

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

NAACP joins Coalition of Black Veterans in call for the statue of legendary Buffalo Soldier in Washington, D.C. at the National Museum of African American History

By the National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations

On February 17th, the National Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People embraced the National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations in its efforts to establish a statue of Brigadier General Charles Young in the nation’s capital. The document titled “NAACP Resolution Statue on Washington Mall & National Parks Honoring Brigadier Gen-

See photo of statue of Brig. Gen. Charles Young on sports-Military page 3

eral Charles Young, USA” called on the National Museum of African American History to provide the project one hundred square feet of ground to erect the statue. The Coalition have bronze maquettes of now Brigadier General Charles Young on display at the Kentucky African American Heritage Culture in Louisville and The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum in Houston, Texas. The following link will direct you to a You Tube presentation of the inspection of the maquette mold before casting. The sculptor for the project is Antonio Tobias Mendez. View the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdlSc41ArZE&t=94sdirect>

There is a unity of purpose between our coalition and the nation’s oldest civil rights organization. Both recognize and understand the correlation between Black Military History and Civil Rights. Frederick Douglass established the rela-



Brigadier General Charles Young, legendary Buffalo Soldier



To watch special presentation on Brig. General Charles Young on the YouTube Channel, please hit photo above to follow link.

tionship when he called for Black volunteers to fight in the Civil War. Our organizations recognize the significant role Black Veterans have played in influencing the political/economic, and social changes in American society in general.

The NAACP has been a longtime endorser of Coalition activities. We carried their endorsement for the General’s posthumous promotion campaign up to the project’s recent successful completion. They are also endorsers of the call for President Joseph Biden to grant the Medals of Honor to Seaman Dorie Miller and Petty Officer Charles Jackson French for actions during War World II. The endorsement of the NAACP for the statue is important and welcomed. We look forward to having a representative from their organization serve on our special committee.

The purpose will be to conduct meetings with the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and to be identified primary stakeholders, reference the ground space requested on the property. We are optimistic in our ability to raise the funds necessary to erect the statue once we receive a commitment on the land usage. We anticipate following up with committee activities as we progress. See the “Prelude to the Statue” publication. <https://designrr.page?id=343108&token=2989081118&type=FP&h=2264>

For more information, contact Charles Blatcher at cnmmmf@aol.com



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Wreaths Across America remembers 62nd Anniversary of the ‘Flying Tiger Line Flight 739’ disappearance

COLUMBIA FALLS, ME — March 11, 2024 – On Saturday, March 16, national nonprofit Wreaths Across America (WAA) will pay tribute to the American heroes who selflessly sacrificed their lives aboard Flying Tiger Line Flight 739 (FTLF 739). Join us for a special event at noon ET at the FTLF 739 Monument on the Balsam Valley tip lands in Downeast Maine. The event will be broadcast live on WAA’s official Facebook page and Wreaths Across America Radio. Sixty-two years ago, on March 16, 1962, FTLF 739 and its crew departed on a secret mission to Vietnam sanctioned by President Kennedy. This reconnaissance mission went missing, with no trace of the plane or its passengers ever found. Onboard were 93 United States Army soldiers, 11 civilian crewmembers, and four Vietnamese citizens.

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diers, 11 civilian crewmembers, and four Vietnamese citizens. Very little is known about what happened to FTLF 739, its crew, and its passengers.

Due to the circumstances surrounding this mission, the names of those lost have never been added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. Presently, a private citizen erected the only monument that bears the names of these American heroes, Wreaths Across America founder Morrill Worcester. The monument is located on his tip land in Maine, where balsam is harvested to make veterans’ wreaths that are placed each December as part of National Wreaths Across America Day – this year on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024.

The inscription on the FTLF 739 monument in Maine reads: “Missing in action; Presumed dead. Flying Tiger Line Flight 739 went missing on March 16,

1962, with 93 U.S. Army soldiers on board. These men and their flight crew perished in what would become one of the biggest aviation mysteries out of the Vietnam War era.” This solemn ceremony will share poignant messages and stories about FTLF 739 and pay homage to the crew’s memory. Join us as we come together to remember and honor these selfless individuals and the enduring spirit of courage they exemplified.

•To watch live on Facebook or share the ceremony on March 16, at noon ET, use this link: <https://fb.me/e/3irk53Hbw>

•To listen live on Wreaths Across America Radio, visit www.wreathsassamerica.org

•To learn more about FTLF 739, view this video. National Wreaths Across America Day will be held this year on Saturday, December 14, 2024. This is a free event open to all, and the organization encourages community members to participate by volunteering locally or sponsoring a wreath for an American hero. For \$17, you can help sponsor the year-long efforts of Wreaths Across America. For more information, please visit www.wreathsassamerica.org. About Wreaths Across America Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, which was begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992.

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