

been honored with the Nevada Educator of the Year Award, the Excellence in Education Award and a National Gallery of Art State Scholarship. Candy is also a member of the Arts Council of Henderson and an honorary member of the Henderson Art Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Candy Schneider for her years of dedicated service to the students in the Clark County School District. Her passion is truly arts education and she has surely enriched countless lives with her tutelage. I wish her the best in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING BRANDON CRAIN
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Crain, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brandon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon Crain for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HORSERACING AND THE BLACK
JOCKEY—THE RETURN TO
CHURCHILL DOWNS AND KEN-
TUCKY DERBY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of an article printed in New York's *CaribNews* entitled, "Horsing and the Black jockey, the return to Churchill Downs and Kentucky Derby". Little is known about the history of Blacks in horseracing and how they dominated the sport, but it spans back from the 19th and early 20th centuries in the United States and Europe.

With such an illustrious and long history, why is it that such few Blacks are seen engaging in the sport? What we come to learn from the article is that because of racism and greed, Blacks were eliminated from the sport in North America. They were simply denied the chance to engage in horseracing, an activity loved by so many. Late tennis great Arthur Ashe made the case in his book, "A Hard Road to Glory", a history of the African American Athlete between 1619–1918, that "Black jockeys enjoyed an unprecedented streak of good fortune until racism forced them off the tracks. No civil rights groups came to their aid and then most had unfortunate endings."

In the article we learn about a man, Patrick Husband who grew up in a poor Barbadian neighborhood who with strong-will and determination was able to ride in the Kentucky Derby. He was not the first to do so, but his mere presence at the Derby that day brought admiration to all that watched. Truly this has become an inspiration for people up in those same neighborhoods as Husband. Witnessing these historic moments encourage Black youths to seek experience and careers as jockeys and trainers, a career once dominated by Blacks.

There is so much history to be studied and very few people know about it, nor do they have access to the information. Few people know that 14 of the 15 jockeys who participated in the inaugural year of the Kentucky Derby in 1875 were Black and that the first winner, Oliver Lewis atop Aristedes was Black. Another interesting fact was between 1875 and 1902, Black jockeys won 15 of the 27 Kentucky Derby races. This type of information should not be hidden from people. There was a time in racing history known as the "golden days" in which the greatest contributions were made by Black jockeys and trainers.

The youth of today should know the names of Isaac Murphy, Willie Simms, Jimmy Winkfield, Billy Walker, Alonzo Clayton, Isaac Lewis, Erskine Henderson and James Perkins who have made history for their achievements in racing in the United States from 1875 to 1911. These are names forever to be cherished and embraced by people everywhere. When L.P. Tralton, a famous trainer, died in 1896 he wrote in the *Thoroughbred Record*, "I have seen all of the great jockeys of England and this country for years back, but, all in all Isaac Murphy is the greatest of them all."

I enter into the RECORD with pleasure the article by Tony Best published in New York's *CaribNews* for its careful historical analysis of some of America's most talented yet sadly forgotten athletes. We must never forget the sacrifice Black jockeys have made for the sport of horseracing. The article helps in increasing the awareness about those who have made the sport what it is today and who rightfully deserve their place in the history books.

HORSERACING AND THE BLACK JOCKEY—THE
RETURN TO CHURCHILL DOWNS AND KEN-
TUCKY DERBY

When Patrick Husbands climbs aboard *Sea-side Retreat* in Saturday's Run for the Roses, as the world famous Kentucky Derby is often called, his presence astride the horse will write another interesting chapter in the history of horse racing in the U.S.

It's a chapter that brings to mind the glory days of Blacks in the saddle in the 19th and early 20th centuries in the United States and their elimination from a sport in North America that attracts and holds people's attention around the world, the pernicious effects of racism and greed and now the return of Blacks to the pinnacle of a sport from which they should never have been driven out in the first place.

That Husbands, who grew up poor in a Barbadian neighborhood that's within walking distance of one of the Caribbean's leading race tracks, the Garrison Savannah, can make it all the way to Louisville, Kentucky, tells a story about sheer grit, determination and talent and recalls the era of the golden days of Black jockeys and trainers.

Granted, he is not the first Black to ride in the Derby since the turn of the 21st century. That honor belongs to an African American

from Louisiana who rode in the race in 2000. But his presence brings pleasure to tens of millions, not only racing fans in North America and the Caribbean but elsewhere. It can also inspire Black youth to seek careers as jockeys and trainers once again in a sport, a multi-billion dollar business that they once dominated.

Unfortunately, too few television viewers and horse racing fans who will watch the 2006 Kentucky Derby from the comfort of their living rooms, sports bars and other places and who will follow the course of the race in their car radios know that Husbands is simply adding his name to a long list of outstanding Blacks who have ridden in the Derby and various major races.

Indeed 14 of the 15 jockeys who rode in the inaugural year of the Kentucky Derby in 1875 were Black and the first winner, Oliver Lewis atop Aristedes was Black. Between 1875 and 1902, Black jockeys won 15 of the 27 Kentucky Derby races.

Names like Isaac Murphy, Willie Simms, Jimmy Winkfield, Billy Walker, Alonzo Clayton, Isaac Lewis, Erskine Henderson and James Perkins dot the pages of racing's history books for their accomplishments in the saddle between 1875 and 1911 in the U.S.

For example, Murphy, a native of Fayette County in Kentucky, became the toast of the horse racing fraternity in the 19th century, so much so that historians insist he was to the sport of kings what Michael Jordan became for basketball, Jessie Owens to track and field, Hank Aaron to baseball, O.J. Simpson, Jim Brown and Jerry Rice to American football, Sir Garfield Sobers to cricket and Tiger Woods to golf. That is the greatest performer in their sport.

Murphy rode winners three times in the Kentucky Derby, including back-to-back victories in 1890–1891; captured the Travers in 1879; the Saratoga Cup in 1881 and 1886; the Kentucky Oaks in 1884. At the height of his career in the late 19th century, he was making more than \$20,000 a year back then, in today's money, we are talking about millions of dollars.

When he died of pneumonia in 1896 at the age of 35 years, L.P. Tralton, a famous trainer, wrote in the *Thoroughbred Record*, "I have seen all of the great jockeys of England and this country for years back, but, all in all Isaac Murphy is the greatest of them all."

In his book, *A Hard Road to Glory*, a History of the African-American Athlete between 1619–1918, Arthur Ashe, the late tennis great explained that "from roughly 1800 until the eve of World War I, Black jockeys had few peers in their profession."

He went on: "Black jockeys enjoyed an unprecedented streak of good fortune until racism forced them off the tracks. No Civil rights groups came to their aid and then most had unfortunate endings.

What a pity.

Most observers and historians blame the Jockey Club which was formed in 1894 to license riders for the disappearance of Black jockeys. Greed and racism were the major engines that systematically drove them out. The ebony-skinned riders were just too good and made too much money to suit the whites in charge, complained Ashe.

But Blacks weren't restricted to the saddle or to being grooms. Dating back to the colonial days and continuing long after the Revolutionary War and the Reconstruction period in America's history many of the trainers were Black.

Blacks in horse racing were the first to make a name for themselves in the business of sport.

Now that they are returning astride horses in growing numbers, jockeys from the English-speaking Caribbean, principally Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago are