
CONSENT

Bill No: SCR 90
Author: Grove (R)
Introduced: 6/4/25
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 14-0, 6/24/25
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle,
Gonzalez, Grayson, Limón, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Highway

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution updates the name of a portion of State Highway 198 in the County of Tulare from the Colonel Charles Young Memorial Highway to the Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Highway to reflect a posthumous promotion in 2021.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law assigns the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways, including the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

This resolution:

- 1) Recounts the life and career of Brigadier General Charles Young.
- 2) Redesignates the portion of State Highway 198 designated as the Colonel Charles Young Memorial Highway, extending from the postmile marker starting at Salt Creek Road (41.226) on State Highway 198 to the end at

Sequoia National Park in the County of Tulare, as the Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Highway.

- 3) Requests Caltrans to update the signs identifying this highway consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of this resolution.* According to the author, “Brigadier General Charles Young was a pioneer in every sense of the word,” stated Senator Shannon Grove. “As acting superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks in 1903, he became the first African American to hold such a position, leading Buffalo Soldiers to build roads still used by millions today. The Army’s posthumous promotion of Charles Young—approved in October 2021 and ceremonially recognized in April 2022—rightfully honors his trailblazing leadership. Updating the highway name to reflect his true rank is a long-overdue correction that honors his legacy and ensures future generations know his full story. SCR 90 is about respect, accuracy, and recognizing one of our nation’s true heroes.”
- 2) *Background.* Brigadier General Charles Young was born into slavery on March 12, 1864, in Mays Lick, Kentucky, to Gabriel Young and Arminta Bruen. After his father, Gabriel Young, escaped from slavery and enlisted in the Fifth Regiment of Colored Artillery, his service earned Gabriel and his wife their freedom. Charles Young attended the all-white high school in Ripley, Kentucky.

In 1883, Charles Young took an examination for appointment as a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and was admitted in 1884. Having graduated from West Point in 1889 with a commission as a second lieutenant, the third African American to do so at the time, he served with the Ninth U.S. Cavalry Regiment for 28 years.

Young served as a professor for four years at Wilberforce College, where he led the new military sciences department. When the Spanish-American War broke out, Young was promoted to the temporary rank of Major of Volunteers on May 14, 1898, where he commanded the 9th Ohio Infantry Regiment.

In 1903, Young was then appointed acting superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, becoming the first black superintendent of a

national park. Young, in one summer, accomplished more than the previous three officers assigned to the park through the management of extensive road construction, along with the improvement of the underdeveloped park, which allowed more visitors to enjoy the park than ever before. In his final report on the Sequoia Park to the Secretary of the Interior, Young recommended the acquisition of privately held lands there to secure more park area for future generations, from which legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives.

In 1904, Young married Ada Mills in Oakland, California, and later became the father of two children, Charles Noel and Marie Aurelia.

Because of his exceptional leadership of the 10th Cavalry, Young was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in September 1916, the first African American to achieve the rank of colonel in the United States Army. Brigadier General Young died on January 8, 1922, from a kidney infection while on a reconnaissance mission in Nigeria, and was given a full military funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Legislature, through adoption of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 142 (Resolution Chapter 143, Statutes of 2018), designated a specified portion of State Highway 198 as the Colonel Charles Young Memorial Highway. Four years later, Brigadier General Young was posthumously promoted from Colonel to Brigadier General, effective November 1, 2021. Therefore, the original highway designation must be rescinded and updated to reflect Brigadier General Young's new rank.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 7/7/25)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 7/7/25)

None received

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