

2024 -- H 8361

=====  
LC006262  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE CAMILLE F.J. VELLA-WILKINSON FOR HER SERVICE  
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Bennett, Shanley,  
Solomon, Ackerman, Kazarian, Azzinaro, and Chippendale

Date Introduced: June 13, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Camille F.J. Vella-Wilkinson has served with honor and  
2 distinction in the Rhode Island House of Representatives for the past eight years, earnestly  
3 representing citizens in Warwick's District 21 neighborhoods; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Vella-Wilkinson makes her home in the City of Warwick  
5 with her husband, Kenneth and together they have one son, Ian. She attained her Bachelor's  
6 degree in English and psychology from Long Island University, her Master's degree in labor  
7 relations from the University of Rhode Island, and a Juris Doctor degree from Roger Williams  
8 University School of Law. She is self-employed as a work-readiness coach, is an alumna of the  
9 URI Schmidt Labor Research Center and Leadership Rhode Island, graduated from the Eastern  
10 Leadership Academy, and is a member of American Legion Post 43, Military Officers  
11 Association of America and St. Benedict's Daughters of Isabella Circle 423; and

12 WHEREAS, Previous to her years at the State House, Representative Vella-Wilkinson  
13 gained invaluable knowledge and understanding of the needs of both her constituency and the  
14 people of Rhode Island when she was elected and served three terms on the Warwick City  
15 Council, with two terms as finance Chair. She was also a State Commissioner on the Rhode  
16 Island Commission for Human Relations, and served as the City of Warwick Veterans liaison for  
17 six years; and

18 WHEREAS, Most currently, Representative Vella-Wilkinson is Chair of the House  
19 Conduct Committee, and is a member of the House Finance Committee and Chairs its Public

1 Safety Subcommittee, and is a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee; and

2 WHEREAS, Dedicated to her constituency and those under-served in our State,  
3 Representative Vella-Wilkinson has sponsored and introduced a law that allows pharmacists to  
4 prescribe birth control and a new law that provides health care coverage for laparoscopic removal  
5 of uterine fibroids, a law to permit Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous to hold  
6 meetings during a declared disaster emergency, and legislation that created the Ocean State  
7 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund; and

8 WHEREAS, A retired Navy Officer, Representative Vella-Wilkinson has a first-hand  
9 understanding of the needs and sacrifices made by those men, women and military families who  
10 serve this nation and has been a staunch and effective advocate on their behalf. She has sponsored  
11 and supported legislation exempting military pensions from taxation and a Military Property Tax  
12 Exemption bill, a bill that directs the Department of Education to utilize the federal Troops to  
13 Teachers program, a resolution allocating \$100,000 to the Veterans Services Officers Program, a  
14 bill that extends property tax exemptions to veterans who served in uniform during the Cold War,  
15 a law that extends veterans' benefits to gay or transgender members of the armed forces who  
16 failed to receive honorable discharges, and began an annual veterans' outreach program at the  
17 State House to name but a few of her many accomplishments; and

18 WHEREAS, In gratitude and respect for Representative Vella-Wilkinson's support for  
19 our country's armed forces, she was honored with the Legislator of the Year award from the  
20 Disabled American Veterans, received the American Legion Post 43 Auxiliary Female Veteran of  
21 the Year award, and also received the YMCA Woman of Achievement award; and

22 WHEREAS, The Honorable Camille Vella-Wilkinson has brought wisdom and a  
23 tremendous work ethic to the General Assembly during her years in office. Her service to the  
24 citizens of Warwick and the State, has ultimately made Rhode Island a far better place to live and  
25 flourish; now, therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
27 honors and thanks Representative Camille F.J. Vella-Wilkinson for eight years of dedicated  
28 service enriching the quality of life for all the citizens of Rhode Island. We moreover wish her the  
29 very best health, happiness and success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
31 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Camille F.J. Vella-Wilkinson.

=====  
LC006262  
=====