

There was no objection.

**GARFIELD'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY:
"I'LL RISE, BUT I WON'T SHINE"**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the Congressman who represents Muncie, Indiana, and Delaware County, home to the most famous cat in the world, I rise today for the awesome and important duty to pay a happy birthday wish to Garfield. Not President Garfield, but someone probably more famous in this day and age than that, a large, orange, slovenly, lazy cat, born in the mind of an Indiana native by the name of Jim Davis who, along with Garfield and literally dozens of artists and artisans, make their home near Muncie, Indiana, the world headquarters of Paws, Incorporated.

It was, in fact, today in 1978 that the Garfield strip debuted in 41 U.S. newspapers. Several months after its launch, the Chicago Sun-Times abruptly canceled the Cat. Over 1,300 angry readers, it is reported, immediately demanded that Garfield be reinstated. As they say, the rest is history. Today, 263 million readers across the globe read Garfield in 2,570 newspapers every day. Recently, Guinness World Records named this cat, Garfield, the most widely syndicated comic strip in the world. It all comes proudly from east central Indiana.

It is said that people relate to Garfield because Garfield, in many ways, is them. "He's a human in a cat suit," his creator Jim Davis likes to say. Garfield loves TV and he hates Mondays. He would rather pig out than work out. In fact, his passion for food and sleep is matched only by his aversion to diet and exercise, a cat after my own heart. He would like mornings better if they started later, coffee "strong enough to sit up and bark," and, he pledges regularly, "I'll rise but I won't shine."

Jim Davis, born in July of 1945 in Marion, Indiana, was raised on a small Black Angus cow farm. He graduated from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where he majored in art and business and he is the founder and president of Paws, Incorporated, a full service licensing studio created and established in eastern Indiana. They have received numerous awards, including four Emmys and the National Cartoonist Society award, just to name a few.

So I rise today in the midst of serious debates and serious discussions to pay tribute to a very large, orange American tradition, here shown bursting out of his birthday cake on this, the 25th anniversary.

I will never forget, Mr. Speaker, as I close, Jim Davis and I first became acquainted 15 years ago. He told me of all the offers he had had through the years to move Garfield, which is internationally syndicated, maybe to Los Angeles

or maybe to New York, more recognized as media centers than the cornfields of eastern Indiana, and Jim Davis said to me, "Mike, I always turn them down, because you have to have a sense of humor to live in Indiana." Let us hope Jim Davis and this big orange cat always live in Indiana. They are a source of pride, not only their creativity and their energy, but their philanthropy and their commitment to the quality of life for the families of our region.

We thank you, Jim. Congratulations to you and that big, fat, lazy cat.

**MOURNING THE PASSING OF
LARRY DOBY, FIRST BLACK
PLAYER IN AMERICAN LEAGUE
HISTORY**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Hall of Famer Larry Doby, the first black baseball player in American League history, died last night at the age of 78 in his home in Montclair, New Jersey. Larry Doby was one of the Cleveland Indians finest centerfielders, a slugger with speed. He was with the Indians in one of their most successful eras, from 1947 to 1955 during which they won two league pennants and a World Series, besides finishing second to the New York Yankees four times. He hit a decisive home run as the Indians won their last World Series in 1948. He led the league in home runs and runs batted in when the Indians romped to the American League pennant in 1954, winning 111 games, the fourth most in baseball history.

Larry survived and endured many racial insults after arriving in the majors only 3 months after the first black player, Jackie Robinson, of the old Brooklyn Dodgers. He never seemed to hold any grudges because of the torment. Doby is quoted as saying, "Life is too short for that. People who judge others based on the color of their skin have more problems than I do."

When he first stepped onto a major league field on July 3, 1947, amid a deluge of publicity, he was an uncertain, nervous 22-year-old. He knew that many fans and teammates resented his presence at Municipal Stadium. Doby batted only 32 times that first season and got five hits, a paltry .156 average. He stated, "It was one of the toughest things I ever had to go through. I had never sat on the bench before and now all I could do was sit and watch." He had come up as a second baseman with the Newark Eagles of the Negro League where he was hitting .420. But he was not going to displace Joe Gordon, the team's cleanup hitter who had been the league's most valuable player as a member of the Yankees in 1942.

Doby survived because of the support he received from his late wife Helyn; Indians owner Bill Veeck, who brought him to the majors; teammates Gordon

and catcher Jim Hegan, and coach Bill McKechnie. They were the closest to him that first year. He also was friends with the late Arthur Grant, the father of one of my childhood friends, Laureen Grant Beach. On many occasions I had an opportunity to see him and enjoy time with his daughter Kristie.

As a baseball pioneer, Doby also received encouragement from black celebrities of the era. Heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, singers Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald and Dinah Washington and musicians Duke Ellington and Count Basie were among those who contacted him.

When centerfielder Thurman Tucker was injured in May, Indians manager Lou Boudreau moved Doby into his spot. He stayed there for 10 years, he recalled. "The Cleveland fans were great. They never booed me, even when I made a mistake."

Doby hit .301 with 14 homers as the Indians won the 1948 pennant. In the playoff game against Boston for the American League flag, he belted two doubles. His most famous homer came in the fourth game of the 1948 World Series at Municipal Stadium when he connected to give Steve Gromek a 2-1 victory and the Indians a three-games-to-one lead over the Boston Braves. After the game, Doby and Gromek were photographed hugging each other in jubilation. The picture is considered a civil rights milestone. It was the first widely publicized photo of two baseball players of different races embraced in victory.

Doby led the Indians in hitting in the series with an average of .318. Players soon accepted him because of his ability. Doby, 6-1 and 180 pounds, quickly established himself as a first-rate player. In 1950 when he hit three homers in a game, batted .326 and drove in 102 runs, the Sporting News chose him as the best centerfielder in baseball, ahead of Joe DiMaggio and Duke Snider. He topped the league in homers, 32, and runs batted in, 124, in the pennant year of 1954 when the Indians won 111 and lost 43 games for a winning percentage of .721, a league record that still stands.

The Indians traded him subsequently to Chicago on October 25, 1955. He then with the White Sox, had a rebound, he went to Baltimore in a six-player deal in 1958, and then in 1959 he was sent back to Cleveland to play.

Doby was chosen for seven All-Star teams in his career. His lifetime stats show a .283 batting average and 253 home runs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give credit to Bob Dolgan, the Plain Dealer reporter from whom I obtained a lot of this information. I hope that all my colleagues will join me in mourning the death of a baseball great, Larry Doby.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. BLACKBURN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to go out of order to give my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ADDRESSING THE NATION'S HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, according to a poll taken just this month in June 2003 by the Winston Group, nearly 50 percent of Americans believe that the uninsured and the high cost of health insurance are one of the biggest problems facing our country today. With skyrocketing health costs and a recent Census Bureau figure showing that 41.2 million Americans lack health insurance coverage, this information does not come as a surprise.

There are, Mr. Speaker, some free market and tax incentive initiatives that could increase health care coverage for a significant segment of the population, making this health care more available and less expensive. I am confident that there is legislation that has been introduced, and indeed the House passed overwhelmingly just a few hours ago, H.R. 660, that will address some of the root causes of these serious problems.

There is a bill, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1236, the Securing Access, Value, and Equality Health Care Act, that seeks to end the tax discrimination that makes it difficult for low-income families and individuals to purchase non-employer provided health insurance. H.R. 1236 does away with this discrimination by making prepayable, refundable tax credits available to all Americans for the purchase of health insurance regardless of their employer or their employment status.

□ 1830

Under this bill, an individual could claim up to a \$1,000 tax credit, \$2,000 per married couple, and \$500 per child to a maximum of \$3,000 per family. By giving low-income individuals and families the purchasing power to meet their health insurance needs, the number of Americans without health insurance could be dramatically reduced.

Another bill, H.R. 2114, a bill that I introduced, a bill that enjoys bipartisan support, the Health Access and Flexibility Act, would increase access to medical savings accounts to all Americans and grant States the flexibility to provide Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program recipients health care coverage under a

medical savings account model. The bill removes the cap on medical savings accounts and allows MSA holders to fully fund their accounts.

Additionally, the bill would give States the ability to create medical savings-like accounts for Medicaid or CHIP recipients, and we have called these Medical Freedom Accounts.

By providing Americans with incentives to hold down medical spending through an MSA and giving them more flexibility on how to spend their own money on medical costs, the cost of health care can be contained and individuals will be able to achieve a higher quality of health outcomes.

And, Mr. Speaker, just today just a few hours ago, H.R. 660 passed this House, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2003, which allowed the establishment of association health plans. This bill allows businesses to pool their employees with other businesses that are part of the bona fide trade or business association to purchase employer-based health insurance. This gives small businesses this option, and this will be a powerful tool that will drive down the cost of employer-based health insurance making health insurance more affordable for small businesses and coverage more available to employees. With the passage of this bill, Mr. Speaker, we are one step closer to providing much needed relief to the uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately there is not a one-size-fits-all solution to address the increasing cost of health insurance and the decreasing access to health insurance; but, Mr. Speaker it is my hope that this House can continue to work to improve the health and well-being of all Americans by taking up these last two measures and provide a robust solution to our Nation's health care problems.

PRAISING AND CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my tribute, as a Texan, I would like to join with my good friend from San Antonio and around the State of Texas to be able to congratulate those fantastic San Antonio Spurs. As the Members well know, coming from Houston there is absolutely one basketball team that we all believe is number one, the Houston Rockets. But as Texans, we always rally around our friends and neighbors, and so I am delighted to congratulate the San Antonio Spurs. I am glad I did not make any wrong bets and to particularly appreciate David Robinson for his years of the kind of playing with integrity and character that we can all be proud of, the David Robinson School in San Antonio that he committed to with his own resources, the

spirit that he generated for that team, the outstanding work of most valuable player, Tim Duncan, and as well the fact that Steve Kerr came from the wonderful State of Illinois, but we have got him now, came off the bench and propelled the San Antonio Spurs to where they are today. My hat is off and I look forward to working with him and the team as we work to make Texas and the Nation a better place.

Today, I believe, Mr. Speaker, is a very good day and I have the honor of commemorating this day. It is Juneteenth, and we look forward to Juneteenth becoming a national holiday of commemoration to the extent that all of America is aware of the importance of this celebration. It is, in fact, June 19, today, that we are able to stand to pay tribute but also to solemnly acknowledge the importance of this day. I am very proud to have been able to join many of my colleagues, including the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN), and many others as we stood in the Mansfield Room in the United States Senate, the other body, paying tribute to this important day as well as being with Dr. Myers and others who believe that this is a historic time.

What is Juneteenth? Juneteenth is a statement of freedom. Juneteenth is the unshackling of a body of people. Juneteenth is the freeing of slaves in the State of Texas. Juneteenth is the renewing of one's character, integrity, spirit, and ability to achieve one's greatest opportunities. It was Juneteenth or June 19, 1865, some 2 long hard years after the Emancipation Proclamation, that the people of Texas, the slaves of Texas, I might say, were able to realize their freedom. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19 that the Union soldiers led by the courageous Major General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas, with the news that the Civil War ended and that the slaves were now freed, the end slaves were freed. The Emancipation Proclamation became official, however, on January 1, 1863. Nevertheless, aside from that sad fact the people were already in a state of bondage, they did not get the word because there were not enough Union soldiers there to enforce.

So, Mr. Speaker, we heard these words when Major Granger landed on that Galveston shore and freed or removed the bondage from those who were seeking to empower themselves, and he said, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer." What important words for today, Mr. Speaker.