

*When I moved here, I was impressed with the lot. I have a very large lot and a lovely home brick home. At that time, brick homes were very popular. ... It was marketed to low and middle-income African-Americans...*

*I felt like I was moving to an American dream, not knowing that my home was located on toxic soil.*

*Residents [developed] cancer, respiratory diseases [and] rashes. I myself have been diagnosed with breast cancer and I'm a breast cancer survivor. We have had many residents who have died -- not one, but maybe two or three members in a family with various types of cancer.*

*When I first moved back here, one of my grandsons was living with me. And I had a swimming pool back there and a swing set. My grandson now has asthma that he's had for years.*

*It feels like I'm a prisoner, enslaved in my own home because I need to be cautious about so many things and cannot live the life that I want to live on a daily basis. My great-grandchildren cannot come back here? If they come, they stay in the house. I can't allow them [to] go out into the backyard.*

*I'm delighted that [Administrator Regan] took the opportunity to come back here. He seemed very receptive to what we had to say, and I do feel that he will do something to help us. And I hope that I'm not wrong again, because we've had so many people come back here and do a lot of injustice to us, which is not fair at all.*

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## **Robert Taylor, St. John the Baptist Parish**

*Bobbi-Jeanne Misick/Gulf States Newsroom*

Community activist Robert Taylor stands in Reserve, LA where the Denka polymer plant emits chloroprene well above 0.2 emissions deemed safe. Taylor joined EPA Administrator Michael Regan on his "Journey to Justice" tour stop in St. John the Baptist Parish and expressed his concerns on the effects the Denka plant has had on his community.

*My wife developed breast cancer. She survived that. But then our youngest child, my daughter, came out with this very rare disease. Nobody knew what it was. Then it was discovered that the real culprit was an autoimmune disease*

*that made her vulnerable to these opportunistic diseases she was getting, and that one was caused by chloroprene.*

*Under normal circumstances [sharing my story] would be very draining. But I'm so reinforced by the fact that we finally got somebody that's in a position to help us, to listen to us. I think it's great that this man took his time out and had the decency and human compassion to come to the community and seek our advice and to find out about our conditions firsthand. So that sort of energized me in what normally would be very, very draining.*

*We're going to give him an opportunity to do what he can. But we just insist that we not be made guinea pigs any longer. We know the damage that Denka is doing to us. So let's make them stop until they can fix that. We need them to stop right now. We don't need another moment of this horror imposed on us.*

*We would welcome industry. We know it's vital to our economy, but it don't have to kill us. We should not have to be the ones whose lives are taken, you know, in the name of progress or safety.*

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## **Brenda Bryant, St James Parish**

*Bobbi-Jeanne Misick/Gulf States Newsroom*

*Brenda Bryant stands outside her home in St. James Parish. Bryant said Regan's "Journey to Justice" tour across the Gulf South is a "good thing" because it helps bring awareness to what's happening in her community.*

*I call us "the Sandwich..." That's NuStar [crude oil storage facility] and that's Shell (a closed refinery). We are actually sandwiched in. And I'm the meat.*

*My neighbor had breast cancer. The lady that lives in the white trailer, her husband passed [away] last Friday. And [there were] about five of us standing there talking about the fact that we had breast cancer.*

*If they want this part of the parish to be [an industrial area], then help the community to move to a safer area where all these plants won't be around, [so] that we won't have to put up with the chemical smell and the spills and all of that.*

*I think it's a good idea [for the EPA administrator to visit] because we need the publicity to help bring awareness to what's going on in our community.*

