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Paying Tribute to 125 years of YMCA Camping

Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the YMCA as they celebrate the 125th Anniversary of camping. I am particularly pleased to recognize the Frost Valley YMCA Camp, which is part of the 22nd Congressional District that I proudly serve. Since 1901 this YMCA camp has been enriching the lives of children with their core values of respect, diversity, caring and community. I am honored and delighted to recognize both this milestone event and this important organization and the positive impacts it has had on our community.

July 14, 2010 marks the 125th anniversary of camping under the auspices of the YMCA. Camping with the YMCA is not only about fun activities, it is also about the chance for children to develop and learn new skills, enjoy nature, handle new responsibilities, and experience a new level of independence, all while making friends and building memories that will last a lifetime. Camping at the YMCA is designed to help individuals build healthy minds, spirits, and bodies. Each year this outstanding camping program also provides over 60,000 college-aged young adults the opportunity to be summer resident camp leaders, affording them with exceptional leadership development experiences.

The Frost Valley YMCA's six-thousand acre residential camp site is located in the heart of the Catskill Mountain Preserve. The day and resident camping programs at Frost Valley are part of the cornerstone of YMCA camping. Within its pristine boundaries, Frost Valley's dedicated staff have provided children and families the opportunity to come together to enjoy programs ranging from team building events to environmental education. They offer camping opportunities to children and families from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds that might otherwise be unable to attend. Under the YMCA camping program, no child or family is excluded from the opportunity for outdoor enrichment.

YMCA camping at Frost Valley, and at all of their sites throughout the county, has provided communities with unparalleled innovative outdoor programming. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize this wonderful camp and congratulate the YMCA on 125 years of camping.