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**ACR-142 Colonel Charles Young Memorial Highway.** (2017-2018)

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**Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 142**

**CHAPTER 143**

Relative to the Colonel Charles Young Memorial Highway.

[ Filed with Secretary of State August 17, 2018. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 142, Mathis. Colonel Charles Young Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a portion of State Highway 198, as described, in the County of Tulare as the Colonel Charles Young Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal Committee: yes

WHEREAS, Colonel Charles Young was born into slavery on March 12, 1864, in Mays Lick, Kentucky, to Gabriel Young and Arminta Bruen; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Charles Young attended the all-white high school in Ripley, Kentucky, and graduated at the top of his class; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Young served as a professor for four years at Wilberforce College, where he led the new military sciences department; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

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

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

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

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Colonel 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; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature pays tribute to the memory of Colonel Charles Young, a distinguished American who dedicated his life to the service of the State of California and the United States, by designating the portion of State Highway 198, extending from the postmile marker starting at Salt Creek Road (41.226) on Highway 198 to the end at Sequoia National Park in the County of Tulare, as the Colonel Charles Young Memorial Highway; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.