

TRIBUTE TO VELVALEA “VEL”  
HORTENSE RODGERS PHILLIPS

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vel Phillips a public servant, judge, civil rights activist, mentor, states-woman and trailblazer. Vel Phillips was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and like me was a graduate of North Division High School. She graduated from Howard University and graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Madison Law School. Vel Phillips passed away on April 17, 2018 at the age of 95 years.

Vel Phillips’ life has been a series of firsts: the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin—Madison Law School; the first woman and African American to win a seat on the City of Milwaukee’s Common Council; the first woman and African American to win statewide election by becoming Secretary of State of Wisconsin; the first woman and African American to become a judge in Milwaukee County. She was the first African American in the country elected to the National Committee of a major political party, and knew three presidents on a first-name basis: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Jimmy Carter. Vel realized all of these accomplishments at a time when many African Americans were not allowed to exercise their civil rights.

Vel ran for elected office to improve the lives of people and in 1956, she won a seat on the City of Milwaukee’s Common Council. The heart of Vel’s district was known as the Inner Core which consisted of poor housing stock, ill equipped schools, and few jobs. This was further exacerbated by several other facts: city leaders who refused to provide funds to repair roads and schools in the Inner Core; white landlords who would not rent to black people outside of the Inner Core; and Black families who were denied access to buy homes in other parts of the city. Vel knew something had to be done and introduced a Fair Housing Law in 1962 that would make it illegal not to rent to black people. It was not fair to tell people where they could and could not live, work and go to school because of the color of their skin and Vel began marching with Catholic priest, Father James Groppi to bring change. They led people, including me, on 200 consecutive nights of marching from the Inner Core across the 16th Street Viaduct to a destination on the Southside of Milwaukee. Angry white men and women lined the streets and swore and threw rocks and bottles at the marchers. Finally, in 1968, the Fair Housing Law that Vel had written six years earlier passed the city council.

In addition to the positions previously mentioned, Vel taught at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and was appointed “Distinguished Professor of Law” at Marquette University School of Law. In 2006, Phillips founded the Vel Phillips Foundation which supports the work of people who are engaged in projects of social justice and change including opposing voter ID and other attacks on voting rights.

Vel was the beloved wife for 38 years of the late W. Dale Phillips and the loving mother of

Michael Damon Phillips and of the late Dale Franklin Phillips. She was the proud grandmother of Elijah Thomas Phillips, Nathaniel Douglas Phillips, Rachael Velvalea Phillips and Robin Dale Phillips; great-grandmother of Tianna, Mya, and Phoenix and dear aunt of Shaune Maria Curry. She leaves a strong legacy of leadership for all people to model.

Mr. Speaker, Vel was my friend, champion and mentor. She cheered me on through every victory in my life and taught me to always keep the faith. In fact, she chaired my successful congressional campaign in 2004 at eighty years young. I draw strength from her unshakable spirit and she will live on forever in my heart. Vel is a Milwaukee and Wisconsin treasure and I not only valued her service to the 4th Congressional District but to the entire nation. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to the late Velvalea “Vel” Hortense Rodgers Phillips, may she Rest in Power.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2018

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Wednesday, April 18, 2018, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on several Roll Call Votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call No. 145—YES, Roll Call No. 146—YES and Roll Call No. 147—YES.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 25

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Business meeting to consider S. 2717, to reauthorize provisions relating to the Maritime Administration, S. 2369, to authorize aboriginal subsistence whaling pursuant to the regulations of the

International Whaling Commission, S. 2511, to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to carry out a program on coordinating the assessment and acquisition by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of unmanned maritime systems, to make available to the public data collected by the Administration using such systems, S. 2343, to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force for meeting the connectivity and technology needs of precision agriculture in the United States, and the nominations of Vice Admiral Karl L. Schultz, to be Admiral and to be Commandant, and Vice Admiral Charles W. Ray, to be Vice Commandant, both of the Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, Patrick Fuchs, of Wisconsin, and Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, both to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, Rubydee Calvert, of Wyoming, and Laura Gore Ross, of New York, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Alan E. Cobb, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

SD-106

1 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine how the innovation economy leads to growth.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Justice.

SD-192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine enhancing the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine H.R. 597, to take lands in Sonoma County, California, into trust as part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California, and H.R. 1491, to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.

SD-628

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew S. Oldham, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Alan D. Albright, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Thomas S. Kleeh, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, Peter J. Phipps, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and Michael