

of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference. He has coached and mentored pastors, church leaders, staff, and ministry teams all over the country.

On July 20, 2005, Bishop Thomas was elevated to the office of bishop and presiding prelate of the Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors by ministers from across this great Nation.

Bishop Thomas has led multiple outreach initiatives to provide services and resources to the community. These initiatives include assisting economically disadvantaged families and homeless persons, providing employment assistance for job seekers, and partnering with school principals to provide school resources.

In 2013, Bishop Thomas and the New Psalmist Baptist Church donated \$40,000 to the Baltimore City Northwestern Police District to renovate the station entrance and lobby for our police officers and community members.

In addition to his leadership in the local community, Bishop Thomas has been a global leader, supporting projects to improve the quality of life for the world's underserved citizens. Bishop Thomas and New Psalmist Baptist Church support a school in Nairobi, Kenya, as well as clean water and sanitation projects in Africa.

Bishop Thomas has also been the guest of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to represent the United States and the Christian faith in the Many Heavens, One Planet faith and conservation event in Windsor, England.

In 2009, Bishop Thomas had the honor of delivering the invocation during President Barack Obama's whistlestop tour at Baltimore's War Memorial Building. In 1998, Bishop Thomas hosted President William Jefferson Clinton at the New Psalmist Baptist Church.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Bishop Thomas is a devoted husband, father, and friend. He is the loving husband to first lady Patricia Thomas and the proud father of three very successful children: Joi; Walter, Jr.; and Joshua.

Bishop Thomas is a source of wisdom and encouragement to his family and friends. Bishop Thomas is a great friend who has inspired me through his faithful leadership of his family and the New Psalmist Baptist Church.

I am honored that God allowed our lives to eclipse, and today I wish to thank him on behalf of Baltimore, Maryland, and indeed the Nation and the world for his dedication, commitment to God, his church, his family, and his community.

#### ACCESS TO INPATIENT REHABILITATION THERAPY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I joined the

gentleman from North Carolina, Congressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD, to introduce H.R. 1906, the bipartisan Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Therapy Act of 2015.

Coordinated medical rehabilitation provided in an inpatient setting is crucial to Medicare beneficiaries with injuries, disease, disabilities, or chronic conditions.

Unfortunately, beginning in 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services began placing limitations on what types of therapy a beneficiary could receive, despite the professional judgment of the treating physician.

Mr. Speaker, these limitations restrict recreational therapy from being prescribed, despite it being medically necessary in many cases.

The bipartisan Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Therapy Act of 2015 that I have introduced with Congressman BUTTERFIELD will undo these unnecessary barriers imposed by CMS that place limitations on what types of therapy a beneficiary may receive.

□ 1045

This legislation will not cost the American taxpayer any money; will help facilitate access to the appropriate mix of services in an inpatient rehabilitation facility; and will benefit patients with brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and those who have sustained strokes, amputations, individuals living with neurological disorders, and a wide range of other conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today and strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get behind this commonsense bipartisan legislation.

#### REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the Speaker and acknowledge that 1965 is a very unique and special year. It is the commemoration of the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, which symbolized to the world the cry and passion to have your voices heard through the vote.

I stand here today asking this body and its leadership to put on the floor of the House the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a bill that was reauthorized in 2006, 2007, under the leadership of President George W. Bush and the Members of the United States Congress, in a bipartisan manner. The vote in the Senate was 98–0, and we had an equally impressive vote here in the United States House of Representatives.

The question would be why, a simple task of updating this legislation to ensure that thousands, maybe millions, are not denied the right to vote.

I start with that because the walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge was particularly brutal, and I want to give

credit to all those who marched, many names that I know, our own colleague JOHN LEWIS, Hosea Williams, and many that we have met over the years in Selma. They marched and stood non-violently against violence and, might I say, under the auspices of the misinterpretation of the law, those law enforcement officers—misguided, of course—that stopped those individuals from expressing their rights.

Today, I come to match the need for the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act to the enormous need, in a bipartisan manner, to reform our criminal justice system.

Over the news airwaves of the last 24 hours, right here in Washington, D.C., there was a statement about a young father who stood on his doorsteps in Fairfax, Virginia, that, finally, his two beautiful daughters had a settlement from that law enforcement department. He was shot on his doorsteps. The facts are such that I won't discuss today, but one can almost assume that that father did not need to lose his life.

Yesterday, the #marchtojustice, the Justice League of New York City, came to the west lawn to petition the government to end racial profiling and to begin to address the question of how do we have a criminal justice system that meets the equality and justice of America.

Sadly, just a few miles a way, in Baltimore, we understand that a young man was picked up and, ultimately, went into a coma and died. What happened in the midst of the time where his spinal cord was nearly severed in the custody of law enforcement officers?

Let me be very clear. As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, my commitment is that law enforcement officers go home to their families. In a few days, we will be honoring those who fell in the line of duty. We will be standing and respecting the fact that they provide a protection for this Nation and they serve us. We thank them for that.

But we must come to a point where we hold the Constitution dear and that citizens of the United States have the right to access and speech and protest and that protesters are not dangerous outsiders.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced two initiatives that I would ask my colleagues to join me on, initiatives that should draw bipartisan support. One is the Build TRUST legislation that simply indicates that there should be a process by which local jurisdictions use various citations and nuisance citations and stopping people on the street as a source of revenue, the same kind of issue that confronted Eric Garner—who, by the way, Mr. Speaker, was a large man who everybody knew, who was simply trying to support his family, maybe selling a few cigarettes.

No one has suggested that, dealing with the laws of New York, that that wasn't against the law. What we are saying is that Eric Garner did not need

to, in essence, lose his life, nor did Walter Scott in South Carolina, shot five times in the back because he ran.

We are legislators. We know the law. We understand that there is a framework for dealing with police officers, and we need to get there.

The Build TRUST bill says, however, that you cannot heavily burden a particular community, and you must report where all your revenue is coming from in terms of, if it is overly excessive, then you will lose Federal funds because we know that you are going into certain communities.

The other is the CADET Act, which I hope will draw bipartisan support. It does what South Carolina is doing. It codifies the collection of data of lethal force by law enforcement and citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is time now to use the CADET bill for the science of criminal justice reform and the Build TRUST bill to rebuild trust and have police accountability.

I believe that this 50th year of Selma, Mr. Speaker, pushes us to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act and move toward a just criminal justice reform.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, again, April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand up and raise awareness across this country that sexual assault and domestic violence can no longer be allowed to exist in our country. We must be proactive on raising awareness on this issue. That is why I come to this floor today to do just that.

Each Member—Democrat, Republican, East, West, North, South—has an opportunity, and I hope they join me to do this throughout April, to say “no more” to sexual assault in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, every 2 minutes, another American is sexually assaulted, every 2 minutes. That is 237,868 victims—our fellow citizens—a year that are impacted by this heinous crime and assault and violence.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the other things that we need to do, on top of raising awareness, is change our culture in America. Earlier this month, a graphic video was shown across this Nation and across this world of a gang rape that took place in broad daylight on the beaches of Panama City, Florida. The victim was clearly incapacitated and was clearly assaulted by several men on that beach.

Mr. Speaker, those perpetrators should and will be held accountable. Justice will be done; but what culture exists in America to allow the hundreds of people that were standing nearby who witnessed this assault and did nothing? Bystanders need to under-

stand that, in America today, we stand up and say “no more” to this heinous crime.

Mr. Speaker, because this victim was unconscious and incapacitated, it would have been likely, absent this video, that this crime would have gone unreported. That is the norm in America. Sixty-eight percent of the assaults in the last 5 years were not reported. We need to change our culture, and we need to say “no more.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have been on this floor numerous times; and, as many of you have seen before, I have shared my personal story from our family situation with this issue. I will tell you, just as I said the first time I came here and shared that story with the Nation, I say it again: there are no excuses for sexual assault and domestic violence in America.

It is time for us to come together as a nation and say “no more” to sexual assault and domestic violence on our fellow citizens.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 55 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Boyd Thomas Tucker, Sisk Memorial Baptist Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

With praise and thanksgiving we bow before You, Father. We thank You for Your love and guidance in each person's life who serves in this room. Grant to the Members of this body wisdom to take up their duties today. James said, “If any man lack wisdom, it shall be given him.”

So we pray for wisdom and discernment in their decisions, understanding in their thinking, mercy in their judgments.

We know that without You, Your guidance, we can do nothing, but with You, we can do all things. May we not be frightened by the problems that confront us as a nation, but give thanks that You are with us in this hour.

May Your Word be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Guide us this day, I pray in my Lord and Savior's name, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUINTA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND BOYD THOMAS TUCKER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I introduce to the Chamber today Reverend Tom Tucker. Tom is the senior pastor at Sisk Memorial Baptist Church in Fort Mill, which is just down the street from my house.

I was talking to Reverend Tucker beforehand, and he said he was called to ministry, Mr. Speaker, when he was 18, but he fought it until he was 30. I think it is a wonderful story.

He has been the president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Pastors Conference; he is currently the first vice president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; he is a featured devotional speaker for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association; and he has ministered, literally, all over the world.

He is married to Brenda. They have two children who are here today, one of whom, Krystal, is married to Jared Ribble, the son of my good friend, Congressman REID RIBBLE from Wisconsin.

So it is an honor and a privilege to have, today, as our guest chaplain, Reverend Tom Tucker.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### NO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS AND BENEFITS FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last summer's border crisis was the result of President Obama's 2012 decision to grant amnesty to some