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LRB-4174/1 SRM:bjk:pg

2007 SENATE RESOLUTION 17

February 27, 2008 – Introduced by Senators Taylor, Coggs and Hansen. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: commending the public service of Velvalea Rogers Phillips.

2	Whereas, Velvalea "Vel" Rogers Phillips was born on February 18, 1924, in
3	Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and
4	Whereas, Vel Phillips, who after winning a national scholarship to attend
5	Howard University, in Washington, D.C., returned to Wisconsin to complete her law
6	degree and became the first African-American woman to graduate from the
7	University of Wisconsin-Madison Law school; and
8	Whereas, in 1953, Phillips ran for a seat on the school board of the Milwaukee
9	Public Schools, and was the first African-American candidate to make it past the
10	non-partisan, citywide primary election; and
11	Whereas, in 1956, she became the first woman and the first African-American
12	member of the common council in Milwaukee; and
13	Whereas, Vel Phillips was appointed to the Milwaukee County judiciary, the
14	first woman judge in Milwaukee and the first African-American judge in Wisconsin;
15	and

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1	Whereas, in 1978, Vel Phillips was the first woman and first nonwhite elected
2	secretary of state in Wisconsin, and during the absence of both the governor and
3	lieutenant governor, under Wisconsin law, she briefly served as acting governor; and
4	Whereas, in 2002 Vel Phillips was awarded a distinguished professor chair at
5	Marquette Law School; and
6	Whereas, Vel Phillips was the highest-ranking woman to win state office in
7	Wisconsin in the twentieth century; and
8	Whereas, the adoption of this senate resolution is supported not only by the
9	senate, but also by members of the assembly, including specifically Representatives
10	Sheridan, Schneider, Young, Grigsby, Sinicki, Mason, Fields, Benedict, Turner,
11	Kessler, and Hintz; now, therefore, be it
12	Resolved by the senate, That the members of the Wisconsin senate honor the
13	remarkable life and achievements of Vel Phillips, both in the political sphere and in
14	the various communities in which she dedicated herself to improving the quality of
15	life for all.

(END)