

Gary Stevens won the Kentucky Derby on Silver Charm earlier this month, becoming the only active jockey to win the Derby three times. Gary won it on Winning Colors in 1988 and Thunder Gulch in 1995. Gary joins a select group of jockeys as three-time Derby winners.

Gary Stevens' accomplishments are worthy of Hall of Fame consideration. And indeed, Gary was recently elected to the National Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame. At 34, he is one of the youngest to win election to the Hall.

A native of Caldwell, Idaho, Gary Stevens attended Capital High School in Boise. He won his first race at the age of 16 riding at Les Bois Park in Boise. Even at such an early age, it was clear to racing fans that he had a gift and his talents would lead to something special. Horse racing experts say Gary is a master of pace—once he gets a horse in the lead, he has the ability to get the horse to relax and pace itself so it has enough to win the race.

If needed, he can come from behind, as he did in the Derby. Gary says once he got Silver Charm in the lead, the horse's ears popped up, and Gary said he knew his colt was relaxed and in good position.

Over his career, Gary Stevens has won over four thousand races and more than one hundred million dollars in purses. For all his success, he remembers his roots. Sportswriters heard him say after the Derby, "The kid from Idaho can still do it." And his family and friends in Idaho are rooting for him. Thousands of fans at Les Bois Park cheered him on as they watched the Derby simulcast. They will always remember him as "their" jockey. His peers also recognize Gary's special talents and personality. He was elected this year as President of the Jockey's Guild, an honor because his fellow riders have chosen him to represent their profession.

I know that every Idahoan joins me in congratulating Gary Stevens for winning his third Kentucky Derby and for his election to the Hall of Fame. I also want to acknowledge his parents, Ron and Barb, for their contributions to horse racing in Idaho and for raising such a fine son. Ron still trains horses at Les Bois Park, so the Stevens family remains a part of Idaho's racing scene.

So, Mr. President, I am pleased to wish Gary good luck this weekend at the Preakness Stakes, where he will once again ride Silver Charm. Gary Stevens is a winner—a winner I am proud to say who is also an Idahoan.●

JUDGE DAMON KEITH

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Federal appellate Judge Damon J. Keith, recently named the 1997 recipient of the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award.

Judge Keith was born on Detroit's west side and attended Northwestern High School. After graduation from

West Virginia State College, service in the U.S. Army during World War II, and graduation from Howard University Law School, Keith returned home to Detroit and set up a law practice. President Lyndon Johnson appointed Keith to the U.S. District Court in 1967 where he served until 1977, when he was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He took senior status in 1995.

Mr. President, I join all his well wishers in saluting Judge Damon Keith and his illustrious career, and I ask that the following editorial from the May 12, 1997 Detroit Free Press be printed in the RECORD.

The editorial follows:

DAMON KEITH: AWARD RECOGNIZES HIS GIFTS OF JUSTICE, SERVICE

Congratulations to federal Judge Damon Keith on being named the 1997 winner of the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award. It is a richly deserved honor that reflects not only the high esteem in which he is held by his peers but also the commitment to social justice and equality to which he has dedicated his life.

The award, named in honor of the late Supreme Court justice and the first African American to serve on that court, goes annually to a nominee with a history of substantial and long-term contributions to the advancement of civil rights, civil liberties and human rights in the United States. Judge Keith is the sixth recipient since the award was conceived and first given to Justice Marshall himself in 1992.

A senior judge in the 60th Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Keith has served 30 years on the trial and appellate benches. His rulings on civil liberties, civil rights and equal protection have given hope to many previously disfranchised Americans.

Like his mentor, Justice Marshall, Judge Keith is a patriot of the first order. His commitment has never wavered to a vision of America that lives up to the demands of the Bill of Rights and treats each citizen with the dignity and respect due him or her regardless of race, sex or social status. His contributions offer promise of a society we have yet to become but, with his leadership, will one day achieve.

THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION—AN EFFECTIVE VOICE FOR SMALL BUSINESS?

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to call on the Small Business Administration (SBA) to fulfill its role as advocate for the hardworking men and women who have made small business the backbone of our nation's economy. As Chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I have heard countless hours of testimony from small businesses who look to the SBA for information assistance and advocacy.

The SBA's role as an effective voice for small business within the executive branch recently came under fire during the final days of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) review of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation to expand the number of industries covered by the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting requirements. The proposed inclusion of two industries, comprised predomi-

nantly of small businesses, was brought into question by the SBA and numerous Members of Congress. The affected small businesses had data to support their case for exclusion, and some of the data on which EPA had based its proposed rule was inaccurate. Despite the strength of their case, these small businesses found their views unwelcome at EPA. They appropriately turned to SBA to articulate the small business views to the administration.

As the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business, I was dismayed when effective advocacy by the SBA on behalf of small business was criticized as improper. In a letter sent to SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez, efforts to communicate the small business perspective were characterized as "elements within [SBA] . . . actively working to undermine [the TRI] initiative." The important working relationship between SBA and its small business constituency was alleged to be an improper use of "taxpayer funds to conduct lobbying efforts on behalf of private lobbyists. . . ." In response to this criticism, the SBA temporarily removed staff from working on TRI and asked the Inspector General to review the matter.

The Ranking Minority member on the Committee, Senator KERRY, joined me in sending a letter to the Administrator of the SBA, expressing our support for the Office of Advocacy and the SBA's role on behalf of small businesses. I ask that the text of our letter and the response I recently received from James F. Hoobler, Inspector General for the SBA, be printed in the RECORD. I am delighted to say that the role of the SBA, the Office of Advocacy and the individual staff member, whose dedication to the cause of small business was unfairly criticized, were found to have "acted properly and ethically." The Inspector General added, "SBA is statutorily mandated to support and speak up for the interests of small business. . . . To do otherwise would be contrary to its mandated responsibilities."

The SBA worked closely with the affected small businesses in an effort to ensure that their side of the story was heard. The SBA's voice apparently caught the ear of OMB, which prolonged its consideration of the rule beyond the usual 90-day review period. The debate that ensued on the merits of the rule and the basis for regulating the small employers is exactly the type of policy discussion the SBA should facilitate. In fact, during her confirmation hearing before the Committee on Small Business, SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez announced her commitment to being an effective voice for small business within the Administration. Ms. Alvarez pledged to carry the views and concerns of small business to the agencies involved and to be an advocate for small business at the Cabinet table and in her interactions with the President. I sincerely hope Administrator Alvarez will keep to her word.