

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4421

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Colonel Charles Young, in recognition of his pioneering career in the United States Army during exceptionally challenging times.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Mr. RANGEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Colonel Charles Young, in recognition of his pioneering career in the United States Army during exceptionally challenging times.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Colonel Charles Young
5 Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Colonel Charles Young was—

1 (A) a distinguished African-American offi-
2 cer in the United States Army;

3 (B) the third African-American to grad-
4 uate from West Point;

5 (C) a commander of troops in combat in—

6 (i) the Spanish-American War; and

7 (ii) the Mexican Punitive Expedition
8 against Pancho Villa;

9 (D) the first Black United States military
10 attaché to a foreign government; and

11 (E) the highest ranking Black Officer in
12 the United States Armed Forces at the out-
13 break of World War I.

14 (2) Charles Young was born in 1864 into slav-
15 ery to Gabriel Young and Arminta Bruen in Mays
16 Lick, Kentucky, a small town near Maysville.

17 (3) Following West Point, Young began his
18 service with the Ninth Cavalry in the American
19 West. From 1889 to 1890 he served at Fort Robin-
20 son, Nebraska, and from 1890 to 1894 at Fort
21 Duchesne, Utah.

22 (4) In 1894, Lieutenant Young was assigned to
23 Wilberforce College in Ohio, a historically black col-
24 lege (HBCU), to lead the new military sciences de-
25 partment, established under a special Federal grant.

1 (5) As the commander of an Army unit as-
2 signed to protect and develop Sequoia National Park
3 and General Grant National Park in the State of
4 California, Colonel Young is recognized as the first
5 African-American to be the Superintendent of a Na-
6 tional Park.

7 (6) During his 32 years of honorable military
8 service, Colonel Young proved to be a valuable asset
9 in the field of military intelligence.

10 (7) With the Army's founding of the Military
11 Intelligence Department, in 1904 it assigned Young
12 as one of the first military attachés, serving in Port-
13 au-Prince, Haiti.

14 (8) In 1908 Young was sent to the Philippines
15 to join his Ninth Regiment and command a squad-
16 ron of two troops. It was his second tour there.
17 After his return to the United States, he served for
18 2 years at Fort D.A. Russell, Wyoming.

19 (9) In 1912 Young was assigned as the military
20 attaché to Liberia, the first African-American to
21 hold that post. For 3 years, he served as an expert
22 adviser to the Liberian government and also took a
23 direct role, supervising construction of the country's
24 infrastructure.

1 (10) In 1912 Young published *The Military*
2 *Morale of Nations and Races*, a remarkably pre-
3 scient study of the cultural sources of military
4 power.

5 (11) During the 1916 Punitive Expedition by
6 the United States into Mexico, then-Major Young
7 commanded the 2nd squadron of the 10th United
8 States Cavalry. While leading a cavalry pistol charge
9 against Pancho Villa's forces at Agua Caliente, he
10 routed the opposing forces without losing a single
11 man.

12 (12) Because of his exceptional leadership of
13 the 10th Cavalry in the Mexican theater of war,
14 Young was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in Sep-
15 tember 1916. He was assigned as commander of
16 Fort Huachuca, the base in Arizona of the Tenth
17 Cavalry, nicknamed the "Buffalo Soldiers", until
18 mid-1917. He was the first African-American to
19 achieve the rank of colonel in the United States
20 Army.

21 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

22 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
23 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
24 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
25 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold

1 medal of appropriate design to Colonel Charles Young, in
2 recognition of his pioneering career in the United States
3 Army during exceptionally challenging times.

4 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
5 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
6 Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
7 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
8 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
9 retary.

10 (c) NATIONAL AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM AND CUL-
11 TURAL CENTER.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
13 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
14 shall be given to the National Afro-American Mu-
15 seum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio,
16 where it shall be available for display as appropriate
17 and made available for research.

18 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
19 Congress that the National Afro-American Museum
20 and Cultural Center should make the gold medal re-
21 ceived under paragraph (1) available for display or
22 for loan as appropriate so that it may be displayed
23 elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations
24 associated with the life of Colonel Charles Young.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
3 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3
4 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
5 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
6 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
7 and the cost of the gold medal.

8 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

9 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national med-
10 als for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United
11 States Code.

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