

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY SENATOR FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the 175th anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association, recognize its role in strengthening communities, and encourage continued efforts to promote well-being and community connection.

WHEREAS, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) marks its 175th anniversary of establishment in the United States, by Thomas Valentine Sullivan, in Boston Massachusetts 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 has continuously adapted to meet the evolving needs of American communities, strengthening society by bringing people together, fostering relationships, and creating a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA's legacy 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's legacy also includes establishing the Youth and Government program, serving as the birthplace of Father's Day, and becoming the nation's leading nonprofit provider of child care and after-school programs to support working families; and

WHEREAS, today nearly 2,600 YMCAs serve more than 10,000 communities, with more than 300,000 staff and 350,000 volunteers, delivering essential programs to over 17 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, founded in 1917 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has served as a cornerstone of the community for more than a century, advancing youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility; and

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

WHEREAS, the YMCA is a leader in aquatics activities such as water safety and swim lessons, as well as 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.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the YMCA for 175 years of service to the nation and recognizes the YMCA's role in responding to community needs, fostering relationships, and building a sense of belonging.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana commends the staff and volunteers who create connected communities and advance the YMCA's mission and encourages continued support of their efforts to address awareness of health, wellness, nutrition and social interaction by creating places that promote well-being and help people build relationships and thrive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to president and chief executive officer of the YMCA of the Capital Area, Sean Elliott.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES