



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
SUPREME
Moore Omokunde

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 26, 2024

Contact: Representative Supreme Moore Omokunde (608-237-9117)

Representative Moore Omokunde: Introducing Vel Phillips Observance Day

MILWAUKEE—State Representative Supreme Moore Omokunde (D-17) plans to introduce legislation that will make February 18th, Vel R. Phillips’s birthday, a special observance day in Wisconsin public schools. If passed, this bill would make Vel Phillips the first Black woman to be honored by a special observance day in the state.

“You wouldn’t usually use the word ‘giant’ to describe someone less than 5 feet tall and all of 100 pounds,” said Representative Moore Omokunde. **“However, ‘not the usual’ are exactly the words you would use to describe the Honorable Vel Phillips. If she were here today, she would dissuade us from using all of her ‘firsts’ to describe her legacy: the first Black woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School; the first Black woman elected to the Milwaukee Common Council; the first Black woman to serve as a jurist in Wisconsin...the list goes on. But she is all of these ‘firsts’ and so much more.**

I am honored to announce a bill that will create a Vel R. Phillips Special Observance Day in schools across Wisconsin. I look forward to both introducing and passing this bill in the 2025-26 legislative session. The life and legacy of Vel Phillips is one that all Wisconsinites—regardless of age, race, gender, or whatever other distinctions that are usually used to divide us—should learn about, celebrate and continue.”

Representative Moore Omokunde represents the 17th Assembly District on the North and Northwest sides of Milwaukee.

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