

1 A RESOLUTION celebrating Black History Month and honoring the life and legacy
2 of Colonel Charles Young.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who worked in the Kentucky coal mines as a
4 child and was the son of former slaves, enrolled in high school at the age of 20 and went
5 on to graduate from Berea College with a bachelor's degree, received his master's degree
6 from the University of Chicago, and earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University, where he
7 was one of the first scholars to study African American history; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1926, Dr. Woodson proposed and launched a weeklong celebration
9 of the individuals and occasions having a significant impact on African American history,
10 and has since been known as the "Father of Black History"; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson chose the month of February to conduct this
12 commemoration because the birthdays of two men whose actions have significantly
13 affected African Americans in this country are in February—namely Frederick Douglass,
14 the gifted orator, writer, and statesman who was a tireless advocate of the anti-slavery
15 movement, and President Abraham Lincoln; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1976, the commemoration was extended from a weeklong event to
17 the entire month of February; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2020, the Kentucky Black Legislative Caucus and all Kentuckians
19 pause to recognize and reflect on the accomplishments African Americans have made in
20 this Commonwealth and across the nation throughout each year, and throughout the
21 history of this nation, and in doing so we rightfully honor and commemorate the life of
22 Kentucky native and American hero Colonel Charles Young; and

23 WHEREAS, Colonel Young was born to enslaved parents Gabriel and Arminta
24 Young in Mays Lick, Kentucky, on March 12, 1864; and

25 WHEREAS, Colonel Young was the third African American to graduate from West
26 Point in 1889. He would go on to serve with the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries, and in 1903
27 he became the first African American Superintendent of Sequoia National Park; and

1 WHEREAS, Colonel Young was the highest-ranking African American serving in
2 the United States Army. He would serve admirably for another five years before his death
3 on January 8, 1922, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, where he was
4 eulogized by his friend W.E.B. DuBois; and

5 WHEREAS, this body pauses on this day to reflect on the life of the great Colonel
6 Charles Young, who will be posthumously promoted to Brigadier General; and

7 WHEREAS, in so doing, all in this Commonwealth recognize the many
8 achievements of Colonel Charles Young and other African Americans born in Kentucky
9 who so courageously paved the way for future generations;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

11 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
12 ***Kentucky:***

13 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby celebrate Black History Month in
14 February, and urge all Kentuckians to reflect on the profound contributions African
15 Americans have made and continue to make on behalf of this Commonwealth and its
16 citizens.

17 ➔Section 2. The Senate honors the life and legacy of Colonel Charles Young, and
18 posthumously congratulates him for being promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

19 ➔Section 3. The Senate acknowledges the Black Legislative Caucus, and keynote
20 speaker Charles Blatcher III, for their ongoing contributions to this Commonwealth.

21 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
22 Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal.