

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 North-western 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.

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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 away, 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