

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

