual Day of Celebration for Colonel Young in Maysville. He embraced the idea, and we are planning the inaugural event for June 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. The date chosen is in commemoration of the Colonel's interment in Arlington National Cemetery in 1923.

We invite you to join us for the inaugural program. We would welcome the opportunity to show you the cabin and introduce you to the newly established Mason County High School Colonel Charles Young JROTC Battalion. The Battalion performed a presentation as a part of our May 13<sup>th</sup>, program called the "MIA/POW Table Ceremony." The presentation was exceptional. I know the cadets would take pride in performing it for you. It would be an ideal opportunity for you to grant the promotion to coincide with your visit.

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Host Organization: The American Legion ~ Cook-Nelson Post #20 (Non-Profit Tax ID # 383124100)  
The Colonel Charles Young Promotion Campaign Headquarters: 3548 May Court ~ Oakland, CA 94602  
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**COALITION PARTNERS:**

**The National Minority Military Museum Foundation  
Oakland, CA**

**The American Legion-Charles Young Post #398  
New York, NY**

**The Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust  
Washington, DC**

**Los Banos Buffalo Soldiers 9th and 10th Cavalry Association  
Los Banos, CA**

**The USCG National Association of Former Stewards and Steward Mates  
Laurelton, NY**

**The Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Committee- Inland Empire Heritage Association  
Riverside, CA**

**The Association of the 2221 Negro Infantry Volunteers World War II  
Ft. Washington, MD**

**The 9th Memorial United States Cavalry Association  
Marana, AZ**

**The National Association of Black Veterans, Inc.  
Milwaukee, WI**

**The African American Patriots Consortium, Inc.  
Baltimore, MD**

**The American Legion-Cook- Nelson Post #20  
Pontiac, MI**

**The 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association  
Los Angeles, CA**

**The 555th Black Paratroopers Association  
Tampa, FL**

**The 369th Veterans Association  
Staten Island, NY**

**The 715th Veterans Association  
Laurelton, NY**

**Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.  
Limerick, PA**

**761st Tank Battalion and Allied Veterans Association  
Chicago, IL**

**The African American Gallery of the Ethnic Heritage Museum  
Rockford, IL**

**The ACES Museum  
Philadelphia, PA**

**Colonel Charles Young American Legion Post #682  
Philadelphia, PA**

**The 13th United States Colored Troops Living History Association  
Murfreesboro, TN**

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

While in Kentucky, it could also afford you the opportunity to visit the National Monument. The National Park Service is to be commended for the selection of Dr. Kinard as its Superintendent. We are hopeful her appointment comes with the necessary budget commitment to maintain and establish the property as an educational resource. The National Park Services have struggled in outreaching the Black urban communities in promoting the utilization of the park services as an educational resource. The site would benefit from your visit as it would focus much needed attention on the availability of the public resource. In essence, both Mason County, Kentucky and Xenia, Ohio would benefit from your attendance.


In correspondence dated April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, we called on you for the honorary promotion of the Colonel, to the rank of Brigadier General in the United States Army. We also noted the National Monument did not recognize Charles Young's military rank in its title. The acknowledgement is important to accurately reflect his accomplishments in a military career that spanned thirty-two years of honorable service. We request the title of Brigadier General as opposed to Colonel be affixed to the institution's name.

We forwarded the request with congressional support. Congresswoman Barbara Lee authored correspondence signed by thirty – five members of the House of Representatives supporting our request. The request carries Resolutions from the following: the Commonwealth of Kentucky House of Representatives, the Kentucky Human Rights Commission, the Joint Executive Council of Veterans Organization of Kentucky and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Major General Edward Tonini, Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky Department of Military Affairs and the Honorable Mitchel B. Denham, Jr., State Representative of Maysville's 70<sup>th</sup> District has sent you correspondence in support of the request. This is not a controversial issue. They all recognize the injustice committed in the Colonel not receiving his due promotional honor in life. They have joined us in seeking re-dress of his standing in American Military History.

The Coalition organization members are senior in age. Many served the nation during a period when the Armed Forces were segregated. Many have passed on since our initial request for the Colonel's promotion. We would appreciate as many remaining members as possible having the opportunity to know that the late Colonel Charles Young finally received his due recognition. The request carries no financial obligation to the Government. The promotion will warrant a change of the Colonel's headstone in Arlington National Cemetery. We are prepared to handle the cost through private means.

In closing, again we ask that you grant the promotion and join us in Maysville for the June 1, 2016 "Day of Celebration" in honor of the late Colonel Charles Young.

Respectfully,



Charles Blatcher, III  
Chairman

Attachments