

# By The Post Lake

*We Stand For The Greatest Nation*



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings American Legion Post 91 family members:

With the continuing Covid-19 crisis, your executive board has decided to make some changes again to our canteen hours and food service. New canteen hours for **SUNDAY through SATURDAY** from **NOON until 10PM**, with **alcohol sales stopping at 9PM**, everyone needs to be out by 10PM, including our bartender. Our kitchen will now be open **MONDAY through FRIDAY - NOON till 2:00PM** for full menu ordering. Evening hours will be **Monday 5PM - 7PM** (fryer foods) - **Tuesday 5PM - 7PM** (taco's) - **Wednesday 5PM - 7PM** (pizza) - **Thursday (6PM - 8PM) - wings, with special wing night the third Thursday, as usual.** So, don't sit at home deciding on what to have for dinner, come on down and enjoy some good food, drinks, and the fellowship of your Post 91 family.

**Monday night drawings are BACK.** Weekly sign-up cost will be \$2.00 with one dollar to main drawing (drawn from roster book) and one dollar to a winner take all (replaces \$25.00 drawing). Winner takes all monies collected that week. (Example - one hundred sign-ups equals \$100.00 pot). Winner to be selected from the WEEKLY sign-up sheet and must be present to win pot. In addition, a new weekly "Winner take All" in which you can buy as many tickets all week for \$1.00 each, **you MUST sign all tickets**, AND you NOT need be present to win that "Winner take All".

A big **"THANK YOU"** goes out to our **American Legion Riders** for a second generous donation of \$1000.00 to help Post 91 offset expenses through these difficult times. Our monthly expenses tally around \$5k for utilities, insurance, kitchen loan payment, and other general expenses even though the Post may not be open for business. Another **"THANK YOU"** to **George Masie** who constructed a frame for the Albert E. Baesel Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor is now mounted in a recess on the Memorial Wall with the frame permanently securing the Medal of Honor in place. Take a peek at his fine work next time you're in the Post. Please stay healthy and thank you for your continued support of Post 91.

Happy Valentine's Day - **Post 91 Reverse Raffle re-scheduled for Feb 20th** See you St. Pat's Day - Wednesday March 17th

Service above Self - Thank a Vet.

For God and Country

*Mel*

### Post By The Lake Newsletter

Mel Baher, Commander  
Maureen Bauhof, Editor/Designer

Albert E. Baesel American Legion  
Post 91

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Berea, OH 44017

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### Hall Rentals

Please contact Marianna Peris,  
Monday through Saturday 9:00am to  
5:00pm  
@440-234-0091 or 440-223-6444

Marilla Baher, Legion Sunshine Fund

- Member benefit
- Family member or member's immediate
- ~~Life~~ Usage 4 Hours for "Celebration of
- Post 91 provides food at no charge

Contact Legion 440-234-0091 to confirm  
availability of Hall

Contact Marilla Baher 216-299-7744 to  
organize everything.

## FEATURE STORY

### First Black Colonel: Charles Young

Charles Young was born into slavery in a two-room log cabin in Mays Lick, Ky., on March 12, 1864. His father Gabriel later fled to freedom and in 1865 enlisted as a private in the 5th Regiment, U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery. His father's enhanced status as a "Grand Army man" impressed Charles as he grew up in Ripley, Ohio. The son was sent to an all-black elementary school, but he was able to attend Ripley's integrated high school and graduated at the top of his class in 1881. Two years later, at the urging of his father, he took the West Point entrance examination. Twenty-year-old Young scored well, received the required nomination from Ohio's 12th District Congressman Alphonso Hart and reported to the U.S. Military Academy in June 1884. He was the ninth black American admitted to West Point; he would be the third to graduate with a commission as a second lieutenant.



Young considered quitting West Point after his first year, but his father convinced him to stay—though it took Young five years to complete the curriculum. He had difficulty with engineering but excelled in languages, gaining a working knowledge of Latin, Greek, French, Spanish and German. His decision to persevere was a source of pride for him, and he accepted that "duty, honor, country" must be the foundation of his life as an officer. But Young later advised a young black man interested in attending West Point that he could expect "a dog's life there."

Young graduated last in his 49-member class in 1889, and from 1894 until 1936 he was the lone black West Point graduate in the Army.

Assigned to the predominantly black 9th U.S. Cavalry (aka "buffalo soldiers"), Young served in Nebraska and Utah in the early 1890s before reporting to Wilberforce University, near Dayton, Ohio, as professor of military science and tactics. While at Wilberforce, Young befriended W.E.B. Du Bois, a classics professor who would become one of the leading black American intellectuals of the early 20th century. After leaving Wilberforce, Du Bois and Young continued to correspond, and Du Bois considered Young one of the "talented tenth"—those individuals whom Du Bois and other prominent black intellectuals believed would lead the struggle for racial justice in America.

Young's patience, discipline and hard work paid off when the United States declared war on Spain in April 1898. On May 13 of that year Ohio Governor Asa S. Bushnell appointed 1st Lt. Young a brevet major in command of the 9th Battalion Ohio Volunteers, an all-black unit. While the major and his men remained stateside, Young gained valuable command experience.

At war's end Young returned briefly to Wilberforce University before rejoining the 9th Cavalry at Fort Duchesne, Utah. While in command of I Troop, 1st Lt. Young (he had reverted to his permanent rank) learned that one of his men, Sgt. Maj. Benjamin O. Davis, wanted to apply for a commission. Young tutored Davis for the competitive examination and wrote a glowing letter of recommendation. In early 1901 Davis passed the test and was commissioned a second lieutenant. He never forgot Young's help, particularly after becoming the first black American to reach the rank of general.

In February 1901 Young was promoted to captain in the Regular Army—another first for a black man. Two months later Young and I Troop sailed for the Philippines with the rest of the 9th Cavalry. Stationed on Samar, Young and his men fought the Filipino insurrectos in the jungles of the island's rugged interior. During one operation Young was leading a scouting party when it came under attack. "Captain Young had fired his revolver so fast," a corporal later recalled, "that the sight was blown off." Young then took another officer's pistol and kept firing at the enemy until reinforcements arrived. Such instances of combat leadership earned Young the moniker "Follow Me" from his men, who vowed they would give their lives for him. The 9th Cavalry returned stateside in late 1902.

—Continued on page 6

## THE AMERICAN LEGION

### Tony Mazzeo, 1st Vice Commander

Please pay your dues as soon as possible  
Dues are payable **on-line @ [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org)** or  
Send dues to:

American Legion Post 91  
91 American Legion Parkway  
Berea Ohio 44017

As of January 16, we have:

575 Renewals  
128 that paid online.  
This is 85% of quota.

We have 6 new members & 8 transfers for the year.

We need 101 members to renew to make our quota.

*Tony*

### CHARITY REPORT

Tom Morgan

Nothing to Report

### AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Mike Ferrell

Due to Covid-19 A.L.R. Breakfast's are on hold till the Fall of 2021.

### COLOR GUARD

Bob Roginsky, Color Guard

Hello all.

We have 2 new members, Pat Rochford, and Cory Webber. Welcome aboard. The next meeting will be sometime in February. Anyone who would like to join the color guard call Jon Silvis 440-823-1066 or Bob Roginsky 440-582-5856. Stay Safe.

*Bob*

### Jeff Myers, 2nd Vice Commander

Well, 2021 hasn't started looking out much better than 2020. Our **Reverse Raffle** has been pushed back once again until **February 20th**, hopefully for the final time. Everything is all lined up for the event, including a hand crafted wavy wooden American flag donated by Joe Burdick from Burdick Custom Flags which will be a raffle item. Marianna has the food all lined up and we just need everyone to show up and participate and have a great time.

Fish Fry's are going to be starting in February.

We are trying to bring back as much as possible while maintaining safety for our members as well as our staff so please follow all our guidelines.

We are still selling Memorial Bricks at a cost of \$40@ forms are available in the Canteen and can be purchased from your bartender. We need 20 to place an order and have been stuck on (12) for quite some time, so please consider a purchase for yourself, friend, or loved one.

Always Remember to Thank A Veteran,  
For God and Country!!

*Jeff*



## THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

### Marianna Peris, Auxiliary President

Hi Everyone... Well life is still different. The Auxiliary is planning events for 2021. If we must wear masks, so be it. Nancy will reflect on upcoming events in her article.

**Congratulations** to Nina Zdravecky on her recent retirement.

**We have a basket raffle taking place at the Post currently.** It is a Valentine theme basket. Proceeds will benefit the Auxiliary to help offset some of the money we missed in the past year for our causes. Thanks, Joyce, for putting this basket together.

We have not had many meetings due to Corvid, but we do keep in touch. If at any time the Auxiliary can help you, please contact me, 440-223-6444. We will do the best we can. Please wear your mask and wash your hands often and stay healthy. We miss seeing so many of you at the Post.

*Marianna*

### Nina Zdravecky, 1st Vice Auxiliary

Nothing to report.

*Nina*

### Stacey Lehmann 2nd Vice Ladies Auxiliary

The Auxiliary is looking for delegates to represent Post 91 at this year's Buckeye Girls State Program. Buckeye Girls State is the name given to Ohio's Girls State program, which was designed to educate Ohio's young women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of good citizenship. By getting involved in the process Delegates can learn more about City, County and State Government in one week than they will learn in an entire semester of high school. Young women who have completed their junior year of high at the time of the program are eligible. This year's program runs from **June 13, 2021 to June 19, 2021** and will be held at the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. For more information, contact Stacey Lehmann at Stacey\_m15@hotmail.com

*Stacey*

### Nancy Doutt, Auxiliary Membership, Giving Tree & Scholarship Chairman

#### Membership

Thank you to the 310 members who have paid their 2021 dues as of the writing of this newsletter. That is 79.8% of our goal of 388 members. Just a reminder that if you sponsored a Junior, their dues are just \$6.00--they do not receive dues notice reminders. We hope all our members are staying safe and healthy. Our Chaplain does try to send a little sunshine to those members who need some Vitamin D in their life. If you know of someone who is in need, please let an officer know.

- **Plant A Row 2020**—A HUGE thank you to our Plant a Row gardener **Rich Terwoord and Pantry Dash volunteer Larry Hendricks**. Richie grew 626 lbs. of fresh vegetables, which were delivered on alternating weeks to the S.C.A.N. pantry and Church Street Ministries/Second Mile Food Pantry. THANK YOU, Rich and Larry!!!

- **Giving Tree -- Post 91 members and friends were extremely generous** this year for The Giving Tree. Even though the actual tree never went up due to the Post being temporarily closed, we were able to deliver more than 115 gifts for Berea Community Outreach, two local families and Church Street Ministries/Second Mile Outreach, in addition to five boxes of personal care items and gift cards for the residents of Quarrytown. **A GIGANTIC thank you to Marianna Peris** for providing a safe off-site collection site, sorting gifts and being one of Santa's personal shoppers. For many during this pandemic, it is hard enough to put food on the table and pay bills, let alone provide their family with a Christmas---and you did that for them. THANK YOU. Here's an excerpt from a thank you note we received: Thank you for coming through for us, especially considering the kind of year we had. I sure hope 2021 will be a much better year. Stay safe and healthy and thank you all for all you do!

#### Scholarship

- The Auxiliary **\$500 Scholarship applications** are available in the canteen and are due back by **Apr15**. Any member or relative of a member of Post 91 is eligible to apply if you/they are seeking any continuing education. Please be sure to follow the instructions on the form so the application gets into the correct hands by the deadline. Do not combine this application in the same envelope with any other Post application. —Continued on page 5

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

### Duane Schaft, S.A.L. Commander

Greetings from S.A.L. Squadron 91

Visit our SAL Facebook page:  
Sons-of-the-American-Legion-Squadron-91-Berea-  
Oh for any updates on SAL activities. If you have  
any questions about our organization, please  
contact an officer or send us an email at  
[salpost91@gmail.com](mailto:salpost91@gmail.com)

The SAL team encourages participation in our  
monthly meetings, which are held at Post 91 every  
second Wednesday at 7:30pm. I am asking that  
every SAL member talk to one friend or family  
member about visiting a meeting. Please stop by.  
All are welcomed!

*Duane*

### Jim Matej, S.A.L. Membership

Renewal Time for Squadron 91

2021 Membership Year - Annual Dues \$30.00

It is renewal time for membership dues in the  
Sons of the American Legion. Our 2021 State of  
Ohio quota for 2021 has been set at 344 members.  
Hopefully we can surpass that number, remaining  
the largest and best. If you didn't renew your  
membership in 2020 or were a past member of  
Squadron 91 and haven't been active for a while  
drop off your information at Post 91 and we will  
work with you to get reactivated.

If you moved or believe we do not have your  
correct address leave us a note in the S.A.L.  
membership mailbox and we will update our  
records.

Please send dues to:

*Sons of the American Legion Squadron 91*  
*91 American Legion Parkway*  
*Berea, Ohio 44017*

Please include your Membership ID# with the  
payment.

If your dues have already been paid we thank you.

If you have a question about membership, moved,  
drop us a note or send us an email at

[salpost91@gmail.com](mailto:salpost91@gmail.com)

*Jim*

## THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

—Continued from page 4

### Nancy Douth, Membership Chairman Auxiliary

#### Garage Sale

• It's baaaaack. Pending any Post closures, the  
annual garage sale will be held Thursday, Friday  
and Saturday, May 6, 7, and 8, 2021, in the Post  
hall. Many of you have been doing a lot of spring/  
summer/fall/winter/spring cleaning during the  
pandemic, so please hang on to your treasures a  
couple of months longer and donate them to the  
garage sale. This garage sale funds the Auxiliary  
scholarship. Watch additional information in the  
canteen and on various social media platforms  
(such as e-mail, Facebook, or website) for  
drop-off hours the week of May 2.

#### Report

• And last, but not least, it's already reporting  
time for the 2020-2021 year. While we were not  
able to do a lot of our traditional volunteering,  
many members have been very creative with ways  
they've helped others.

How did you help a Veteran, their family, children  
and youth, your community?

Did you donate blood?

Did you send military care packages?

Did you vote and/work at the polls, or write any  
legislative representatives?

Did you attend Church online or in person?

Did you help clean pews or clean up in your  
community?

Did you help students get set up with online  
learning?

*Nancy*



In May 1903, 39-year-old Captain Young, three other officers and 93 enlisted soldiers left the Presidio of San Francisco for Sequoia and General Grant national parks in north-central California. In the years before the 1916 creation of the National Park Service, the Army ran America's national parks. The War Department detailed junior officers to the Department of the Interior to serve as acting superintendents during the summer. These assignments were always short-lived; the officers never served for more than two consecutive seasons. Consequently, little was expected.

But Young threw himself into his new job. He took charge of the payroll accounts and directed the activities of the park rangers. He stopped the illegal grazing of sheep in the park's meadows. Young had his men dig firebreaks and place fences around the giant sequoias to protect them from root damage. The men also began work on a major project: completing a road to the Giant Forest, the park's major attraction. Civilian crews had completed two-thirds of the road during the past few seasons. Young and his troopers finished it in two months and added another two miles to the road, going on to complete an unfinished road to the town of Visalia, seven miles farther west.

Young graduated last in his 49-member class in 1889, and from 1894 until 1936 he was the lone black West Point graduate in the Army.

Assigned to the predominantly black 9th U.S. Cavalry (aka "buffalo soldiers"), Young served in Nebraska and Utah in the early 1890s before reporting to Wilberforce University, near Dayton, Ohio, as professor of military science and tactics. While at Wilberforce, Young befriended W.E.B. Du Bois, a classics professor who would become one of the leading black American intellectuals of the early 20th century. After leaving Wilberforce, Du Bois and Young continued to correspond, and Du Bois considered Young one of the "talented tenth"—those individuals whom Du Bois and other prominent black intellectuals believed would lead the struggle for racial justice in America.

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Secretary of the Interior Ethan A. Hitchcock was enormously impressed with Young's work. Visalia town leaders also heralded Young's "energy and enthusiasm" and gave him a unanimous vote of thanks. The National Park Service remains proud of Young, devoting a number of website pages to him and his achievements as the first black superintendent of a national park. At the completion of his assignment in the park, Young returned to San Francisco. There he married Ada Mills, the daughter of a prosperous mulatto family from Oakland. His new bride accompanied Young on his next tour of duty, as military attaché to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Young and his wife arrived in Port-au-Prince in late May 1904. He threw himself into his new assignment and over the next two years made exploratory horseback trips throughout Hispaniola. He wrote topographical reports and drew maps, compiled a French-English-Creole dictionary and wrote a 273-page monograph on Haiti's government, law and culture. He analyzed the military preparedness of both island nations and reported on their fortifications. When Young left Port-au-Prince in April 1907, William P. Powell, the American minister in Haiti, wrote to Secretary of State Elihu Root that Young should be commended for his "careful and painstaking work." In 1907 and 1908 Young served in Washington, D.C., in the War Department's military intelligence section, where he spent much of the year relating his experiences in Haiti to both senior Army leaders and State Department officials.

Young then redeployed to the Philippines on a one-year assignment as commander of 3rd Squadron, 9th Cavalry. His wife, Ada, and their 2-year old son came along. Their presence was a source of joy to Young, as he was the lone black American officer in the Philippines and still faced prejudice in a white man's Army. Unlike his first tour in the Philippines, during which he had seen considerable combat, his second tour was routine and uneventful, aside from the birth of a daughter.

Returning to the United States in May 1909, Young reported to Fort D.A. Russell, Wyo., then the largest cavalry post in the United States, where he took command of 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry. Two years later he again made history when the War Department selected him to be the first military attaché to the Republic of Liberia.

Arriving in Monrovia with Ada in May 1912, Young began reorganizing the nascent Liberian Frontier Force and constabulary. Soon promoted to major, he saw combat in December 1912 when hostile tribesmen ambushed the Liberian troops he was accompanying. Over the next few days Young and the Liberian unit fought from town to town, and Young suffered a gunshot wound to his arm--the only time in his career he was wounded in action.

In early 1913 Young contracted malarial blackwater fever and became so debilitated he could scarcely walk. Returning to the United States for treatment, he nearly died on the voyage home. He spent months recovering at home in Ohio, then returned to Liberia to complete his assignment, which he did in November 1915.

Back on U.S. soil Young discovered he had achieved renown in the black community. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People awarded him the Spingarn Medal in 1916, an annual award for outstanding achievement by a black American. (General Colin Powell is the only other career soldier to have earned the medal, in 1991.) In March 1916 Major Young took command of 2nd Squadron, 10th Cavalry, at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.—just in time to participate in the Army's Punitive Expedition into Mexico. Mexican guerrilla leader Pancho Villa and his men had raided the Army's garrison at Columbus, N.M., killing or wounding more than two-dozen soldiers and civilians, and Young and his troopers joined Brig. Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing's campaign in search of Villa.

Young and his men ran into a large contingent of Villa's troops at a ranch in Mexico on March 31, 1916. Determined to rout the guerrillas from their defensive position behind stone walls, Young led his mounted troopers in a whooping, shouting charge that so unnerved the defenders that they broke and ran. Two weeks later Young and the 10th Cavalry rescued embattled troopers from the 13th Cavalry who had been cornered by Mexican government troops and were fighting for their lives. The Mexicans had already killed or wounded several Americans, and their commander, Major Frank Tompkins, was reportedly so thrilled to see the reinforcements, he cried out, "By God, Young, I could kiss every one of you!" Quipped Young, who was riding at the head of the troops, "Hello, Tompkins! You can start in on me right now."

In early 1917 it was clear to many observers that America's entry into World War I was imminent, and Young believed he was ready for war in France. So did Pershing; he sent a list to the War Department of those officers whose performance in the Punitive Expedition made them deserving of brigade command. Lt. Col. Young (he had been promoted in June 1916) was on that list. When the United States declared war on the Central Powers in April 1917, many in the black community expected that the 53-year-old Young would play an important role, reach flag rank and make history as America's first black general. —Continued on page 10



Berea, Ohio

**Feb 2021**

**Canteen Hours**  
 Mon - Sun 12pm - 11pm  
 Last Call 10:15pm  
 Doors locked 11pm



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 W 8pm	2 T 5-7pm	3 Lunch - Western Burger, Fries P 5-7pm	4 W 6-8pm	5 W	6
7 K I Y	8 7:30PM Meeting 7:30PM Meeting	9 G O	10 Lunch - Garlic Chicken Parm, over Pastra, side salad 7:30PM Mtg Z Z	11 7PM Meeting	12	13
14 Happy Valentine's Day	15 D R Y	16 N I G H T	17 Lunch - Beef Stroganoff, Noodles, Broccoli N Z	18 7PM Meeting SPECIAL WINE NITE	19 6-8pm	20 Rescheduled Reverse Raffle
21 A.L.R. Meeting Noon	22 7PM Executive Board Meeting	23	24 Lunch - Liver & Onions N Z	25 7PM E-Board	26	27 LUNCHES Mon - Fri 12-2pm
28 Serving Monday nights- 5/7pm	<p><b>REVERSE Raffle</b> Last # winner                  Jan 30 \$25 ea. Hrs. 6/10pm                  Food, Draft Beer, Wash, BYOB</p>					
<p><b>LUCKY DRAW</b></p>		<p><b>Stall Rentals</b>                  Tina Bereti                  440-532-2586</p>		<p>Sunshine Fund                  Contact                  Marilla Baher                  216-299-7744</p>		<p><b>KITCHEN OPEN</b>                  Evenings 5/7pm                  Thurs 6/8pm                  LUNCHES                  Mon - Fri 12-2pm</p>

**W O R K P A R T Y S A T U R D A Y**  
**F e b 1 3 8 : 3 0 A M**

www.postbythelake.org



Berea, Ohio

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 Mon - Sun 12pm - 11pm  
 Last call 10:15pm  
 Doors locked 11pm

**Mar 2021**



**W O R K P A R T Y S A T U R D A Y**  
 M a r 1 3 8 : 3 0 A M

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	8pm	2	3 Lunch - Spaghetti, Meat balls, Side Salad	4	5 6-8pm	6
7	8pm	9	10 Lunch - BBQ Chicken, Mac & cheese, corn bread	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Sandwich Corned Beef or Rubin	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Lunch - Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Lunch - Liver & Onions			
	Serving Monday nights - 5/7pm			<i>Hall Rentals</i> Tina Bereti 440-532-2586	Sunshine Fund Contact Marilla Baher 216-299-7744	KITCHEN OPEN Evenings 5/7pm Thurs 6/8pm <b>LUNCHES</b> Mon - Fri 12-2pm

## EDITORIAL

Maureen Travers Bauhof, Editor

## Greetings,

We have been lucky with this mild winter. I hope it continues thru Spring. Its the first winter I have spent in OH in 16 years. We are signed up for the injections and I guess it will be a wait & see till we receive a call.

The Legion is serving lunch "Off Our Menu Monday thru Friday 12/2p. Wed will have a special & "Off Our Menu". Evenings are 5/7pm, Monday "Off Our Menu". Taco Tuesday, Wed Pizza, Friday Fish Fry, and 6/8p for Thirsday Wings. Stop down for a bite to eat and say "Hello".

For changes at the Post, check:

**Post by the Lake website:** <http://postbythelake.org/> and the Facebook pages of the Units.

Stay safe & wear a mask.

*Maureen*

FEATURE STORY Cont'd from pg 7

In early 1917 it was clear to many observers that America's entry into World War I was imminent, and Young believed he was ready for war in France. So did Pershing; he sent a list to the War Department of those officers whose performance in the Punitive Expedition made them deserving of brigade command. Lt. Col. Young (he had been promoted in June 1916) was on that list. When the United States declared war on the Central Powers in April 1917, many in the black community expected that the 53-year-old Young would play an important role, reach flag rank and make history as America's first black general.

It was not to be. While stationed at Fort Huachuca in May 1917, Young had passed the examination for promotion to colonel, but his medical examination found high blood pressure and albuminuria, suggesting kidney damage. Two medical boards recommended that his physical condition be waived and that he be promoted and kept on active duty, but the chief medical officer disagreed. Despite many letters written on his behalf, an intensive lobbying effort by the NAACP and his own pleas to the War Department, Young was forced to retire as a colonel in July 1917.

While Young was the first black American to reach that rank, the promotion was meaningless to him, as his military career seemed over. The medical examination was correct— Young's kidneys were severely damaged—but the color of his skin may have also factored into his forced retirement: A white officer who had served under Young in Mexico had complained to his senator in Mississippi about being forced to serve under a "colored commander," terming it both "distasteful" and "practically impossible." The senator wrote to President Woodrow Wilson—a staunch Southerner—who asked Secretary of War Newton Baker to investigate the problem. Baker, learning of Young's questionable health, reportedly suggested a medical retirement. Had Young been a white officer, there is every reason to believe he would have been declared fit for duty. But the Wilson administration, which strongly favored a segregated Army, apparently found it expedient to let Young's condition solve a complaint by white racists.

Young's old friend Du Bois, joined by the NAACP, continued to lobby for Young's return to active duty, as did his former commanding officer in the 10th Cavalry, to no avail. While thousands of black Americans eventually served in the Army in Europe in World War I—mostly in the ranks—Young was not one of them. It must have come as a great surprise to the colonel when, just five days before the end of the war, he was recalled to active duty and placed in command of all-black stevedore regiments at Camp Grant, Ill. But his late recall and war's end precluded any promotion. Young soon again returned to civilian life, but in 1919 he was recalled to duty, again as military attaché to Liberia. He sailed for England in January 1920, accompanied by his wife and two children. Young continued to Liberia, while his wife, son and daughter went to France to live during his assignment.

Young's duties in Liberia—advising that nation's military and supporting U.S. State Department efforts—mirrored those of his earlier tenure. But the War Department also tasked him with intelligence gathering in other parts of Africa, and in November 1921 he traveled to Nigeria, where kidney disease finally caught up with him. He died in Lagos of acute nephritis on Jan. 8, 1922 and was buried in Liberia. After appeals from his widow, the Army returned Young's body to the United States, where on June 1, 1923, he was buried with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery

**Upcoming Events**

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Feb 20 Reverse Raffle

Watch for updates on the  
Website, Facebook & Emails

**he American Legion:**

Nothing to Report

Please welcome all our newest  
members!

**American Legion Auxiliary**

New: Kelly Donahue. Stormy Riddle

**Sons of the American Legion**

Nothing to Report

Taps:

Sick List:

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**SOLD OUT**

**Sat Feb 20, 2021 6/10pm**

**\$25 each includes:**

**Baked Chicken, Rigatoni/meat**

**Mashed Potatoes, Green**

**Beans, Salad, Roll, Dessert,**

**BYOB, Draft Beer, Wash**

