

2022 -- H 8271

LC005508

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING REPRESENTATIVE CAMILLE F.J. VELLA-WILKINSON ON BEING
NAMED THE 2022 "VERRAZANO DAY PERSON OF THE YEAR"

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Azzinaro, Abney, McLaughlin,
Casey, Casimiro, Solomon, Fellela, and Place

Date Introduced: May 19, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Established in 1961, the "Verrazano Day Person of the Year" is awarded by
2 the Department of Rhode Island Italian American War Veterans and the Grand Lodge of Rhode
3 Island, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. The 2022 very deserving recipient and the
4 first woman veteran in sixty years to receive this prestigious honor is our friend and colleague,
5 Camille Vella-Wilkinson; and

6 WHEREAS, For more than twenty-five years, Representative Vella-Wilkinson has been
7 dedicated to public service in myriad capacities. Now retired, she honorably served our country as
8 an officer in the United States Navy, served three terms on the Warwick City Council, was state
9 commissioner on the Rhode Island Commission for Human Relations, served as the City of
10 Warwick veterans liaison, and in November of 2016, was elected to the Rhode Island House of
11 Representatives in District 21; and

12 WHEREAS, During her tenure in the House, Representative Vella-Wilkinson has earned
13 the unqualified admiration of her colleagues. She currently Chairs the House Conduct Committee,
14 is Second Vice Chair of the House Rules Committee, and is a member of the House Finance
15 Committee, House Judiciary Committee, and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee; and

16 WHEREAS, Altruistically inclined to always give a full measure of effort and
17 enthusiasm to supporting veterans in our State, Representative Vella-Wilkinson began an annual
18 veterans' outreach program in 2017 in order to provide information and access to the legislature
19 and the availability of various programs; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition, Representative Vella-Wilkinson championed the passage of
2 legislation that grants in-state tuition status at the state operated schools to active duty and reserve
3 members stationed in Rhode Island, legislation that directs the Department of Education to utilize
4 the federal Troops to Teachers program, the Military Property Tax Exemption bill that eliminates
5 the requirement for a veteran to have achieved a Campaign Ribbon or an Expeditionary Medal in
6 order to qualify for state veterans benefits, organized a boot camp breakfast to honor veterans on
7 Armed Forces Day, and hosted the House of Representatives' observance of the 150th
8 Anniversary of Memorial Day; and

9 WHEREAS, Earning the respect and gratitude of her constituency and veterans,
10 Representative Vella-Wilkinson has been honored with numerous awards including, the
11 Legislator of the Year award from the Disabled American Veterans, the 2018 Legislative Award
12 from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the YMCA Woman of Achievement award, and the
13 American Legion Post 43 Auxiliary Female Veteran of the Year award; and

14 WHEREAS, On May 21, 2022, Representative Vella-Wilkinson will be honored at a
15 black-tie dinner for "her unwavering support of all veterans and her community." She can surely
16 look back upon her achievements thus far with justifiable pride in all that she has accomplished.
17 By both word and example, she is truly an inspiration and a paradigm of dedication to Veterans,
18 her community, and our State and is eminently worthy of our praise and acknowledgement; now,
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
21 recognizes and congratulates Representative Camille F.J. Vella-Wilkinson on being named the
22 "Verrazano Day Person of the Year" and wishes her continued success in all her endeavors; and
23 be it further

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

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