



### **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 05-1033**

**BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Madden, Balmer, Benefield, Berens, Borodkin, Boyd, Brophy, Buescher, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll M., Carroll T., Cerbo, Clapp, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Curry, Decker, Frangas, Gallegos, Garcia, Green, Hall, Harvey, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Judd, Kerr, King, Knoedler, Larson, Lindstrom, Liston, Lundberg, Marshall, Massey, May M., McCluskey, McFadyen, McGihon, McKinley, Merrifield, Paccione, Penry, Plant, Pommer, Ragsdale, Riesberg, Romanoff, Rose, Schultheis, Solano, Soper, Stafford, Stengel, Sullivan, Todd, Vigil, Weissmann, Welker, White, and Witwer;**

**also SENATOR(S) Groff, Bacon, Dyer, Entz, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Grossman, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hillman, Isgar, Jones, Keller, Kester, Lamborn, May R., McElhany, Mitchell, Owen, Sandoval, Shaffer, Spence, Takis, Tapia, Taylor, Tochtrop, Tupa, Veiga, Wiens, Williams, and Windels.**

### **CONCERNING RECOGNIZING COLORADO YMCA ADVOCACY DAY.**

WHEREAS, Following closely on the heels of its founding in London in 1844 by George Williams, the YMCA movement in the United States originated in Boston on December 29, 1851; and

WHEREAS, One out of three Americans reports being a YMCA member at some point in life; and

WHEREAS, 2,400 YMCAs serve people of all ages, races, religions, and incomes; and

WHEREAS, 19 million Americans, including 9.5 million children, currently claim membership in the YMCA, making it the largest nonprofit organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, A number of sports played today were invented by YMCA instructors and at YMCAs across the United States, including volleyball, racquetball, and basketball; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA pioneered camping, public libraries, night schools, and the teaching of English as a second language; and

WHEREAS, YMCAs have provided an environment for the development of ideas and organizations that might never have started without them, including the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire USA, the Negro National Baseball League, Gideons International, Toastmasters, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, and the holiday of Father's Day; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA has pioneered programs in health and fitness by opening the nation's first training center (later Springfield College) for physical education, being the largest provider in the United States of youth sports programs, and partnering with the Center for Disease Control in efforts to curb adult and childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA is forever mission-driven, molding people who care about each other, who are firm in their sense of their own worth and that of others, who foster understanding and respect, who take responsibility for their own lives, and who help improve the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, YMCAs provide a wide range of programs that support and strengthen families by bringing them together for fellowship, fun, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA's policy is that no one is turned away because of inability to pay; and

WHEREAS, YMCA programs support character development by teaching honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, YMCAs strengthen communities by developing programs specifically designed to meet local needs, including programs for seniors, teen leadership, single parents, substance abuse prevention, physical rehabilitation, job training, literacy, and mentoring; and

WHEREAS, YMCAs have a long history of offering morale-building and welfare services to the nation's armed forces: Providing 5,000 volunteers who worked in battlefields, field hospitals, army camps, and prisoner-of-war compounds during the Civil War; raising \$235 million during World War I for war relief; founding the United Service Organizations during World War II; serving military personnel and their families during the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Desert Storm; and continuing to serve members of the United States military throughout the world today; and

WHEREAS, YMCA leader John R. Mott was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA has nurtured leadership skills in such Americans as President Ronald Reagan, Senator John Glenn, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA movement is alive and well in Colorado with Colorado YMCAs serving more than 523,000 people in diverse communities statewide; and

WHEREAS, Colorado YMCAs bring together the young and the old, men and women, and people of all faiths, backgrounds, and incomes; and

WHEREAS, Colorado YMCAs have lessened the burden of government by raising more than \$3.2 million for scholarships, subsidies, and other community services in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Colorado YMCAs serve 166,500 youth during nonschool hours; and

WHEREAS, Colorado YMCAs are the largest providers of child care services in the nation and in the state, serving more than 7,900 Colorado children per day; and

WHEREAS, Colorado YMCAs work with local and county governments, including police and fire departments, public housing developments, children services, schools, churches, and other community and civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, over 12,000 public school children received environmental education at the YMCA of the Rockies' two centers; and

WHEREAS, Colorado YMCAs are volunteer-funded, volunteer-based, and volunteer-led with nearly 12,200 Colorado YMCA volunteers giving their time to help meet the diverse needs of Colorado communities; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, commend the YMCAs of Colorado for their work in strengthening Colorado by building strong children, strong families, and strong communities, and we welcome YMCA volunteers and staff as they gather at the State Capitol on March 21, 2005, for Colorado YMCA Advocacy Day.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Executive Offices of the YMCA of Boulder Valley, the Arapahoe Center YMCA of Lafayette, the Community Branch YMCA of Boulder, the Mapleton Center YMCA of Boulder, YMCA of Metropolitan Denver, the Adams County Branch YMCA, the Child Care/Day Camp Branch of the Denver YMCA, the Denver Downtown Branch YMCA, the East Denver Branch YMCA, the Glendale Branch YMCA, the JeffCo Branch YMCA, the Littleton Branch YMCA, the Susan M. Duncan Branch Family YMCA in Arvada, the Gerald L. Schlessman Branch YMCA, the Southwest-Chatfield Branch YMCA, the Denver Sports Branch YMCA, the Fisher's Peak YMCA in Trinidad, the Ed and Ruth Lehman YMCA in Longmont, the YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region, the Briargate Family Center YMCA, YMCA Camp Shady Brook, the Downtown Colorado Springs YMCA, the Fountain Valley YMCA, the Garden Ranch Center YMCA, the Southeast Family Center YMCA, the Tri-Lakes Family YMCA in Monument, the YMCA of Pueblo, the YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park Center YMCA, and Snow Mountain Ranch YMCA in Winter Park.

---

Andrew Romanoff  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

Joan Fitz-Gerald  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

---

Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

Karen Goldman  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE