

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 242

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

A RESOLUTION

To commend the YMCA on the occasion of its one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary and to express appreciation to its staff and volunteers for their efforts to strengthen communities and promote well-being and connection.

WHEREAS, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) marks its one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary in 2026; it was founded in the United States by Thomas Valentine Sullivan in Boston on December 29, 1851, with a mission to put Christian principles into practice by building a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA continually adapts to meet the evolving needs of American communities, which strengthens society by bringing people together, fostering relationships, and creating a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of YMCA includes providing safe housing during the Industrial Revolution, pioneering the first night school and English as a Second Language classes, inventing basketball, and delivering the first group swim lessons; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA established the Youth and Government Program, which is distinguished as the birthplace of Father's Day, and has grown into the nation's leading nonprofit provider of child care and after-school programs to support working families; and

WHEREAS, today, nearly two thousand six hundred YMCAs serve more than ten thousand communities and have more than three hundred thousand staff and three hundred fifty thousand volunteers who deliver essential programs to over seventeen million people annually; and

WHEREAS, the YMCAs of Louisiana foster a commitment to strengthening communities by connecting people to their potential, purpose, and each other; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA of the Capital Area was founded in 1917 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and has served as a cornerstone of the community for more than a century by advancing youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA of the Capital Area engages dedicated staff and volunteers across seven branches and delivers essential programs and services that strengthen individuals, families, and communities throughout the Capital Area; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA is a leader in water safety and swim lessons, child care, youth sports, meal programs, and health and wellness initiatives, and is the largest provider of fitness programs for older adults; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA creates welcoming spaces for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, and the organization is deserving of recognition for its outstanding contributions to the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the YMCA on the occasion of its one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary; does hereby recognize the role of the YMCA in responding to community needs, fostering relationships, and building a sense of belonging; does hereby commend the staff and volunteers who create connected communities and advance the YMCA's mission; and does hereby encourage continued support for the efforts of the YMCA to promote health, wellness, nutrition, and social interaction and to create spaces that help people build relationships and thrive together.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES