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BASILEUS CORNER

Brother Basileus Thomas Hill



Every year, more than 40 million Americans struggle with mental illness. African American men are as likely as anyone else to have mental illness, but they are less likely to get help.

Depression and other mental illness can be deadly if left untreated. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among African Americans 15 to 24 years old. Untreated mental illness can also make African American men more vulnerable to substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, and homicide.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and NIMHD have launched Brother, You're on My Mind: Changing the National Dialogue Regarding Mental Health Among African American Men, an initiative to help start conversations about mental health.

This initiative has two major goals:

Goal 1: To collaborate on efforts to educate Omega members, their families, and related communities on the effects of depression and stress.

Goal 2: To communicate the importance of seeking help for mental health problems and to encourage affected individuals to get information from their health care providers and others in order to obtain appropriate treatment.



OMEGA STUDY Brigadier General Charles Young



As a soldier, diplomat, and civil rights leader, Charles Young overcame stifling inequality to become a leading figure in the years after the Civil War when the United States emerged as a world power. His work ethic, academic leadership, and devotion to duty provided a strong base for his achievements in the face of racism and oppression. His long and distinguished career as a commissioned officer in the United States Army made him a popular figure of his time and a role model for generations of new leaders.

View the short, ten minute [park introductory film](#) that chronicles the life of General Charles Young.

Use the drop-down in-page navigation below to learn more about specific periods of Charles Young's life or feel free to scroll down this page to read through the entire chronology.



Portrait of Charles Young as a child
Courtesy of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce, Ohio

Early Life

Young was born to enslaved parents, Gabriel & Armintia Young, on March 12th, 1864, in May's Lick, Kentucky. That same year his father escaped enslavement and in February 1865 joined the 5th Regiment, U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery. Sometime after Gabriel's enlistment, young Charles and his parents relocated from Kentucky to across the river in Ripley, Ohio, seeking a new life in the river town which just happened to be the center of abolitionism. Charles flourished in Ripley in academics, foreign languages and in music. His public education was supplemented with generous amounts of help from his mother

who was educated while she was a slave, a rarity for any slave during those times. At age 17 he graduated with academic honors from the integrated high school in 1881. After high school, Young taught at the African-American elementary school in Ripley for two years. He would continue to chase his thirst for knowledge and education while under the guidance and mentoring of renowned African-American abolitionist John Parker.



Portrait of Cadet Charles Young by Pach Brothers, NY
Courtesy of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce, Ohio

West Point

In 1883, Charles Young's father encouraged him to take the entrance examination to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Young scored the second highest on the exam and was not selected to the Academy that year. When the candidate ahead of him dropped out of West Point, Young would

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receive his opportunity the following year. He entered West Point on June 10, 1884 to become only the ninth African American to attend the Academy and only the third to graduate. The other two African-American graduates, Henry Ossian Flipper (1877) & John Hanks Alexander (1887), would earn their commissions but would only see short careers in the Army. Flipper would be drummed out of the Army over controversial and questionable charges of "...conduct unbecoming an officer..." In the mid-1990's, his descendants began a campaign to restore his name and clear his legacy of these charges. On February 19, 1999, President William Jefferson Clinton pardoned Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper of those charges. Lieutenant John Hanks Alexander would be a classmate of Charles Young at West Point and they would serve together at Ft. Duquesne, Utah for a few years before Alexander would leave to become a professor at Wilberforce University in Ohio. Young would be dispatched to Wilberforce shortly after Alexander died of a sudden heart condition in 1894.

As a cadet, Young encountered the same racial insults and social isolation from instructors and other cadets on a daily basis as those before him. Despite these indignities, he would persevere. After a dreadful first academic year, Young was faced with

repeating his first year, or Plebe year, in order to continue his education. He would do so and did well over the next four academic years. Faced with a failing grade in an engineering class during his last semester, Young received tutoring from his instructor and was allowed to re-take the exam. This time, Young passed and was awarded his diploma and commission in the summer of 1889.



Charles Young and soldiers after setting up bivouac on the frontier.

Courtesy of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce, Ohio

Early Military Career

Because military leaders would not allow an African-American officer to command white troops, the Adjutant General's Office waited three months after Young's West Point graduation in 1889 before assigning the newly-commissioned 2nd Lieutenant

to the 9th Cavalry at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. After a year, marked by isolation and hostility, Young transferred to Fort Duchesne, Utah, where the command and fellow officers proved more welcoming. Here, Young mentored Sergeant Major Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. who later became the first African American to attain the rank of General.

Between 1889 and 1907 Young served in the 9th Cavalry at western posts and rose to the rank of captain. He also taught military science, served as a military attaché, and fought with distinction in the Philippine-American War, winning the praise of his commanders for his troops' courage and professionalism in and out of combat.



2nd Lieutenant Charles Young, second from left, in front of cadet formation at Wilberforce University.

Photo courtesy of National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center

Wilberforce, Ohio

In the fall of 1894, Charles Young received a detached service assignment that wound up sending him to Wilberforce, Ohio. Young was to take over the planning and eventual

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teaching of the new Military Sciences & Tactics courses at Wilberforce University. The original choice to fill this teaching position, Lieutenant John Hanks Alexander, died suddenly in Springfield, Ohio on March 26th and Lieutenant Young was dispatched to take up for Alexander. Lieutenants Alexander and Young had roomed together for a few years while at the West Point Military Academy and they also served at Fort Duchesne, Utah together for some time, so Young was no stranger to Alexander. Eventually, Lieutenant Young would build the program to just over 100 cadets by the 1898 class. Additionally, Young also helped establish the Wilberforce University marching band. Music played an integral part of Young's life, so it was no wonder that he enthusiastically helped to create the university marching band since he had helped to teach and direct the band at his previous duty station in Fort Duchesne. Lieutenant Young remained at Wilberforce as a professor until early 1898 when the war with Spain had begun with the infamous sinking of the battleship U.S.S. Maine in Cuba. While Young did not re-join his troopers of the 9th Cavalry, he did wind up being appointed as

Major and commander of the Ninth Ohio Battalion, U.S. Volunteers. Lieutenant Charles Young became one of the distinguished professors at the university around the turn of the century, which included W.E.B. DuBois who would become a close life-long friend of Charles Young. By April of 1898, Young would be on the move away from Wilberforce as he mustered up and trained men for potential combat action in Cuba. However, Young had established himself at the university and in the city of Wilberforce and he frequently returned between his duty stations & assignments to visit and to purchase properties that he would call "home" for the rest of his life.



**1st African-American National
Park Superintendent**

In the summer of 1903, Captain Charles Young would become the first African-American national park Superintendent when he and his troops were tasked to manage and maintain Sequoia National Park in northern California. Because the U.S. Army was tasked with protecting the national parks in these early years, the Army would send troops to manage, maintain and patrol them. Young and his troopers arrived in Sequoia National Park in the summer of 1903 and proceeded to construct roads and trails that other troops were unable to do in the years before them. As the leader of his troops, Young would inherit the title of Acting Superintendent of Sequoia National Park that year. He incorporated the local townsfolk to assist his troop's efforts and he and his troops' accomplishments from their summer of hard work were lauded by many throughout the area.

Learn more about Charles Young's short, but profound, tenure as a national park Superintendent by visiting the [Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park website](#).

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Major Charles Young overseeing troops
Photo courtesy U.S. National Archives

Later Military Career

In 1904 Captain Young became the first Military Attaché to Haiti and the Dominican Republic on the island of Hispaniola. Young joined 23 other officers (the only African American among them) serving in these diplomatic posts in the Theodore Roosevelt administration. He won President Roosevelt's praise through an introduction Roosevelt wrote for his monograph on the people and customs of Hispaniola. Young's experiences in foreign service and as a commander in the Philippines formed the basis of

his book, *The Military Morale of Nations and Races* (1911).

From 1912 to 1916, he served as the military attaché to Liberia, helping to train the Liberian Frontier Force. After returning from Liberia, he then served as a squadron commander during the Punitive Expedition in Mexico against Pancho Villa. He distinguished himself at the Battle of Agua Caliente, leading his men to the aid of a cavalry unit that had been ambushed. During the same period, Young won additional promotions, to major in 1912, and to lieutenant colonel in 1916.



Funeral of Colonel Charles Young at
Arlington Memorial Amphitheater,
Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia
Courtesy of the National Afro-American
Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce,
Ohio

A Long & Distinguished Military Career

In July 1917, Young was medically retired and promoted to colonel in recognition of his distinguished Army service. Young and his supporters asked for reconsideration of his retirement. To demonstrate his fitness to serve, Young, then 54,

made a historic 500-mile horseback ride from Wilberforce, Ohio, to Washington, D.C. Afterwards, the Secretary of War gave Young an informal hearing, but did not reverse the decision. Though medically retired, Young was retained on a list of active duty officers. During World War I, the War Department sent him back to Ohio to help muster and train African-American recruits for the war. Days before the November 11th, 1918 armistice, Young was assigned to Camp Grant (Illinois) to train black servicemen. Shortly thereafter, at the request of the State Department, Colonel Young was sent once more to serve as military attaché to Liberia, arriving in Monrovia, February 1920. While on a visit to Nigeria in late 1921 he became gravely ill and died at the British hospital in Lagos on January 8th, 1922. Due to British law, Young's body was buried in Lagos, Nigeria for one year before it could be repatriated to the United States for final interment.

In the year after his death, Young's wife and many other notable African Americans lobbied the U.S. to repatriate Young's remains from Nigeria so he could receive a proper burial in American soil. One year later, Young's body was exhumed and

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transported back to the U.S. After arriving back in the U.S. in New York City in late May of 1923, Young's body received a hero's welcome. Thousands upon thousands celebrated Young's life as he made his way to the Washington, D.C. area. On June 1st, 1923, Colonel Charles Young became the fourth soldier honored with a funeral service at Arlington Memorial Amphitheater before burial in Arlington National Cemetery. After the memorial service, he was buried alongside the thousands of other heroes in Arlington National Cemetery.

On November 1, 2021, Charles Young was honorably and posthumously promoted to Brigadier General.

Final Resting Place



View of Colonel Charles Young's tomb at Arlington National Cemetery.

NPS Photo / Tom Engberg

General Charles Young's tomb is located in Section 3, Grave 1730-B, not far from where his memorial service took place in the Arlington Memorial

Amphitheater.

Take a virtual visit to [Arlington National Cemetery](#) in Virginia to see the final resting place of General Charles Young and others who sacrificed all for our country. Arlington National Cemetery, located across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., is the revered site where many of our Nation's heroes have been laid to rest.

NEWS GRAND KEEPER OF RECORDS SEAL VISITS MU IOTA

2/28/2025 Amid talk and good times over food, drink, and cigars, Brother Grand KRS



Sherman (Shorty-Bang-Bang) Charles Rho Beta 78 and Fourth District Representative Michael West shared "Fellowship Friday" with the brothers of Mu Iota. Over cigars, Brother Grand spoke on his vision for leveraging the fraternity's storehouse of electronic data to better serve its members.



Bro. Anthony Wilson DR Michael West

By way of interpretation, it involves transforming data into information that could be used to



MI Basileus Thomas Hill, Bro. Arthur Peace, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal Sherman Charles

maintain contact with members in the form of sending out greetings for birthdays and recognizing significant milestones in the lives of members like wedding anniversaries.

Leveraging data in a new process like a dashboard would also involve the capability to produce information that is useful for reporting the impact the fraternity has within communities. For instance, reporting the number of hours chapters mentor youth, the amount of scholarship dollars awarded to deserving youth, or the economic impact to communities that resulted from the fraternity's operations.



In addition to the discussion of the possible uses of data, words of prayer were offered to give thanks for blessings that continually rained down upon the men of Mu Iota. That done,



the buffet opened, and the evening continued with good food and equally good conversation and at times good natured ribbing.



The brothers of Mu Iota extend the hand of brotherhood and sincerely thank Grand Keeper of Records Brother Sherman Charles and Seal and Fourth District Representative Brother Michael West for sharing the evening with us at “Fellowship Friday”.

BROTHER, YOU'RE ON MY MIND

Every year, more than 40 million Americans struggle with mental illness. African American men are as likely as anyone else to

have mental illness, but they are less likely to get help.

Depression and other mental illness can be deadly if left untreated. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among African Americans 15 to 24 years old.

Untreated mental illness can also make African American men more vulnerable to substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, and homicide. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and NIMHD have launched Brother, You're on My Mind: Changing the National Dialogue Regarding Mental Health Among African American Men, an initiative to help start conversations about mental health.

This initiative has two major goals:

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Goal 2: To communicate the importance of seeking help for mental health problems and to encourage affected individuals to get information from their health care providers and others to obtain appropriate treatment.

BYOMM

This initiative will use a variety of activities to raise awareness of the mental health challenges associated with depression and stress that affect African American men and their

families. Omega members are asked to:

NIMHD's ROLE

NIMHD will lead the development of materials about depression and stress that are based in the science of mental health. The materials will be disseminated by Omegas through national, regional, and chapter meetings and events. NIMHD will also support an evaluation to determine how well the initiative works and will connect Omegas with other resources, including mental health experts who can speak at events.

[Visit Emergency & Crisis Resources Page](#)

ROLE OF OMEGA CHAPTERS

Omega chapters will be encouraged to participate in a variety of ways:

- Find their local (state or county) mental health resources and providers.
- Have a mental health professional speak during a chapter meeting to discuss depression.
- Display and distribute print materials at key locations (e.g., barbershops, churches).
- Participate in a health fair and distribute materials.
- Work with congregations and health ministries to



focus on **mental** health.

- Develop local partnerships that make larger workshops and a wider impact possible.
- Encourage local mayors and city officials to establish proclamations on men's mental health.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- [National Institute of Mental Health](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)
- [Capstone Institute/Center for Research on the Education of Students Placed at Risk, Howard University](#)
- [Lee Thompson Young Foundation](#)
- [Mental Health America](#)
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)
- [National Black Nurses Association](#)
- [National Medical Association](#)

Long-Term Care Insurance

**Brother Jason Ward 4th District
Director of Public Relations**

Long-term care insurance is an important financial product that can significantly improve your quality-of-life in later years. As I care for my elderly grandfather, I have realized how essential it is to be prepared for future care needs.

Here are a few key reasons to consider long-term care insurance for peace of mind and financial security:

Protecting Your Life Savings:

Long-term care can be exceptionally costly, with expenses that can quickly Accumulate. Traditional health care coverage, such as Medicare, generally does not cover long-term care services. This gap in coverage means that without insurance, many individuals may find themselves depleting their hard-earned life savings to pay for necessary care.

By having long-term care insurance, you can help ensure that you have the financial resources to pay for the care you need without risking your financial stability. This enables you to preserve your assets for your inheritance or other future financial goals.

Maintaining Your Independence:

One of the significant advantages of long-term care insurance is

that it provides you with the flexibility to choose where you receive your care. Whether you prefer receiving assistance in the comfort of your own home or a specialized facility, having insurance coverage gives you more options and control over your living situation. This autonomy can significantly contribute to maintaining your sense of dignity and independence as you age.

Reducing Financial Pressure on Family Members:

Long-term care can place a substantial financial burden on family members who might otherwise have to provide financial assistance or care. With long-term care insurance, you can alleviate this pressure by ensuring that your care needs are met through insurance coverage rather than relying on your loved ones. This not only protects your financial well-being but also helps preserve familial relationships by reducing stress and potential conflict over caregiving responsibilities.

Complementing Other Financial Strategies

Long-term care insurance is not meant to stand alone: It can be an integral part of a broader financial strategy. It can work alongside other financial instruments such as retirement savings accounts, Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), and even life insurance policies. By integrating these resources, you can develop a comprehensive plan



that addresses various financial needs and goals as you age, helping to ensure greater financial security.

The Importance of Long-Term Care Insurance reducing financial pressure on family members: Long-term care can place a substantial financial burden on family members who might otherwise have to provide financial assistance or care. With long-term care insurance, you can alleviate this pressure by ensuring that your care needs are met through insurance coverage rather than relying on your loved ones. This not only protects your financial well-being but also helps preserve familial relationships by reducing stress and potential conflict over caregiving responsibilities.

When Long-Term Care Insurance Might Not Be Suitable:

While long-term care insurance can be beneficial, it is not the right choice for everyone. Here are some circumstances where you may want to reconsider:

- **Affordability of Premiums:** If the premiums for long-term care insurance are not feasible within your budget, it may lead to financial strain. You should avoid committing to a policy that you cannot afford in the long term.
- **Limited Assets:** If your financial situation is constrained, or you have

limited assets, the potential benefits of a long-term care insurance policy may not be justifiable, especially if you qualify for other forms of assistance.

- **Dependence on Limited Income:** Individuals who rely solely on Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) may find that the costs of long-term care insurance could be prohibitive, detracting from funds needed for everyday expenses.
- **Difficulty Managing Basic Needs:** If you frequently struggle to cover fundamental expenses like utilities, food, and medicine, investing in long-term care insurance might exacerbate financial challenges rather than alleviate them.
 - **Health and Eligibility Concerns:** Additionally, insurers can deny coverage or impose limitations on benefits for individuals with preexisting conditions or those who do not meet specific medical underwriting criteria. It's crucial to assess your health status and discuss your options with a knowledgeable financial advisor or insurance broker. By weighing the benefits against your individual circumstances, you can make an informed decision about whether long-term care

insurance is a prudent addition to your financial strategy.

UPCOMING

HELP ASPIRING ARTISTS ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS!



Mu Iota Chapter is proud to support the next generation of talent

through our Talent Hunt Program! We're looking for performers in the arts to showcase their skills and reach for their dreams. 🎭 Scan the QR code or visit [MuIota.org](https://www.muiota.org) to sign up for this incredible opportunity today!

Want to make a difference? Become a community sponsor by donating to our Social Action Programs and help us continue uplifting the community. Together, we can make dreams come true! #MuIotaTalentHunt #SupportTheArts #CommunityAction #HelpingDreamsComeTrue

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4th DISTRICT MEETING



5/1/2024 – 5/4/2024 Hilton
Garden Inn Toledo, Ohio

REGISTRATION

Regular Registration –

1/01/2025- 4/14/2025

Graduate: \$300.00

Undergraduate: \$172.00

Late Regular Registration –

4/15/2025 - 5/04/2025

Graduate: \$375.00

Undergraduate: \$175.00

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Hilton Garden Inn
101 N Summit St,
Toledo, Ohio, 43604

RESERVE ROOM

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Queen Beds River View -
\$165.00

DR. MOSES C. NORMAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Huntington Place Convention
Center
July 23-27, 2025
Detroit Michigan



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