



# Commendation

By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

*WHEREAS, in 1963 a group of citizens came together and began planning to start a YMCA in Prattville. Soon a board was formed, a Chairman and Executive Director were selected, the budget was approved, and promotions for the Prattville YMCA began; and*

*WHEREAS, the Prattville YMCA humbly began its operations in the library building in downtown with only two offices and used equipment. There were no official YMCA facilities, but programs were offered anywhere around town space was available; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1965 preparations began to raise funds and construct Prattville's first YMCA facility. Just a few years later a second pool was added along with tennis courts and a gymnastics gym; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1979, land was donated to the YMCA for what would become the location of the new Willis Bradford Branch. In 1983, 32 acres of land adjacent to the main building was gifted to the YMCA; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1985 a fitness center was opened. The fitness center was a success and a capital campaign was completed to construct a new building to house the Fitness Branch and Child Care building along with a major renovation of the Don M. Smith building; and*

*WHEREAS, during the next several years athletic fields were constructed, the Fitness Branch was expanded, and a pavilion was built at the east site. The Don M. Smith Branch pool was covered for year round swimming and plans were finalized for a full facility branch in East Prattville. In June 2000, the new facility was completed and opened with two pools, two gymnasiums, an indoor playroom, cardiovascular exercise area, and a licensed pre-school with four classrooms; and*

*WHEREAS, today the Prattville YMCA continues to bring families closer and encourage good health throughout the community through fitness, sports, and fun.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Gillespie, Jr., Mayor of the City of Prattville commend the*

## Prattville YMCA

*For 50 years of continued focus on families, healthy living, social responsibility, and youth development.*

*Given Under My Hand and the Seal of the City  
of Prattville on the 5th day of January 2013.*

*Bill Gillespie*  
Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr.