

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5308

To provide for the posthumous promotion of Charles Young to the grade of brigadier general in the United States Army.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2010

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide for the posthumous promotion of Charles Young to the grade of brigadier general in the United States Army.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) Charles Young graduated from the United
6 States Military Academy at West Point in 1889 and
7 received a commission as a second lieutenant, be-
8 coming the third African-American cadet to do so;

1 (2) in recognition of his actions in leading a
2 squadron of the 10th Cavalry during Pershing's ex-
3 pedition into Mexico, Charles Young was promoted
4 to Lieutenant Colonel in 1917, the first African-
5 American to reach this rank;

6 (3) at the beginning of the First World War,
7 Charles Young was the highest ranking African-
8 American serving in the United States Army;

9 (4) shortly after the United States entrance
10 into the First World War, Charles Young was medi-
11 cally furloughed as unfit for duty and forced to re-
12 tire under protest at the rank of colonel;

13 (5) after riding 500 miles on horseback to dem-
14 onstrate his fitness in June 1918, Charles Young
15 was reinstated and assigned as military attaché to
16 Liberia;

17 (6) among his billets, Charles Young served as
18 Acting Superintendent of Sequoia National Park in
19 California and as commander of Fort Huachuca, Ar-
20 izona; and

21 (7) despite his outstanding service record and
22 dedication to his country, Charles Young was denied
23 the opportunity to receive a promotion through com-
24 bat command during the First World War solely be-
25 cause of his race.

1 **SEC. 2. POSTHUMOUS PROMOTION OF CHARLES YOUNG.**

2 The President may issue a posthumous commission
3 of brigadier general to Colonel Charles Young, United
4 States Army.

5 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF BENEFITS.**

6 No person is entitled to any bonus, gratuity, pay, or
7 allowance because of the provisions of section 2.

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