

The son of a millworker and captain of the Yale basketball team, Gary Franks is a self-made millionaire who made his money in real estate.

I like the fact that he put his belief in free enterprise and self help into practice as a successful businessman.

And his voting record in Congress is decidedly non-liberal.

Congressman Franks has opposed racial quotas and supported Justice Clarence Thomas, capital gains tax cuts, and the death penalty.

Not afraid to take tough stands, he was the only black to support the Persian Gulf war resolution against Iraq's hate-America dictator, Saddam Hussein.

One conservative rating grades his voting record a high 88 out of a perfect conservative score of 100.

No wonder Gary Franks is the non-liberal the liberal black leadership loves to hate.

If you heard Congressman Franks on the radio with Rush Limbaugh or read about him in your newspaper, you already know that the Congressional Black Caucus considers him a traitor.

They barred him from attending the business part of their meetings, telling him he could only stay for lunch.

And one member, liberal William Clay, had the gaul to inform Congressman Franks in a letter of his "profound disagreement with your legislative record which I believe to be inimical to the permanent interests of black folk."

In other words, the liberal black leadership says you can't be both black and non-liberal, Congressman Franks. Your non-liberal ideas will not be tolerated. Sit at the back of the bus.

"I guess 38 to 1 isn't an easy enough fight for them," said Congressman Franks about the ratio of liberals to non-liberals in the Black Caucus. "They have to make it 38 to zero."

Oddly, the Black Caucus was censoring "the only minority in their group," according to Congressman Franks.