

1 A RESOLUTION celebrating Charles Young's posthumous promotion to Brigadier  
2 General.

3 WHEREAS, the late Charles Young was born to enslaved parents Gabriel and  
4 Arminta Young in Mays Lick, Kentucky, on March 12, 1864; and

5 WHEREAS, Charles Young was the third African American cadet to graduate from  
6 the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1889; and

7 WHEREAS, upon graduation, Charles Young served with the Ninth and Tenth  
8 Cavalries; he was appointed Major in the Ohio National Guard in 1898 and placed in  
9 command of its Ninth Infantry Battalion; and during that time he served as Professor of  
10 Military Science at Wilberforce University in Ohio; and

11 WHEREAS, as a Captain in 1901, Charles Young commanded a troop of the Ninth  
12 Cavalry in combat in the Philippine Islands during the Philippine Insurrection; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1903, Charles Young led a cavalry unit based out of the Presidio in  
14 San Francisco. He went on to become the first African American superintendent of  
15 Sequoia National Park and oversaw the extension of roads into the park, making many  
16 parts accessible to visitors for the first time; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1904, Charles Young became the first African American officer  
18 appointed to duty as a military attaché, serving in Hispaniola; and

19 WHEREAS, by 1912, Charles Young was military attaché to Liberia, where he was  
20 promoted to Major and developed the Liberian Frontier Forces; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1916, Charles Young was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the  
22 NAACP for his exceptional work developing Liberia's infrastructure; and

23 WHEREAS, Charles Young was reassigned to the Tenth United States Cavalry and  
24 served in the Punitive Expedition in Mexico from 1916 until 1917, where he led a cavalry  
25 charge against Pancho Villa's troops and was wounded rescuing a large part of the  
26 Thirteenth Cavalry; and

27 WHEREAS, for his leadership, Charles Young was promoted to Lieutenant

1 Colonel; and

2 WHEREAS, at the beginning of the First World War, Colonel Young was the  
3 highest-ranking African American serving in the United States Army. In June 1917, due  
4 to a diagnosis of hypertension, he was medically retired; and

5 WHEREAS, Colonel Young challenged the decision and rode 500 miles on  
6 horseback from Wilberforce, Ohio, to Washington, D.C., to demonstrate his fitness for  
7 duty. In June 1918, he was reinstated and assigned as military attaché to Liberia; and

8 WHEREAS, Colonel Young was struck critically ill while on an intelligence  
9 mission, and later died on January 8, 1922. He was buried at Arlington National  
10 Cemetery on June 1, 1923; and

11 WHEREAS, Colonel Young's extraordinary military career spanned 33 years of  
12 segregated service at a time when our nation was plagued by the internal struggle of  
13 racism. From 1894 until his death in 1922, he was the highest-ranking African American  
14 in the United States Armed Forces; and

15 WHEREAS, on February 11, 2020, Charles Young was posthumously promoted to  
16 the rank of Brigadier General by Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear; and

17 WHEREAS, this august body, and an entire Commonwealth, rightfully  
18 congratulates Charles Young and his family, including heirs Denese Johnson, Lyndsay  
19 Railey, Elijah Railey, and Susan Young Tabler; commends General Young for his  
20 profound and courageous service to his country; and grants the entire Young family best  
21 wishes as they carry on the legacy of this great Kentuckian and American;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
24 ***Kentucky:***

25 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor Charles Young upon his  
26 posthumous promotion to the rank of Brigadier General.

27 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Brigadier

- 1 General Charles Young.
- 2       ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
- 3 Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal for delivery to the family.