

It also gives us an opportunity to consider the many Dominican American achievements, on the island and in the United States. Many of our hemisphere's firsts were established on the shores of Quisqueya. One of those firsts was the sound of Bachata, a guitar-based evolution of the Bolero often compared to the Blues with prevalent tales of heartbreak, sadness, and bitter-sweet romance. The genre began in the countryside and rural neighborhoods of the Dominican Republic and slowly made its way on to small venues. The musical group Aventura, with its unique style of Bachata, hip hop, and R&B fusion, finally brought the genre onto the world stage.

The group, which formed in 1996, includes lead singer and featured composer and producer Anthony "Romeo" Santos, guitarist and producer Lenny Santos, bassist Max Santos, and composer Henry Santos Jeter. As of today, Aventura is one of the most unique artists on the music scene. Since its humble beginnings, the group has sold over 1 million albums worldwide. After well over a decade of sparring in the music business, these four young, dynamic Dominican Americans with a seldom-seen chemistry continue to auto-produce soulful, original music that gleams with excellence. In the past year alone, the Bronx-based Bachata band has had the most successful Latin album, spending over five months at No. 1 and spawning four No. 1 singles.

Aventura has not only contributed significantly to the history of the world community, they have also contributed substantially to many of our world's poor and less fortunate communities. From benefit concerts to toy drives, they reach out to help those in need. Even as we pray for those devastated by the earthquake in Haiti, the group has pledged to donate to the relief efforts and will also allow Red Cross volunteers to accept donations on-site at four of their Madison Square Garden concerts, deemed the last tour, later this month.

Since the initial wave of Dominican migration to the most recent arrivals of today, Dominicans have worked hard to contribute to our national identity, educating us all on their culture and traditions and enriching the quality of our shared futures. Aventura solidifies that sentiment in every way. This award-winning group is not just a sense of pride for all Dominicans in our nation and abroad but for all Americans.

Madam Speaker, for this, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues in the Congress join me in paying tribute to not only the triumphs of Aventura, but also the invaluable impact that this quartet has had on our country and the world.

SHILOH BAPTIST MISSIONARY  
CHURCH AS THEY CELEBRATE  
THE 40TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR., LOVE MARCH

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 22, 2010*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to join all of those gathered in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Across Connecticut there will be a multitude of events paying tribute to Dr. King, but the longest-running will take place in my hometown of New Haven at the Shiloh Baptist Missionary Church. It is there that community leaders, families, friends, and neighbors will gather to participate in the 40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Love March.

Founded by the late Pastor George W. Hampton and today carried on by his son, Pastor Kennedy Hampton, Sr., for 40 years on January 15th at eleven o'clock in the morning, the Greater New Haven community has gathered to participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Love March. The Love March has never

been cancelled or postponed—wind, rain, snow, nor freezing temperatures have determined the number of participants but has never influenced the commencement of the march.

The late Pastor Hampton began the Love March as a means to remind our community of the important lessons of Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement. I once heard Pastor Hampton tell the story of his meeting with Dr. King. As I recall, the Pastor told him about his work in the civil rights movement and Dr. King responded, "That's part of the dream—keep it up." Pastor Hampton has certainly followed that charge.

Each time I join in the March, I am inspired by the uplifting spirit of the crowd as we sing and move through the neighborhoods of New Haven. For those of us who remember those difficult times, it seems obvious why we continue these strong traditions. In some ways we should be proud that the younger generations of today ask why we continue, why is it relevant? We, as a nation, have certainly made great strides in our efforts to ensure equality among all of our citizens. However, we still have a long way to go and that is why the Love March and other events like it are so important to our communities. They remind us of how far we have come and renew our commitment to the ideals of justice and full equality for all.

I am proud to stand today to congratulate the Shiloh Baptist Missionary Church on the 40th anniversary of the Love March. I cannot thank them enough for their commitment to ensuring that we always remember the sacrifices that were made by Dr. King to change the very character of our Nation—to open the doors of opportunity to all, right long-standing wrongs and bring justice to those so long denied full partnership in American society. For New Haven, the annual Love March is a cornerstone in the celebration of the life and spirit of Dr. King and remains a stirring reminder of a troubled time and a peaceful soul.