

This bill will ensure that the Renewable Fuel Standard Congress passed last year will apply only to domestic production of biofuels. This bill will not discourage the importation of foreign biofuels, but will simply reserve a portion of the market for U.S. producers. My hope is to help promote the production and use of biofuels within the United States, and I believe this legislation will help achieve that goal.

Biofuel production is perceived to play a key role in the revitalization of rural America, including Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. Right now many farmers are taking the initiative by investing in the production of biofuels. It is our role as their representatives to provide the necessary tools and help in any way we can to achieve these goals and help revitalize our rural communities. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as it moves forward.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP VICTOR T. CURRY: CELEBRATING HIS 15TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Miami's great spiritual and community leaders, Bishop Victor T. Curry.

On May 21, Bishop Curry will celebrate his 15th pastoral anniversary, and I want to echo the same sentiments of joy and gratitude that the 15,000 members of the New Birth Baptist Church in Miami will lift up to Almighty God on this happy occasion.

Bishop Curry's ministerial journey truly represents the best and the noblest of our community. As bishop, senior pastor, and teacher of New Birth Baptist Church, he is leading his congregation in the ways of God and has tirelessly worked to enlighten our community on the path to spiritual wisdom, social responsibility and good government based on the laws of God and the dictates of conscience.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous work he is doing in constantly guiding not only the members of New Birth Baptist Church, but also the entire family of the "The Cathedral of Faith International." He has truly exemplified the model of Christ as the Good Shepherd, and has led his flock, sharing with them the words of God's wisdom and the good news emanating from the gospel.

His motto—"From Vision to Victory"—has impacted the lives of countless people, for Bishop Curry has carried forth his message of hope in person, in newspapers, on television, and on radio. He has demonstrated, both by word and by example, his unconditional love for and commitment to our children, the elderly, the poor, the disenfranchised, and those less fortunate among us.

I therefore join with his congregation and our entire community in honoring Bishop Curry on his 15th pastoral anniversary and in wishing him many more in the years to come.

A SUCCESS STORY OF DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, since congressional districts were realigned in Massachusetts in 1992, I have had the honor of representing a large number of Americans who trace their ancestry to the Republic of Cape Verde. As with other Americans who trace their ancestry to other nations, the Cape Verdean Americans who live in my district are very proud of their ancestral homeland, and are very much interested in my working to preserve good relations between our two countries. In the case of Cape Verde, that is very easy. The Republic of Cape Verde from the day of its independence has maintained a degree of democracy, respect for individual freedom, and respect for human rights that is very impressive. In the nature of things, people tend to hear bad news about other continents, countries or regions. But while it is important for us to give attention to those places where correction is needed, we should not by silence about successes let people think that there are none. I recently had the chance to read a very impressive study by Dr. Bruce Baker and Professor Roy May of Coventry University in the United Kingdom, entitled Cape Verde: The Most Democratic Nation In Africa?

In the acknowledgment to their report, the authors answer this question in the affirmative—We believe that the country fully lives up to the title of the most democratic nation in Africa.

Sensible space limitations prevent me from asking that their entire article be printed here. I do note that it will soon be appearing in a leading academic journal on African affairs. But given the importance of refuting the notion that democracy is somehow unsuited to African countries, a justification occasionally put forward by defenders of autocracy, I do want to quote some important passages here from their article:

One of the most striking indicators of Cape Verde's democratic maturity has been the ease by which power has been transferred, with defeated governments and their supporters accepting the electorate's verdict. Since the country's 1991 transition to multiparty democracy, Cape Verdeans have changed their government three times.

Deputies from both main parties believe the National Assembly to be effective in adversarial debate. Civil and political rights are enshrined in the constitution and widely respected in practice. The judiciary is regarded as independent and therefore free of political bias.

Mr. Speaker, the authors acknowledge that democracy of Cape Verde, as is true everywhere else, is not perfect, but they stress that there is an overall democratic atmosphere in Cape Verde in which those lapses can be pursued by people interested in improving the situation without fear of repression or retaliation.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to call attention to the thriving democracy in the Republic of Cape Verde both because it deserves attention in itself, and is a counter to those who argue that somehow democracy and respect for basic human rights is a west-

ern doctrine that cannot travel to other parts of the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Cape Verdean Americans whom I represent are very proud of their homeland, as they should be. It is entirely appropriate that the Bush Administration recognized the flourishing democracy of Cape Verde, among other aspects of that nation's governance, by making it one of the first recipients of funds under the new Millennium Challenge foreign aid program.

DAMU SMITH INTERNATIONAL RENOWNED ACTIVIST DIES AT AGE 54

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Damu Smith, who died May 5, 2006, and to enter into the record an article by Makani Themba-Nixon entitled Damu Smith, popular activist, dies at 54 which appeared on May 13, 2006 as a special to The Washington AFRO American.

Damu Smith was a people's activist who put his heart and energy into more than one cause. He was a St. Louis native and longtime Washington, D.C. resident, but he was renowned internationally as a great organizer and a man of ideas. He was a co-founder with Donelle Wilkins of the National Black Environmental Justice Network, NBEJN, in 1999.

As the first coordinator for Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice, Smith revealed the practice of some corporations that targeted poor African American Communities. He organized Toxic Tours in the South to help bring national attention to this very serious problem. The story of this successful campaign to force a PVC plant out of Norco, La., was made into Lifetime cable movie, Fenceline: A Company Town Divided.

Smith was a leader and co-founder of several social justice initiatives including Artists for a Free South Africa and Black Voices for Peace. For over 30 years, Smith worked to bring justice to all.

When Smith first became ill, his many friends and followers from many peace, environmental and social justice movements rallied around him to give him their full support as a way of showing their love and gratitude for everything he had done to promote peace, justice and preservation of our mutually shared planet.

Among the many projects Smith was involved in was promoting a national Martin Luther King Jr., Holiday. In the 1990s he joined Greenpeace USA and monitored corporate pollution on the Gulf Coast. He coordinated the first National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991, helping to link the civil rights movement to the environmental movement for the first time, colleagues said.

Born LeRoy Wesley Smith, he came to Washington in 1973. He later took the name Damu, which the Associated Press of May 8, 2006 reported means blood, leadership and strength in Swahili.

Damu Smith was a leader of great strength and passion. His causes were many and varied but all of them were about social justice

and civil rights. Smith was an activist for 30 years. During this time, he was a co-founder of Artists for a Free South Africa and Black voice for Peace. His efforts ranged from a stint as executive director of the Washington Office on Africa during the anti-apartheid movement to work on gun violence and police brutality with the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice.

According to the Afro American article, Ron Daniels founder and president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century, reflected that Smith was an incredible organizer, an incredible leader and teacher. He was also an incredible human being. I certainly second that assessment.

Journalist George E. Curry wrote that Damu Smith who died at age 54, crammed more into his 54 years on earth than people who live twice as long. Yet, the feeling lingers that he left us too soon. Curry wrote that Smith was a man of integrity and he was a visionary. Those are words of high praise and they are true in describing Damu Smith. I want to add, he was a man with a great heart who spent his life working for those who most needed him.

Damu Smith loved his one child very much. His many friends knew how much and how deeply he loved Asha Hadia Vernice Moore Smith, his 14-year-old daughter. They have set up a trust fund so she will have the opportunity for the education he wanted for her.

I believe if Asha has inherited his heart and his character Damu Smith's daughter will be a light in the world just like her father.

[From the AFRO American News, May 10, 2006]

DAMU SMITH, POPULAR ACTIVIST, DIES AT 54
(By Makani Themba-Nixon)

Damu Smith, internationally renowned activist and a founder of the environmental justice movement, passed away early on May 5 at George Washington Hospital. Surrounded by a crowd of friends and family that spilled down hospital corridors, Smith, 54, succumbed after a year long bout with colorectal cancer. Smith was a dedicated organizer who even at the height of his health challenges found time to support social justice work. In recent months, Smith addressed the Millions More March and a capacity crowd for a TransAfrica forum, despite his ailing health. "He loved his people," says Donelle Wilkins, co-chair of the National Black Environmental Justice Network (NBEJN) an organization she and Smith founded in 1999. "You may have seen him at the big podiums and the big meetings but he was also in the country corners, the small towns, the little places. He rolled up his sleeves. He got his hands dirty."

A St. Louis native and long time Washington, D.C. resident, Smith was a leader and co-founder of several social justice initiatives including Artists for a Free South Africa and Black Voices for Peace. A consummate organizer and bridge builder, Smith's work extended over 30 years and several issues. "He was about bringing justice wherever it was needed," said Wilkins.

Smith's efforts ranged from a stint as executive director of the Washington Office on Africa during the anti-apartheid movement to work on gun violence and police brutality with the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, the National Wilmington 10 Defense Committee and the National Black Independent Political Party. An outspoken activist on peace and disarmament, Smith served as associate director of the Washington Office of the American

Friends Service Committee and traveled internationally to support movements for peace and justice around the world. "He was undoubtedly one of the most important activists of our time," reflected Ron Daniels, founder and president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century. "He was an incredible organizer, an incredible leader and teacher. He was also just an incredible human being." Perhaps Smith is best known for his groundbreaking work to establish the environmental justice movement. As national associate director and national toxics campaigner for Greenpeace USA, he helped carve out the racial justice analysis that helped distinguish environmental justice from the "green space" focus that typified environmental work of the day.

As the first coordinator for environmental justice for the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice, Smith gained firsthand experience of the corporate pollution practices that target poor and African American communities. He organized Toxic Tours in the South to help bring national attention to the issue, taking celebrities Alice Walker, Haki Madhubuti and others to the infamous area in Louisiana dubbed Cancer Alley. "The work in Cancer Alley was his heart. He didn't think anything about his well being. He stood in the face of the threats, of the violence, of the toxics. He set an example for what was possible. It gave his community a sense of strength, a sense that together they can make a difference. And they did. It was profound," said Wilkins.

The campaign to force a PVC plant out of Norco, La. was eventually the subject of a Lifetime cable channel movie, {Fenceline: A Company Town Divided}. Smith's efforts helped draw attention to the disproportionate toxic dumping in African-American communities nationwide, which led him to help found the National Black Environmental Justice Network.

"It was his vision to bring Black people together from all over the country to unite us around this issue," Wilkins said. "He single-handedly brought together folk from more than 30 states—welfare moms to PhDs—to give birth to this network. Damu's leadership and commitment was relentless." Although Smith remained executive director of the network until his death, his primary campaign over the last year was his own survival. Friends launched the Spirit of Hope campaign to support Smith with living and healthcare expenses as years of organizing work left him with little resources and without health insurance. His wide network responded with an outpouring of support including a star studded gala last July that brought together artist activists Danny Glover, Bernice Reagon and Sonia Sanchez.

"These resources went to support Damu in acquiring the care he needed," said Sandra Rattley, Spirit of Hope coordinator. "Damu was so grateful. The doctors were saying he only had three months last year but the community came together and literally extended his life. And every month he had, he continued to give back."

Survivors include his daughter Asha Hadia Vernice Moore Smith, 13. He is also survived by a sister Sylance Williams; two brothers Richard Anthony Smith and Leslie Dudley Smith; a significant other Adeleke Foster, two nephews, six nieces and thousands of friends and fellow soldiers in the battle for peace and justice.

Rattley said the community is rallying to ensure that Asha is provided for. Smith often referred to his daughter as the crown jewel of his life and once boasted had started a Black Kids for Peace organization. Friends and colleagues often remarked on what a devoted and caring father Smith was. "I know

that Damu wanted to make sure that Asha is alright," says Rattley. A memorial service is scheduled for 5 p.m. May 20 at Plymouth Congregational Church, 5301 North Capitol St., N.W. in Washington, D.C. In lieu of floral arrangements, the family requests all donations be made to the Asha Moore Smith Trust, 1750 Columbia Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 or online at www.damusmith.org.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIVONIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize the 50th anniversary of the Livonia Historical Society in Livonia, Michigan.

For five decades, the Livonia Historical Society has worked to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of our community. Initially founded in 1956 by Gladys and Don Ryder in the Bentley High School library, the Livonia Historical Society serves as guardian over Livonia's original buildings, museums, and homes.

The Livonia Historical Society's extraordinary accomplishments include preserving the Quaker House; and naming a library after prominent Livonia engineer Alfred Noble; and developing the 160-acre Greenmead historical village, which contains the 1820 estate of Joshua Simmons, an 1841 Greek Revival farmhouse, a one-room school house, and a general store. Further, the Livonia Historical Society has collected and protected ancestral records and artifacts; educated the public about the history of Livonia; and held fundraisers to support restorative projects on Quaker Acres.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my hometown's Livonia Historical Society for its first 50 years of noble civic service; and in extending our best wishes as they embark upon their next 50 years of preserving our community's uncommon legacy—and, in the process, selflessly affirming their own.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to South Flint Tabernacle as it celebrates 75 years of worship. The Tabernacle will come together on Sunday, May 21st to pray and rejoice in the blessings be stowed by God for the past 75 years.

Reverend John McLaughlin founded South Flint Tabernacle in 1931. The original worship services were held at Lincoln School in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. A few years later the congregation purchased the land now occupied by the current church in Burton Michigan and embarked upon building a permanent