

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2013

President Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear President Obama:

We write to request the honorary promotion of Colonel Charles Young, United States Army, to the rank of Brigadier General. Colonel Young dedicated of his life to the service of our country and exhibited exemplary leadership throughout his career.

A child of former slaves, Charles Young proved to be a true trailblazer. The third Black cadet to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1889, he became the first black military attaché, the first black Superintendent of a National Park, and the first black soldier promoted to both the ranks of Lieutenant Colonel as well as Colonel. He also had combat commands during the Philippine Insurrection and General Pershing's Punitive Expedition, during which his courageous actions under fire resulted in the rescue of the 13th Cavalry. He was the highest ranking African American in the military at the outset of the First World War.

Over the course of his thirty-two year career, Colonel Young distinguished himself numerous times as an administrator, as a soldier, and as a combat officer. Despite his record achievements, Colonel Young unfortunately lived during an era of segregation, which prevented him from leading combat troops during the First World War. This likely limited his opportunities for promotion. The time is long past due to recognize his leadership and achievements in Service to this nation, and Black History Month would be a particularly poignant time to recognize his indelible contribution.

We are also enclosing a letter from the National Coalition of Black Veterans, which also requests the posthumous promotion of Colonel Young.

I look forward to your detailed response, and should you have any questions, please contact Mariah Jones on my staff at (202) 225-2661 or Mariah.Jones@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



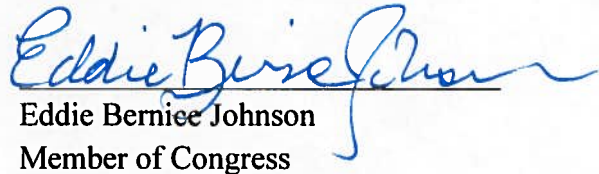
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

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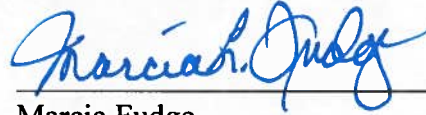
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



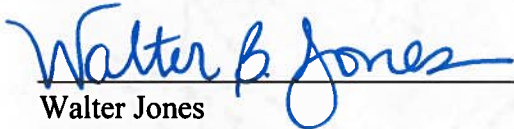
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



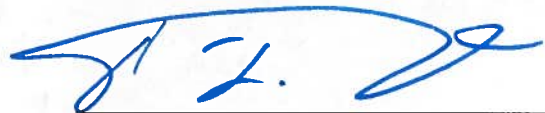
Walter Jones
Member of Congress



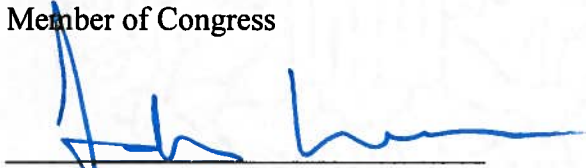
Michael Turner
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



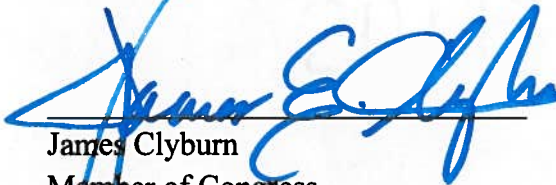
Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



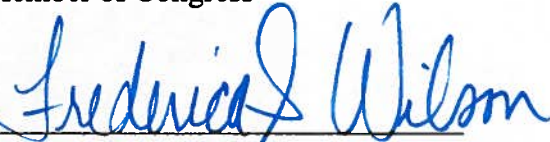
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



James Clyburn
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



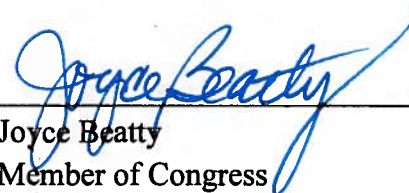
Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



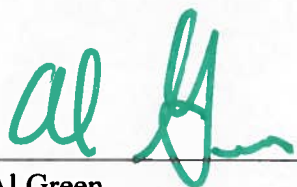
Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

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Al Green
Member of Congress



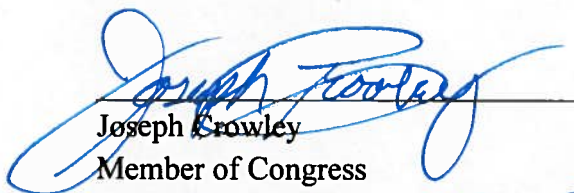
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



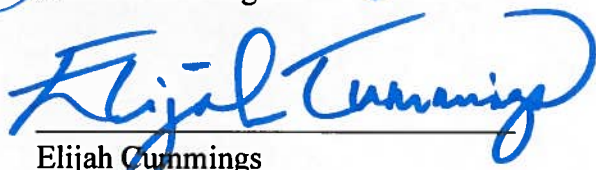
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



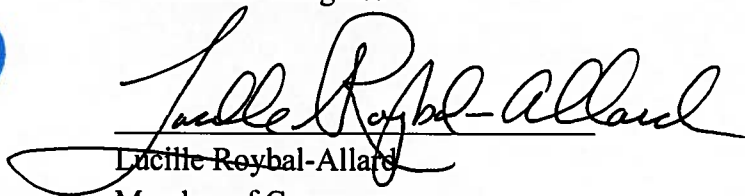
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



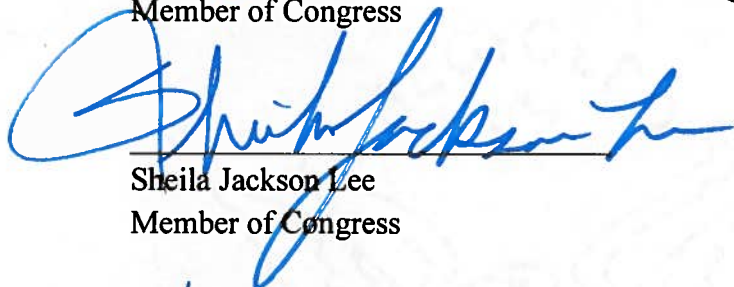
Bobby Scott
Member of Congress



Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



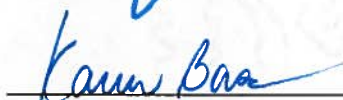
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



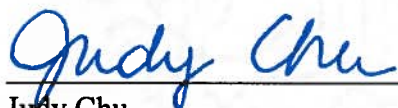
Donald M. Payne Jr.
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



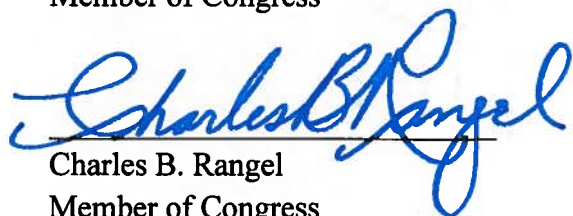
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress