



HR1070

LRB098 21177 MST 59098 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to recognize the opening of the Col.  
4 Charles Young temporary exhibit and the presentation of the  
5 bronze maquette in his honor - the nation's first black colonel  
6 in the United States Armed Forces; and

7           WHEREAS, Col. Charles Young was born in 1864 to enslaved  
8 parents and became only the 3rd African-American to graduate  
9 from West Point; he rose through the military ranks and became  
10 the first black American in the regular army to be promoted to  
11 Colonel in 1917; in 1918, he was stationed at Camp Grant in  
12 Rockford; in addition to his exemplary military record, he  
13 served as the Superintendent of Sequoia National Park in  
14 California and as the nation's first black military attache to  
15 a foreign government; and

16           WHEREAS, Col. Charles Young was many things - a diplomat,  
17 an educator, a Buffalo Soldier - and his legacy lives on  
18 through all the African-American soldiers, Colonels, Generals,  
19 and Flag Officers that came after him; and

20           WHEREAS, The Coalition of Black Veterans, in conjunction  
21 with the African American Gallery of the Ethnic Heritage Museum  
22 has been working diligently to get Col. Young an honorary

1 promotion to the rank of Brigadier General; and

2 WHEREAS, The Col. Charles Young temporary exhibit will open  
3 starting on May 17, 2014, Armed Forces Day, at the Veterans  
4 Memorial Hall in Rockford and will remain open throughout the  
5 month of June; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we recognize the opening of the Col. Charles Young temporary  
9 exhibit and the presentation of the bronze maquette in his  
10 honor; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the National Coalition of Black Veteran  
13 Organizations as an expression of our esteem and respect.