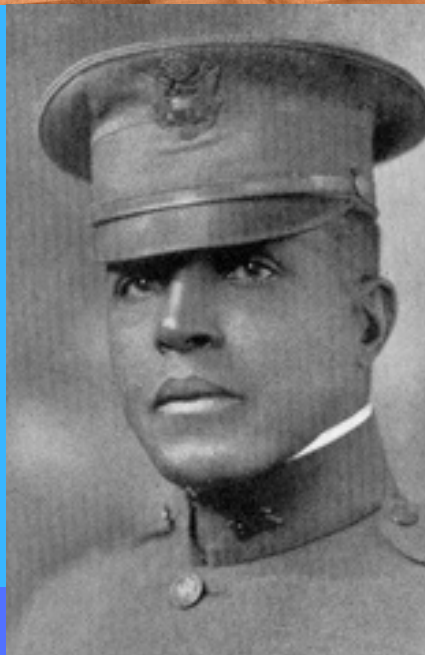


**Colonel Charles Young  
Legendary Buffalo  
Soldier Inducted into  
the Kentucky Civil  
Rights Hall of Fame**



*Colonel Charles Young induction into the Kentucky Civil Right Hall of Fame. Right to Left: James L. Gallenstein, representing the Maysville Cabin Committee, Reverend Rodney Bennett, Cabin Advisory Committee, Charles Blatcher III, organizer and chairman of the National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations, Lt. General William Ward-USA-Retired, Kentucky State Senator Gerald Neal and Howard Jackson, Major-Retired-USMC representing the National Minority Military Museum Foundation. Photographer: Shane Grayson*



**November 2019  
Veterans Day Week  
began at the Kentucky  
Center for African  
American Heritage**



*Michael Theard, President, Washington, DC Chapter 9th and 10th Horse Calvary Association, Shedrick Jones, Sr., Principle advocacy for the Flag Memorial, NABVETS, Charles Blatcher, III, principle program organizer and chairman of the National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations and Howard Jackson, Major-retired-USMA and representative of the National Minority Military Museum Foundation. Photographer: Shane Grayson 2019*



# Colonel Charles Young Legendary Buffalo Soldier Inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame

Members of the National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations joined with the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, NABVETS and the Washington, DC Chapter of the 9th and 10th Horse Calvary Association joined in Louisville commemorating Veterans Day. The ceremony was a special salute to the legendary Buffalo Soldier, Educator and Diplomat Colonel Charles Young. Federal, State and local officials joined Veterans from throughout the state and nation for the special event. In attendance were Congressman John Yarmuth, Mayor Greg Fischer, and State Senator Gerald Neal. Also on the program was Metro Councilperson Barbara Sexton Smith who represents the district where the Center is located. The event drew a small yet enthusiastic group of veterans and supporters with portions of the program broadcast live on the local radio. We were also honored to have in attendance Ms. Lyndsay Railey a descendant of the late Colonel. The Color Guard detail was from the Montford Point Marine Corps Association.

The Center showcased the Colonel Charles Young Veterans Flag Memorial, a project undertaken by the local chapter of NABVETS and supported by Papa John's Pizza International, Inc. The Center introduced plans to convert a Wing of the 68,000 square foot facility to a Media/Art Center. The Wing will carry the name of the legendary Soldier. The wing will give the Center the capability to expand its educational outreach to public schools throughout the State of Kentucky.

The Center's Executive Director Aukram Burton shared the vision for the Colonel Charles Young Media/Arts Center (aka the CCY-MAC) during a walk-through of the seven thousand square foot wing. The square footage will double in size to fourteen thousand square feet with the addition of a second floor. The state-of-the-art facility will house editing suites, broadcast equipment, conference rooms, two lounges and dressing rooms to accommodate live theater performances in the proposed two hundred seat theater. The facility will serve as a training center for Veterans and members of the community interested in learning theater production and videography.

The renovation of the wing is estimated at 3.5 million dollars. The fundraising goal is to find a single source sponsor, who will have naming rights for a contracted period on the theater. Like the Flag Memorial, the Wing of the Center will be the first in the nation named to honor the legendary Buffalo Soldier.



*Aukram Burton, Executive Director of the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage share vision for the Colonel Charles Young Media/Art Center, Photographer: Shane Grayson 2019*



The National Coalition has led the effort in the State of Kentucky to promote educational tourism of the historic sites relevant to Colonel Charles Young's History. We are encouraging Veterans to visit the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in Louisville and plan to spend a few days travelling the State to take-in the numerous historical sites. Be sure to visit the Colonel's birth cabin in Mays Lick and travel the "Colonel Charles Young Corridor" in route to Ripley and Wilberforce Ohio. Ripley is where Charles Young was raised, and Wilberforce is the home of the National Afro American Museum that houses the largest repository of documents relevant to his history. Book a trip through Freedom Tyme Legacy Tours who will soon be offering interpretative tours of significant historical sites in the region. The tour is guaranteed to be an educational adventure.

The acknowledgement of Colonel Charles Young moved from Louisville to Lexington on November 14th where he was inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame at a ceremony held at the University of Kentucky. The Coalition submitted the Colonel for the honor, and we were pleased when informed that he had been selected for the induction. When we were notified in advance to allow us to be present for the ceremony. Sworn to public secrecy allow us to have a representative body on hand for the ceremony. In an outstanding program opened by the Ohio Valley Native American Veterans Warrior Society, Kentucky honored some of its finest citizens who have made exemplary contributions to Human Rights in 2019. Our representatives included Lt. General William Ward, USA – retired, Howard Jackson, Major-Retired USMC and representative of the National Minority Military Museum Foundation, former Judge/Executive James L. Gallenstein and former chairman of the committee responsible for the restoration of the Colonel's Birth Cabin in Mays Lick, Kentucky, Reverend Rodney Bennett and Taft Thompson both representing the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



*Standing with the maquette of Colonel Young from right to left are: Aufram Burton, Executive Director of the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, Honorable Gregg Fisher, Mayor of Louisville, KY. Ms. Lynd Railey, descendant of Colonel Charles Young right: Kentucky State Senator the Honorable Gerald Neal and Charles Blacher, III, chairman, National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations. Photographer: Shane Grayson 2019*

The following statement was read in-part by John Johnson, Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights regarding the Colonel's induction [...]"Because of his distinguished career, Col. Young has received many honors, including being named Great Black Kentuckian by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and having his birth cabin in Mays Lick restored by Mason County officials. A group of Black Veterans is fighting to have his rank upgraded to Brigadier General and want to build a full-scale statue in his honor. Col. Young has inspired generations of men and women to serve in the military with honor, dignity and grace."]

As the nominator of Colonel Young on the behalf of the National Coalition, I was honored in sharing the occasion with Lt. General William Ward representing the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., a member organization of the Coalition. Through the effort of both entities' public awareness of the Colonel's History is gaining prominence. The certificate of his Induction will go on display at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage with the bronze maquette of Colonel Charles Young on horseback. If you find yourself in the Louisville area, make it a point to visit the Heritage Center located at 1701 West Muhammad Ali Blvd. For additional information contact: [cnmmmf@aol.com](mailto:cnmmmf@aol.com)

**Tour information**

**visit [www.freedomtymelegacy.com](http://www.freedomtymelegacy.com)**