

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 180 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, BREWSTER, SANTARSIERO, KILLION,  
BARTOLOTTA, FONTANA, SABATINA, COSTA, SCHWANK, FARNESE,  
MARTIN, J. WARD AND GORDNER, JUNE 24, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 24, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating the YMCA on its 175th birthday.

2 WHEREAS, The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was  
3 founded in England on June 6, 1844, by George Williams as a  
4 refuge of Bible study and prayer for young men seeking escape  
5 from the hazards of life on the London streets; and

6 WHEREAS, Thomas Valentine Sullivan, a marine missionary,  
7 identified a need to create a safe haven for sailors and  
8 merchants and established the first YMCA in the United States in  
9 Boston, Massachusetts, on December 29, 1851; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1853, Anthony Bowen, a freed slave, founded the  
11 first YMCA for African Americans in Washington, DC; and

12 WHEREAS, The YMCA, in recognizing the need to provide safe  
13 and affordable housing, opened the first dormitory in 1867 and  
14 provided gymnasiums, auditoriums and hotel-style rooms for young  
15 men moving to cities from rural communities; and

16 WHEREAS, Camping became a cornerstone of the YMCA in 1885  
17 when Camp Dudley opened in Orange Lake, New York, to provide

1 children with a positive developmental experience through making  
2 new friends, building confidence and growing in self-reliance;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The end of World War I saw women and individuals of  
5 all races and religions become members and active volunteers;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In 1967, the YMCA became one of the first  
8 organizations in the United States to ban racial discrimination  
9 while many African-American YMCAs became meeting places and  
10 rallying points for the Civil Rights Movement; and

11 WHEREAS, In the 1980s and 1990s, baby boomers with families  
12 became more prominent as members and YMCAs responded by creating  
13 specific programs like family swims and family nights, providing  
14 families with opportunities to play, interact and have fun; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2002, the YMCA established the National Diversity  
16 Initiative to support the YMCA Movement in valuing the diversity  
17 of all people within its associations and the communities it  
18 serves; and

19 WHEREAS, The YMCA has played an active and important role in  
20 responding to world crises and natural disasters such as 9/11,  
21 the Pacific Rim tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the Haitian  
22 earthquake; and

23 WHEREAS, The mission of the YMCA is to put Christian  
24 principles into practice through programs that build a healthy  
25 spirit, mind and body for all; and

26 WHEREAS, Character is reflected in the movement as the  
27 demonstration of the YMCA's core values of caring, honesty,  
28 respect and responsibility and is intentionally modeled by YMCA  
29 staff for children, youths, adult members and volunteers; and

30 WHEREAS, The YMCA establishes youth development, healthy

1 living and social responsibility; therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the Senate congratulate the YMCA on its 175th  
3 birthday; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the Senate acknowledge the positive and  
5 important contributions the YMCA has made in communities across  
6 the world and across this Commonwealth.