



## 2007 SENATE RESOLUTION 17

February 27, 2008 – Introduced by Senators TAYLOR, COGGS and HANSEN. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** commending the public service of Velvlea Rogers Phillips.

2             Whereas, Velvlea “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

