

Disease Control and Prevention, and other Federal scientific organizations with official responsibility for public health protection or research relating directly to human nutrition. The manufacturer would be required to notify the FDA of the proposed claim 120 days before its introduction to the market and would have to provide the FDA with an explanation of the basis for the claim.

The need for this legislation is perhaps best demonstrated by history of the health claim for the nutrient folic acid. In 1992, the Public Health Service reported that about half the 2,500 neural tube birth defects such as those that result in spina bifida that occur in the United States each year are preventable with sufficient folic acid consumption among women of childbearing age. One of the most effective means of getting this information out to women would have been on food labels. But the FDA did not approve this claim for food labels until 1996, a 4-year lag.

By giving a presumption of approvability to health claims for foods based on official, authoritative statements by Federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this legislation will better ensure the public's timely access to this important information. And by retaining the FDA's right to review such claims for 120 days before they are made, the legislation protects against false or misleading claims going to market.

I encourage my colleagues to join Representatives TOWNS, FROST, RUSH and me in cosponsoring this bill. Your support will highlight the importance of this reform and ensure that it is a key element of any broader FDA reform effort that may be undertaken in this Congress.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF TEXAS
SENATOR FRANK MADLA

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, in my hometown of San Antonio, TX, tomorrow, a close friend and colleague in the Texas Legislature will be honored for 25 years of extraordinary public service to our community and State. Texas State Senator Frank Madla started life on a family ranch in the small town of Helotes, TX. His career stands as a testament to his values: helping others, dedication to family, and hard work. I am proud to know him, his wife, Helen Cruz Madla, and his children Frank III and Marci Morgan.

First elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1972, Frank Madla has distinguished himself as an advocate for improving our education system, protecting the public health, preserving our environmental resources, helping others with the ravages of alcoholism and drug abuse, and relieving the challenges of mental retardation. After 20 years of service in the Texas House, he moved to the Texas Senate in 1993. His accomplishments include authoring legislation to increase health care access in rural areas and for indigent women and children, facilitate the delivery of services to persons with disabilities, create a gifted and talented program for Texas schools, find solutions to avert a water crisis

in central Texas, and strengthen the child abuse reporting system. These are but examples of his many endeavors to increase public safety, streamline the delivery of essential services, and bring health care to those without it.

Unlike the Federal legislature, service in the Texas Legislature requires outside employment. Senator Madla prepared himself well by securing a strong education. He graduated from my alma mater of St. Mary's University in San Antonio with a bachelor and masters of arts degrees in government. From Our Lady of the Lake University, another of my alma mater's, he received certification in public school administration. Senator Madla is a teacher. His first job out of college was teaching history and civics at Escobar Junior High School. Senator Madla, since the beginning of his legislative career, has shared his academic and practical knowledge as an instructor in government and political science at Incarnate Word College and St. Mary's University. Beyond the classroom, he has been a teacher to his friends and colleagues, instructing us in the positive values he embodies.

I am not the only one who thinks highly of Senators Madla. His list of honors is too long for me to recount here. But the variety of groups that has recognized his accomplishments speaks volumes. Organizations representing education, the medical community, law enforcement, and public employees have honored Senator Madla with Legislator of the Year and other outstanding accolades. As someone who served with him, I can state with confidence that these awards are well deserved and hard earned. Senator Madla has dedicated his life to public service, to helping those who cannot always help themselves, to create opportunities for diverse communities. A quarter century of service is in itself a worthy accomplishment, but when done with such dedication and commitment, it is an outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, on July 16, 1997, I was unavoidably detained and was not, therefore, able to vote on rollcall votes 279 and 280. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yea" on both votes.

During that time, I was hosting an interactive cable TV show with Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, and the vice president for government relations for the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Max Richtman. Secretary Shalala and Mr. Richtman joined me to discuss and take phone calls from my constituents on the current congressional and Presidential proposals aimed at repairing the ailing Medicare System.

Many of the programs contained in H.R. 2158, the Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill are of great interest to me. A great amount of the HUD housing in my district is section 202 and section 811 housing for elderly and the disabled. I am pleased therefore, that the bill passed by the House provides \$839 million for these programs.

I am also pleased that the legislation included \$30 million for the YouthBuild program. YouthBuild is a HUD-funded program that provides academic and skills training to at-risk young men and women. Several weeks ago, I visited the YouthBuild program in Providence, RI. On that visit, I met 18 of the 20 YouthBuild trainees on their first day in the program. I was pleased to learn yesterday that only one of the students I met with has since left the program. The rest are now spending half their time in the classroom, now preparing for their GED's, and the rest of their time learning important job skills as they rehabilitate a previously abandoned three-story home. At the end of their work, the students will have learned valuable skills and provided housing for a worthy family.

The legislation also provides \$7.23 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency and its important programs such as the Brownfields Program are also of great concern to my district.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the bill provides money for a wide range of programs that support science and space exploration. The National Science Foundation, which funds a wide variety of research projects at Rhode Island's universities, received more money than last fiscal year and more than requested in the President's budget. In addition, several NASA programs survived budget cutting. We have been reminded over the last few weeks of just how valuable NASA's work is to our Nation and the world. The drama associated with the difficult conditions faced by two Russians and an American on Mir has attracted worldwide concern. Farther away, the triumphs of a balloon-encased spacecraft and its breadbox-sized companion on the surface of Mars has piqued the interest of people worldwide about huge Martian floods and the prospect that our world may not be as unique as we once thought. Remarkably, at the same time, the space shuttle lifted off from Kennedy Flight Center, conducted important yet risky experiments and returned to Earth with hardly a notice.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill H.R. 2107, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank Representative SIDNEY YATES and Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER for their efforts to save the National Endowment for the Arts [NEA] and the National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH], and for raising the awareness of the importance of both agencies to education.

The cost to fund both the NEA and the NEH is less than \$1 per taxpayer per year, and the return from both agencies is immeasurable. Small grants of a few thousand dollars

matched with private donations go a long way toward promoting arts education in school districts, and preserving our Nation's heritage in local communities. Through partnerships with State and local organizations, the NEA is able to integrate art into multiple educational and after school programs throughout the State of Texas. This means we are implementing new and innovative methods to help students develop problem solving and reasoning skills, hone communication ability, expand creativity, and instill self-esteem and discipline. All of these tools are important if we want our children to be successful in the 21st century.

For the past 4 years, the Dallas-based Partnership for the Arts, Culture, and Education, Inc., [PACE] conducted a study to determine the impact that arts education has on students' overall academic performance. Throughout the study they found teachers who used innovative ways to stimulate the minds of their students. One class learned the principles of physics during a trip to the symphony hall, while another class learned about the relationship of muscles to the skeleton from studying dance. The PACE study also found that the greater the exposure to the arts, the greater the student performance on standardized test scores.

In my district, the Texas Council of Humanities [TCH] in partnership with the NEH has taken an active role in advancement of humanities education through history, literature, religion, languages, and other fields related to culture and society in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education. One grant recipient of TCH is Wiley College and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, who received a \$2,000 award for a symposium examining the roles of black women. In addition, TCH awarded a grant to Paris Junior College for the collection of data and a lecture series on the history and culture of the surrounding African-American community. Without the NEH, there would be no TCH or study of the history of an African-American community in a town called Paris, TX.

The NEA has continuously supported State and local organizations that bring arts to rural America. In my district, the NEA has given much needed support to organizations like the Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council and the Marshall Regional Arts Council. These councils have funded various arts in education programs and touring companies throughout my district. The Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council has presented talented groups, like the Amabile Piano Quartet and the Deeply Rooted Chicago Dance Theatre. In addition, the NEA has supported the Northeast Texas Communities in Schools, an organization that helps bring major performances to local schools.

The NEA also supports the Believe in Me after-school program in Austin, TX. This program uses dance to give youth, many of whom are involved in drug and gang activity, the tools they need to be successful in the community.

I cannot say that every child will turn out to be the next Einstein or Michelangelo or Maya Angelou, but we can give these children a solid foundation on which they can build their dreams. As the artistic director for the 52d Street project stated, "There is no way to fast forward and know how the kids will look back on this, but I have seen joy in their eyes and have heard it in their voices and I have watched them take a bow and come up taller."

I believe we must recognize the impact that the NEA and the NEH have on our heritage, culture, and economy, and the benefits to education. As a father of four children, I believe we have a responsibility to give our children every opportunity possible for success. And if the care and education and development of our children is not a priority role of Government, then what is?

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
LANDSAT

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise to say a few words to commemorate a significant milestone in our Nation's civil space program. July 23 marks the 25th anniversary of the launch of the first of the Landsat Earth observation satellites—satellites that have vastly increased our understanding of our home planet and provided innumerable practical benefits to our citizens.

I agree with the words of the then-Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Dr. James Fletcher, who stated in 1976 that if he had "one space age development to save the world, it would be Landsat and its successor satellites." With a 25-year continuous record of unique and scientifically important accomplishments, Landsat has indeed saved the world—capturing in images an invaluable photographic record of the changes that have occurred on our planet.

It would be difficult to overstate the importance of what has been achieved with the Landsat program. The data from the Landsat spacecraft constitute the longest record of the Earth's landmass as seen from space. It is a record unmatched in detail, coverage, and quality. That data record has proven invaluable to the hundreds of users who observe and study the Earth, who manage and utilize its natural resources, and who monitor the changes brought on by natural processes and human activities. It has become an integral part of the U.S. Global Change Research Program and NASA's Mission to Planet Earth—critical initiatives that promise to deliver even more dramatic increases in our knowledge of the Earth in the coming decades.

The uses to which Landsat data have been put are myriad. For example, the data have been used to monitor timber losses in the Pacific Northwest, estimate soil moisture and snow cover, and forest growth. Landsat has been used to monitor strip mine reclamation, land use in urban areas, and water quality in the Nation's lakes. It has been reported that Landsat images have even been used by law firms gathering legal evidence and by fast food restaurants seeking to estimate whether population growth has been great enough in a geographical area to warrant awarding a new franchise.

Landsat was originally developed and launched by NASA in 1972 as an Earth Resources Technology Satellite [ERTS]. Landsat-1 was followed by a series of more advanced and capable spacecraft—a series that will continue with the scheduled launch of Landsat-7 in 1998. Landsat-7 will gather remotely sensed images of the Earth's land sur-

face and its coastal regions for global change research, regional environmental change studies, national security uses, and many other civil and commercial applications.

In addition, NASA is preparing to launch a next-generation counterpart to Landsat: the Earth Orbiter-1 [EO-1]. The EO-1 mission will demonstrate advanced new detector technology that could dramatically lower the cost of acquiring Landsat-type data in the future.

What has the Landsat program achieved since that first launch 25 years ago? It has established the United States as the world leader in land remote sensing. It has contributed significantly to our understanding of the Earth. It has helped create an entire value-added industry based on the creative uses of Landsat data. It has delivered on the promise of using space technology to meet societal needs. In short, it has made our world a better place.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BROOME,
NY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the virtues that make America the greatest and freest nation this planet has ever seen can be found in their truest forms not in the giant megacities on either coast but in the small towns and villages in between. I'd like to mention one of them today, a very special one, in fact.

This year the town of Broome in Schoharie County in upstate New York is celebrating its 200th anniversary, making it nearly as old as our Nation itself.

The town of Broome was first known as Bristol when it was formed in 1797, but was changed to Broome in 1808 in honor of then Lt. Gov. John Broome.

The original town was much larger, with parts of the original town broken off to form or combine with the towns of Conesville, Gilboa, or Middleburgh. In fact, the first town meeting in 1836 was held in the house of Peter Richtmyer in the present day town of Conesville.

By 1860, Broome was a thriving community of hillside farms, businesses, and 2,182 people. Among the businesses was a quarry which supplied stones for the capital building in Albany. The changing economy and demographics of the 20th century reduced the population to 761, according to the 1980 census. But the 1990 census showed that the decline in population had been reversed, and the population increased to 926. Today, there are only seven working dairy farms left, and many of the town's 29,000 acres are occupied by summer homes and hunting camps.

What makes the town of Broome attractive for such purposes is what makes small town life so pleasant and popular in today's America.

Mr. Speaker, I was extremely pleased when that part of Schoharie County containing the town of Broome was added to our district in 1992. The same small-town virtues I mentioned, the pride, patriotism, and spirit of voluntarism, are found here in abundance.

A ceremony marking the town of Broome's 200 years of existence will be held at Firemen's Hall in the hamlet of Livingstonville on