

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the YMCA on the organization's 175th anniversary in
2 the United States.

3 WHEREAS, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) marks its 175th
4 anniversary in the United States in 2026, having been founded this country by Thomas
5 Valentine Sullivan at the Old South Church in Boston, Massachusetts, on December 29,
6 1851; and

7 WHEREAS, inspired by the YMCA movement in England, the organization has
8 carried on the mission to put Christian principles into practice by building healthy spirit,
9 mind, and body for all; and

10 WHEREAS, the YMCA has continually adapted to meet the evolving needs of
11 American communities, strengthening society by bringing people together, fostering
12 relationships, and creating a sense of belonging; and

13 WHEREAS, the YMCA's legacy includes providing safe housing during the
14 industrial revolution, pioneering the first night school and English as a second language
15 classes, inventing basketball, and providing the first group swim lessons; and

16 WHEREAS, the YMCA served as the birthplace of Father's Day, with the first
17 celebration held at the YMCA in Spokane, Washington, in 1910; established the Youth
18 and Government Program in 1936, a premier civic engagement initiative that continues
19 today; and led humanitarian efforts during wartime, including the work of John R. Mott,
20 YMCA leader and President Woodrow Wilson's general secretary for the National War
21 Work Council, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 for undertaking such efforts;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the YMCA has become the nation's leading nonprofit provider of child
24 care and afterschool programs since the 1970s and 1980s to support working families, has
25 served as the leading provider of emergency child care for frontline workers, and was a
26 significant provider of food during the coronavirus pandemic; and

27 WHEREAS, today, nearly 2,600 YMCAs serve more than 10,000 communities

1 across every state and territory, with more than 300,000 staff and 350,000 volunteers
2 delivering essential programs to over 17 million people annually, including almost 11
3 million adults, and 6.5 million children and youth; and

4 WHEREAS, 17 YMCAs, 3000 staff members, and hundreds of volunteers in
5 Kentucky provide critical services including childcare, afterschool enrichment, summer
6 camps, teen leadership programs, swim safety lessons, senior wellness programs, and
7 access to nutritious meals to more than 150,000 individuals annually; and

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

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

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

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

19 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
20 ***Kentucky:***

21 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor and express appreciation to
22 the YMCA for 175 years of service to the nation, and recognize the YMCA's role in
23 responding to community needs, fostering belonging, creating connection, and supporting
24 families and individuals across generations.

25 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
26 Resolution to Senator Amanda Mays Bledsoe.