

chosen as the Indiana Music Educators Association's Outstanding Administrator. He received the New Millennium Education Award from the Indiana Christian Leadership Conference and Martin University. And most recently, he was honored for distinguished support of music education with the first annual VH1 Save the Music Foundation Administrator Award.

And now he has had enough: Pat is retiring and passing the challenge along to someone else. We'll miss him—he'll sure be a hard act to follow.

Pat is an extraordinary public servant. He is highly commended in his good work and I wish him and his family all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN GANO

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Kevin Gano, who recently retired after more than 30 years of distinguished public service. His innovative approach to law enforcement has had a tremendous positive impact on the safety and gang presence in my hometown of Norwalk, California, for more than a decade and a half.

Kevin Gano entered the justice arena in 1973. Over the course of that decade in the California cities of West Covina and La Verne, he held a variety of positions as a uniformed officer ranging from patrol officer to major crimes investigator to field sergeant and watch commander. In 1987, he served as senior administrative assistant to the City Manager in Upland, California.

In 1989, Kevin was named Norwalk's first director of the Department of Public Safety. He immediately began working to combat a gang warfare problem that had gotten so bad that area schools had taken to conducting drive-by shooting drills during which students would practice taking cover under their desks. He introduced the "Silver Bullet," an RV that was deployed to at-risk communities to establish a visible police presence in the areas of suspected gang or drug activity. He worked to hold parents of gang members responsible for the children's actions. He targeted taggers—gang members who sprayed graffiti around the community. He led the way as the first leaders in the area to push for a gang injunction that imposed curfews for gang members, prohibited them from communing together in public and carrying items that could be used as weapons. The measure imposed fines and jail time for offenders. He did all this knowing that he could eventually become a target of the gang members, and he was. In July 1994, one gang painted "Gano 187" on an alley wall, a reference to state's penal code for homicide.

His methods were so extraordinarily successful that in 1995, the FBI named Norwalk one of the 25 safest communities in the country, an honor it would receive for the next three years. Kevin was not complacent, even after crime, graffiti and truancy statistics fell dramatically in the city. He remained committed to combating the root of the problem. In 1995, he helped establish the Public Safety Cadet Youth Program that is still in place

today. The program is aimed at giving youngsters leadership and problem-solving skills and a sense of responsibility while increasing their self-esteem through positive social interaction.

Kevin's public role was not limited to his work for the city. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors not only appointed him a commissioner and vice chair for the California Department of Children and Families but took portions of his program and implemented it in other areas around the State. California's governor appointed him to serve on the Metropolitan State Hospital Advisory Committee. And the State Department of Juvenile Justice tapped Kevin as an advisor on youth crime prevention and intervention strategies. His expertise in this area was so well recognized that he was called upon to write two bills that have since become State law. I am proud to say that I authored one of those bills, which have subpoena power to school truancy boards.

But it is Kevin's personal and behind-the-scenes approach that makes him more than a public servant. On an annual basis, he has unofficially adopted numerous Norwalk children and their families by providing them with basic essentials and resources they need to make it through their daily lives. He has always been willing to lend a hand and spend hours off the clock counseling or advising youngsters and parents alike.

Kevin stepped down from his position on April 15, 2005. The impact of his work will continue to endure in the city. You can see it just by walking around, an activity that was risky in sections of the city when he came to Norwalk 16 years ago. His legacy also manifests itself in the lives of children who are not only staying alive and away from gangs but making a positive impact on society. Not surprisingly, two of the children who have emulated his commitment to public service are his own: his son Kevin is a police officer in the City of Buena Park and his daughter Jeannette is a Recreation Supervisor with the City of Claremont. After 30 years dedicated to making his community safer, I know Kevin will enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with them and his wife of 34 years, Darlene. As a friend and a resident of Norwalk for more than 40 years, I thank him on behalf of my 38th Congressional District for all he has done to improve the lives of our community.

INTRODUCING THE CONSUMERS ACCESS TO HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enhance the health and liberty of American citizens by introducing the Consumers Access to Health Information Act of 2005. This act ensures consumers can receive truthful information about how foods and dietary supplements can cure, mitigate, and prevent specific diseases. The act does this simply by correcting an erroneous court decision and thus restoring congressional intent to allow consumers to have access to information regarding the health benefits of dietary supplements without government interference.

In 1990, responding to the demands of the American people that the federal government respect consumers' right to receive information about the ways foods and dietary supplements can improve their health, Congress passed the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act. The intent of that act was to allow the manufacturers of foods and dietary supplements to provide consumers with accurate and specific information regarding the curative and preventive effects of foods and dietary supplements. However, the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, ignored repeated efforts by Congress to protect consumers' First Amendment rights to receive truthful information about the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

Incredibly, in the case of *Whitaker v. Thompson*, 353 F.3d 947 (2004), rehearing den. 2004 U.S.D. App. LEXIS 4617 (D.C. Cir. March 9, 2004) the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit supported the FDA's interpretation of Congress's intent and rejected the clear restraints of the First Amendment by ruling that the FDA had the authority to censor information regarding the specific benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

Mr. Speaker, under the D.C. Circuit's absurd interpretation of federal law, the only way food and drug manufacturers can transmit information about the health benefits of their products is by going through the lengthy and expensive FDA drug approval process. Because of this court decision, manufacturers are reluctant to provide all but the most general health information, thus ensuring that consumers remain ignorant about how they can cure or avoid diseases by making simple changes in their diet.

There are numerous examples of how the FDA's grocery store censorship negatively impacts Americans' health. Several years ago, the FDA dragged manufacturers of Cholestin, a dietary supplement containing lovastatin, which is helpful in lowering cholesterol, into court. The FDA did not dispute the benefits of Cholestin. Instead, the FDA attempted to deny consumers access to this helpful product simply because the manufacturer did not submit Cholestin to the FDA's drug approval process.

The FDA's treatment of the manufacturer of Cholestin is not an isolated example of how current FDA policy harms consumers. Even though coronary heart disease is the nation's number-one killer, the FDA waited nine years until it allowed consumers to learn about how consumption of foods and dietary supplements containing soluble fiber from the husk of psyllium seeds can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease. Thanks to the FDA, the American public is also prevented from learning about possible ways to prevent cancer, Alzheimer's, high blood pressure, urinary tract infection, and numerous other diseases.

At a time when health care costs are rising it is absurd for the federal government to prevent Americans from learning about how they increase their chances of staying healthy by making simple changes in their diets. However, this bill is about more than physical health; it is about freedom. The First Amendment forbids Congress from abridging freedom of all speech, including commercial speech. The type of prior restraint the FDA exercises over these health claims has also been thought to be particularly repugnant to the First Amendment. In a free society, the federal government must not be allowed to prevent people from receiving information enabling them to make informed decisions about