

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Brigadier General Charles Young
2 Memorial Historical Corridor.

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

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, in 1903, General Charles Young led a cavalry unit based out of the
15 Presidio in San Francisco; and he became the first African American Superintendent of
16 Sequoia National Park and oversaw the extension of roads into the park, making many
17 parts accessible to visitors for the first time; and

18 WHEREAS, by 1904, General Charles Young became the first African American
19 officer appointed to duty as a military attaché, serving in Hispaniola (Haiti and
20 Dominican Republic); by 1912, General Charles Young was military attaché to Liberia,
21 where he was promoted to Major and developed the Liberian Frontier Forces and built
22 roads; and in 1916, he was awarded the Spingarn Award from the NAACP for his
23 exceptional work developing Liberia's infrastructure; and

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

1 Charles Young was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel; and

2 WHEREAS, at the beginning of the First World War, General Charles Young
3 challenged a decision declaring him medically unfit for service by riding 500 miles on
4 horseback from Wilberforce, Ohio, to Washington, D.C., and by June 1918, he was
5 reinstated and assigned as military attaché to Liberia; and

6 WHEREAS, General Charles Young was struck critically ill while on an
7 intelligence mission, later died on January 8, 1922, and was buried in Arlington National
8 Cemetery on June 1, 1923; and

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

13 WHEREAS, due to the mores of the time, General Charles Young was not granted
14 the opportunity to receive a promotion through service during the First World War; and
15 many opine that Charles Young would have been the first African American Brigadier
16 General in the service of the United States Military; and

17 WHEREAS, after dogged effort by historians and veterans' organizations, Secretary
18 of the Army Christine Wormuth approved the posthumous promotion of Charles Young
19 to brigadier general on Oct. 6, 2021; and

20 WHEREAS, at a posthumous honorary ceremony at West Point on April 29, 2022,
21 Undersecretary of the Army Gabe Camarillo congratulated the Young family on General
22 Charles Young's trailblazing career, which was marked by his leadership, dedication to
23 duty, and steadfast determination, remarking, "Charles Young was a soldier, an
24 intellectual, a civil rights pioneer, and a man who loved his family deeply. When I think
25 of Charles Young, the word 'triumph' comes to mind. He faced unjust and harrowing
26 circumstances that tested him time and again, but he triumphed"; and

27 WHEREAS, although the General Assembly has already seen fit to honor the life

1 and accomplishments of Brigadier General Charles Young by designation of a memorial
2 highway near his birthplace in his honor, it is appropriate that more significant
3 recognition be granted to this trailblazing American; and

4 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is supportive of the multistate proposal to
5 establish a historical corridor linking Camp Nelson in Kentucky, which played a
6 significant role in Black military history during the Civil War, and the Charles Young
7 Buffalo Soldier National Monument in Ohio;

8 NOW, THEREFORE,

9 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

10 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate the area from Camp
11 Nelson in Jessamine County to the Kentucky/Ohio border at Mays Lick, Kentucky, as the
12 "Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor" and shall denote this
13 designation with appropriate signage and on maps where practical.

14 ➔Section 2. The Transportation Cabinet and the Tourism, Arts and Heritage
15 Cabinet shall work cooperatively to promote the historic, military, and cultural
16 importance of the Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor and
17 the many important historical sites along this route.

18 ➔Section 3. The Transportation Cabinet and the Tourism, Arts and Heritage
19 Cabinet shall work cooperatively with their counterparts in Ohio to the promote the
20 Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor as a unique historical
21 treasure outlining a time in our Nation's history when great men overcame barriers to
22 help preserve and defend their country.