

Senate Resolution 671

By: Senators Hatchett of the 50th, Brass of the 6th, Echols of the 49th, Dickerson of the 21st, Hodges of the 3rd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the YMCA upon its 175th anniversary; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, in 2026, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) is celebrating its
3 175th anniversary; and
- 4 WHEREAS, inspired by the YMCA movement in England and with a mission to put
5 Christian principles into practice by building a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all, Thomas
6 Valentine Sullivan founded the YMCA at the Old South Church in Boston on December 29,
7 1851; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the YMCA has continually adapted to meet evolving needs of American
9 communities, strengthening society by bringing people together, fostering relationships, and
10 creating a sense of belonging; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the YMCA's legacy includes: providing safe housing during the Industrial
12 Revolution; pioneering the first night school and English as a Second Language (ESL)
13 classes; inventing basketball; delivering the first group swim lessons; leading humanitarian
14 efforts during wartime, including the work of YMCA leader and President Wilson's General
15 Secretary for the National War Work Council, John R. Mott, who received the Nobel Peace

16 Prize in 1946 for the undertaking; establishing the Youth and Government program in 1936,
17 a premier civic engagement initiative that continues today; serving as the birthplace of
18 Father's Day, with the first celebration held at the Spokane YMCA in 1910; becoming the
19 nation's leading nonprofit provider of child care and afterschool programs since the 1970s
20 and 1980s supporting working families; and serving as the leading provider of emergency
21 child care for front line workers and a significant provider of food during the pandemic; and

22 WHEREAS, today 2,600 YMCAs serve more than 10,000 communities in every state and
23 territory, with more than 300,000 staff and 350,00 volunteers delivering essential programs
24 to over 17 million people annually, including almost 11 million adults and 6.5 million
25 children and youth; and

26 WHEREAS, the first YMCA in Georgia opened in 1855 in Savannah and today, 16 YMCAs
27 serve communities in Georgia through the collective impact of more than 8,300 staff and
28 8,600 volunteers providing essential programs and services; and

29 WHEREAS, the YMCA is a leader in providing swim lessons, camping, youth sports, meal
30 programs, lifestyle health, fitness and well-being programs, and is the largest provider of
31 fitness programs for older adults; and

32 WHEREAS, the YMCA is the nation's largest nonprofit provider of childcare and afterschool
33 programs; and

34 WHEREAS, the YMCA serves people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, creating spaces
35 where all people feel welcome, are treated with respect and find opportunities to connect
36 with their neighbors; and

37 WHEREAS, YMCAs across the nation are working to build stronger, more connected
38 communities through intentional experiences that help people achieve their goals, foster
39 connection and promote well-being in order to build relationships and thrive; and

40 WHEREAS, in 2026, YMCAs nationwide will host special events that celebrate the
41 moments, programs, and people who've shaped their story.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
43 recognize the YMCA's role in responding to community needs, connecting people, fostering
44 support, building relationships and a sense of belonging; commend the hundreds of
45 thousands of staff and volunteers who create connected communities and advance the Y's
46 mission to build healthy spirits, minds, and bodies for all; encourage continued support for
47 the efforts to address social isolation and loneliness by creating places and spaces that
48 promote achievement, well-being, and connection and help people build relationships and
49 thrive; and congratulate the YMCA for 175 years of service to the nation.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
51 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the YMCA.