

Mrs. Ellis worked her way through the clerk's office for 23 years after beginning as a legal clerk in 1991. The Callaway High School alumna, who graduated in 1977, became chief deputy clerk in 2009 after being named a team leader in 2000 and deputy clerk in 2007.

The Jackson native said she is blessed and honored to accept her new position. "I am just going to lead the clerk's office forward," she said. Mrs. Ellis took courses at Phillips Business College and worked as a ward secretary for St. Dominic Hospital from 1979–1987.

Mrs. Ellis has seen many changes since working in the clerk's office. Along with Ms. Kathy Gillis, former Mississippi Supreme Court Clerk of 33 years, Mrs. Ellis supervised the office's transition to electronic filing. Since the office's mandatory e-filing for briefs and motions began on Jan. 1, 2014, she continues to work on the electronic transition through implementing emailed orders and clerk's notices, as well as e-filing transcripts and records from other trial courts.

The clerk became interested in a career in the legal system when she was serving as an alternate juror in the Hinds County Circuit Court. While working in the billing edits department at the City of Jackson Water Department, she said she drove past the Supreme Court building all the time on her way to the Water Department office, which is also located on High Street. "I never knew what this building was, but I used to say: 'That is a pretty building. I would love to work there someday,'" Mrs. Ellis said.

Mrs. Ellis has three children: Karen Ellis Evans, Kimberly Ellis and Leonard Ellis; three grandchildren: Madison Evans, Leonard Ellis, III and Bryson Williams—and is married to Mr. Leonard Ellis, Sr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Muriel Ellis.

COMMENDING JOYCE LEONARD
FOR HER DEDICATION TO HOME-
OWNERSHIP IN AMERICA

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give special recognition to Joyce Leonard for her 35 years as a real estate issue advocate for private property rights and the preservation of the American Dream of homeownership.

In addition to a successful career as a Realtor, Joyce has dedicated her time and talents to serving her fellow Realtors at the local, state, and the national levels. Joyce was the President of the Tri-Counties Association of Realtors in 1999. Currently a Pacific West Association of Realtors member and director, she has served various Committees at the state and local level. She has been a California Association of Realtors Director for over 20 years. On the national level, Joyce has been a National Association of Realtors Director for four years and served as a member of the Conventional Lending and Finance Committee.

Joyce is passionate about homeownership, and she is committed to ensuring that elected officials understand the impact of policies under consideration on the ability of Ameri-

cans to own, buy, and sell real property. Joyce has been a Federal Political Coordinator (FPC) for the National Association of Realtors since 1996. During my time in Congress, Joyce served as my FPC, and she did a tremendous job of always ensuring that I was apprised of the issues of concern to the National Association of Realtors.

Joyce cares about her local community, and her service extends to serving on various boards and commissions. Joyce worked with the MAC Council to help Diamond Bar become a City. She was instrumental in developing the Diamond Bar General Plan. She served on the Traffic and Transportation Commission and Chaired the School of Safety Studies & Offsite Parking Task Force for the City of Diamond Bar.

For these important contributions to her community and for her dedication to the American Dream of homeownership, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Joyce Leonard for her service. Joyce, we know that you will continue to positively impact our community and country for many years to come.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2901 "SEN.
PAUL SIMON WATER FOR THE
WORLD ACT"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2901, the Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2014, which makes the provision of safe water and sanitation a stated goal of U.S. foreign assistance policy and requires the President, through the State Department, to develop and implement a strategy to further such efforts in developing countries.

Safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are among the most basic needs a person can have, yet 748 million people in the world do not have access to safe water; roughly 1/10 of the world's population.

In countries such as Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger and Papua New Guinea, less than 50% of the population has access to safe water.

More than 2.5 billion people in the world lack access to adequate sanitation, which is approximately 35 percent of the global population.

The lack of clean water and basic sanitation facilities leaves millions trapped in a cycle of poverty and disease, costing the lives of around 500,000 children per year—dying from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation.

The Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act will make better use of existing WASH ("Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene") funds, strengthen accountability for WASH programs already underway, and ensure the greatest impact on communities worldwide without spending new money or creating new bureaucracy.

For every \$1 invested in WASH, \$4 is returned in increased economic productivity, making WASH one of the most effective and efficient choices we can make for global child health, nutrition, resource conservation, women's empowerment and education.

Specifically, H.R. 2901, the Water for the World Act, will:

1. Institutionalize existing capacity in the U.S. government to ensure WASH remains a political priority and expertise is available at USAID and State Department headquarters to guide strategic implementation of effective and sustainable WASH programs

2. Enhance criteria for choosing high-priority countries to ensure that limited funds are directed to the countries and communities most in need

3. Advance best practices of effective aid, such as improved monitoring and evaluation and a focus on leveraging non-Federal partnerships and funds

4. Improve the strategic approach to international safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and water resources management by providing smart guidance that builds off USAID's own strategy

The bill before us today also provides for a Global Water Coordinator to be designated to oversee water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance, and to develop a complementary strategy to further the U.S. foreign assistance objective to provide affordable and equitable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene in developing countries.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2901 will provide effective, long-term, sustainable impacts by improving coordination and oversight of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene projects and activities.

By voting in support of this act, we have the power to improve the well-being, education, economic opportunity, safety and dignity of the 2.5 billion people in the world who live without a basic latrine every day.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of the Water for the World Act to save lives, reduce poverty, and help drive economic growth by bringing safe drinking water and improved sanitation and hygiene to those most in need.

Mr. Speaker, access to clean, potable water will be one of the world's most pressing problems over the next century and further contribute to instability within and between nations as is the case in the Darfur conflict.

In the developing world, water-related diseases kill 5,000 children every day.

Sick children miss nearly 300 million school days a year from water-related causes, and an estimated 320 million productive work days are lost to illness—with much of the burden carried by girls and women.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Senator RICHARD DURBIN of Illinois, Senator Paul Simon's successor and the lead Democratic sponsor of the Senate companion to H.R. 2901, that:

Water access is no longer simply a global health and development issue; it is a mortal and long-term threat that is increasingly becoming a national security issue. The United States needs to do much more to ensure that global water access is protected and expanded.

Passing H.R. 2901 is an essential first step in ensuring that global water access is protected and expanded.

I urge all members to join me in supporting this important legislation and fitting memorial to the late great Senator from Illinois, Senator Paul Simon.

PREVENTING EXECUTIVE OVERREACH ON IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to urge my colleagues to affirm the best of our traditions as a nation, rather than our worst partisan inclinations and oppose H.R. 5759, the Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act of 2014. After several years of delay and obstruction on the matter of comprehensive immigration reform, President Obama acted to protect American immigrant families from the threat of forcible separation under immigration laws that are inadequate in the Twenty-First Century, by permitting parents living in the United States whose children are citizens or legal permanent residents to avoid deportation and receive authorization to work.

This legislation, H.R. 5759, exists only to allow the Republican-controlled House of Representatives to perpetuate the status quo that has done greater harm to immigrants who have been a part of our communities and criticize President Obama and the families and children he is seeking to protect. The enactment of this legislation would repudiate our commitment to the value of families.

H.R. 5759 would nullify and block implementation of the President's executive actions. If indeed the House majority were to act on the bipartisan Senate immigration reform bill. There would have been no need for the President to Act through his Executive Authority. We, in Congress, must legislate actual solutions. Congress has an obligation to pass commonsense immigration reform that offers meaningful solutions to the broken system.

It is also important to note that every president during the past 50 years has taken executive action on immigration and granted temporary immigration relief. Like his predecessors, this president has the legal authority to take these actions under the Constitution and the Immigration and Nationality Act. Unfortunately, the partisan divide in our nation's capital has created this legislation of discord.

The constituents of my district and across the United States understand that families are the foundation of our civil society. They want reform of our immigration laws that protects the interests of American immigrant families and supports the development of our nation and its people.

President Obama's executive action would provide protection to millions of immigrants, keep families together and expand our economy. I urge the rejection of this legislation. H.R. 5759 fails to uphold the ideals on which this nation was established. I urge the defeat of this bill.

CONGRATULATING RICK VIOLETT FOR RECEIVING THE 2014 CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED REALTOR AWARD

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rick Violett, who has received the 2014 California Distinguished Realtor Award from the California Association of Realtors.

A licensed Realtor for the past 40 years, Rick Violett began his real estate career at Horvath Realty in Fullerton, California. He later started his own company, Investment Brokers of Orange County, in 1977. But Rick was not selected for this distinguished award because of his company's success. The 2014 California Distinguished Realtor Award is awarded to an individual who has been a California Realtor for 20 years and has demonstrated outstanding service to the California Association of Realtors for no less than 15 of the 20 years of service. The honoree also must have achieved the California Association of Realtors' designation of Director-for-Life.

Aside from growing his own business, Rick has devoted his time and skills to serving as an active participant in the Pacific West Association of Realtors, the California Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Realtors. Rick has contributed countless hours and hard work to preserving the American Dream of homeownership for future generations, not only in California but across the nation. Rick served as President of the Greater North Orange County Association of Realtors and as merger chairman for the formation of the Pacific West Association of Realtors. He has been a California Association of Realtors Director since 1993, chaired numerous committees, and has served as a member of the California Association of Realtors' Executive Committee. At the national level, Rick has served the National Association of Realtors' most prestigious committees and he has also chaired various workgroups and task forces. Rick always kept me apprised of how the issues that were being considered in Congress impacted my district's housing market.

A true public servant, Rick is active in his community. He has served as a board member of the Placentia Rotary Club, a member of Placentia-Yorba Linda School Demographic Advisory Council, and the President of Southern California Leadership Education Foundation for 6th Grade Outdoor Camps.

I am so pleased that Rick has been recognized for his many years of dedicated service to the Realtors. Please join me in congratulating Rick Violett for being awarded the highest recognition that the California Association of Realtors can bestow on a member. Rick, we thank you for your commitment to strengthening the ability of Americans to own, buy, and sell real property.

NEW YORK DELEGATION
FAREWELL

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Gentleman, Mr. RANGEL, our dean of the House New York State delegation for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and bid farewell to four colleagues who have served this institution, this country, their constituents, and the Great State of New York admirably and well.

From a nurse to a captain in the United States Navy, my four colleagues, Representatives OWENS, MAFFEI, MCCARTHY, and BISHOP, have brought diverse backgrounds to our chamber, enriched us with their insight, and stood by us through our Nation's most pressing debates.

Mr. Speaker, today, the New York delegation is losing four pillars, four leaders, four friends. I have worked late into the night with each one of them on issues vital to the health of our Nation, such as stemming the tide of gun violence, ensuring an affordable college education, updating our Nation's crumbling infrastructure, and providing health care through the Affordable Care Act.

While they will no longer be serving their constituents in this body, I am confident that whichever way their paths lead them, they will continue their legacies of service to their communities any way that they can.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the New York Delegation and the House as a whole in wishing BILL, DAN, CAROLYN, and TIM the best of everything in the next chapter of their lives and careers.

HONORING CHERIE SLAYTON ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of my Chief of Staff, Cherie Slayton. After more than 30 years of government service, Cherie will be retiring at the end of this Congress.

Cherie started her career as an elevator operator. She went on to work for former Senator Frank Church and Congressmen Norm Dicks and Larry LaRocco before joining my staff in 1995.

Cherie began as an Executive Assistant in my office and, in 2011, was named Chief of Staff. Throughout this time, Cherie has been a calm and steady voice in a sometimes-chaotic environment, offering good judgment and trustworthy service. Quite frankly, I don't know if I would have made it through some days without her.

But more important than the day to day work here in Washington, Cherie has served the people of Minnesota's Seventh Congressional District. Over the years she has developed numerous personal relationships—listening to the concerns of our constituents—and it is these friendships that have made Cherie an