



Col. Charles Young

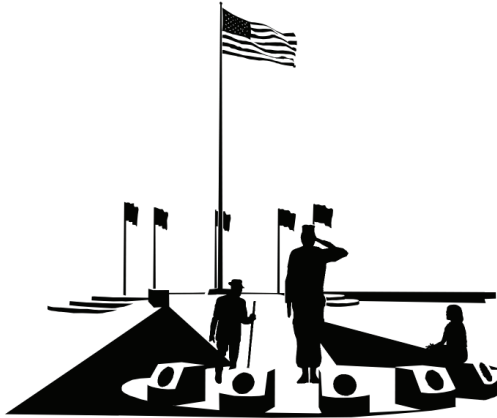
(March 12, 1864 – January 8, 1922)

was an American soldier. He was the third African-American graduate of the United States Military Academy, the first black US national park superintendent, first black military attaché, first black man to achieve the rank of colonel in the United States Army, and highest-ranking black officer in the regular army until his death in 1922.

Young graduated in 1889 with his commission as a second lieutenant, the third black man to do so at the time. He was first assigned to the Tenth U.S. Cavalry Regiment. Through a reassignment, he served first with the Ninth U.S. Cavalry Regiment, starting in Nebraska. His subsequent service of 28 years was chiefly with black troops—the Ninth U.S. Cavalry and the Tenth U.S. Cavalry, black troops nicknamed the “Buffalo Soldiers” since the Indian Wars. The armed services were racially segregated until 1948, when President Harry S. Truman initiated integration by executive order, which took some years to complete.

After getting established in his career, Young married Ada Mills in 1904 in Oakland, California. They had two children: Charles Noel (Ohio 1906) and Marie Aurelia (Philippines 1909).

Charles Young received honors through his life and his legacy lives on today.



CHARLES YOUNG

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