

Mr. Speaker, the Congress is working hard on school safety. Claudia Schroth is working hard in my home of Albuquerque in this very issue also. Please join me in honoring the commitment to a safer world displayed by Claudia Schroth.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROUND TOP,
TEXAS, INDEPENDENCE DAY PA-
RADE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the citizens of Round Top, Texas. The bark of the old cannon on the town square in Round Top, Texas, on July 4, 2000, will announce the city's famous Independence Day Parade. Each year, the small town of Round Top, deep in the heart of Fayette County in Texas' Congressional District 14, swells to accommodate a crowd of 8,000 Fourth of July visitors that come to celebrate our nation's freedom.

In 1851, on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of United States, Round Top celebrated its first Fourth of July. The celebration of this most important date in United States history continues to be the longest held observance of Independence Day west of the Mississippi.

According to historical accounts, early stagecoach lines operating along the Old Bahia Road between Houston and Austin traveled near the center of today's town. When the drivers crossed Rocky Creek along the route and spotted the octagonal-shaped roof of the stage stand, they called out "Round Top!"

Things are slow to change in Round Top. Its citizens appreciate their traditions and have adopted ordinances that are designed to project, enrich and promote the old historic landmarks for the enjoyment and edification of future generations.

On the occasion of over 150 years of celebrations, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Round Top, Texas, who, on Independence Day, proudly proclaim, "God Bless America!"

CELEBRATING MEN'S HEALTH
WEEK

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, over the past 20 years Congress has devoted a great deal of time and money toward addressing the important issues facing women's health. We created an Office of Women's Health at the NIH and we have taken great strides to increase the number of women included in health studies. We have undoubtedly saved hundreds of thousands of women's lives, improved the quality of many millions more, and we have every reason to be proud.

However, we must now begin to focus on the crisis in men's health too. The simple fact is that every year hundreds of men suffer and

die needless—and entirely preventable—deaths.

In 1994, Congress established National Men's Health Week, the week leading up to and including Father's Day. Unfortunately, men's health is not getting any better.

I believe it is time for us to establish an Office of Men's Health. For that reason, I am introducing legislation today that will establish an Office of Men's Health at the Department of Health and Human Services to monitor, coordinate and improve men's health in America.

America needs a concerted effort to combat the problems facing men's health. This year, almost 200,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and almost 32,000 of these men will die. Of course, we cannot save all these men. Nevertheless, we could save a lot of them. While mammograms and Pap smears have dramatically reduced the death rate from breast and cervical cancers, the death rate from prostate cancer could be reduced by widespread use of a simple test called the PSA, which most of us have never heard of.

I am one of the thousands of men who have been saved by a simple PSA test. Just a little over a year ago, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. During my annual examination, my doctor noticed a slight elevation in the readings of a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test. However, it was only after a prostate biopsy that it was determined that I had cancer. Following the diagnosis, with my family, we decided that I should go ahead and have surgery. I am fortunate that my cancer was detected early, that I had a doctor who was familiar with PSA test results, and that I had healthcare coverage for my treatments. In my case, and in the cases of thousands of men, early detection and treatment have meant the difference between life and death.

However, prostate cancer is only a small component of the men's health crisis: men have a higher death rate than women do for every single one of the ten leading causes of death in this country. We're twice as likely to die of heart disease—the number one killer—40% more likely to die of cancer, and 20% more likely to die of a stroke. At the turn of the last century, men and women had equal life expectancies. At the turn of this one, women outlive men by 7 years.

Admittedly, the largest part of the problem is that men do not take particularly good care of themselves. Only about half as many men as women have a regular physician, for example, and overall, men make about a 30% fewer doctor visits every year than women—and that's even factoring out women's prenatal visits.

So if we got men to start going to the doctor will men start living longer? Well, it could not hurt. However, in a study published earlier this year by the Commonwealth Fund, nearly 70% of men over 40 who visited the doctor were not even asked whether they had a family history of prostate cancer. Men making less than \$50,000 a year were even less likely to be asked. And 40% of men over 50—who should be getting a prostate exam every single year—were not even screened by their doctors. And going to the doctor won't do anything about the fact that four times as many men commit suicide as women, that the victims of violent crime are 75% male, that 98% of the people who work in the most dangerous jobs in this country are men, and that 94% of people who die in the workplace are men.

What can we do about this? First, we can make men's health a public priority. Just as we support public service announcements aimed at getting women to get regular mammograms and do routine self exams, we must support the same kind of campaign to get men to get regular health checkups and do routine self exams. Testicular cancer, which is the most common cancer in men under 35, is curable if caught early enough. In addition, one of the best ways to do that is to teach boys and young men to check themselves at least once a month.

As precious as life is, men—just like women—should have the benefit of as much of it as they possibly can. And because they live so much longer, women are in the unenviable position of seeing their husbands, fathers, and even their sons suffer and die prematurely.

So this year, as we approach Father's Day, let's spend some time figuring out what we can do to help men be better healthcare consumers and what we can do to give men the support and encouragement and resources they need to be the kind of fathers their kids need them to be and that they truly want to be.

Congress is taking the lead in this endeavor. Over 50 members of Congress have joined with me to cosponsor the annual Men's Health Screenings being conducted this week by the Men's Health Network. Informational brochures are provided by Pfizer Inc, American Cancer Society, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Screenings are available in the Rayburn First Aid station Tuesday and Wednesday and on Thursday in the Hart First Aid station. I encourage my colleagues to take this opportunity to be screened for prostate and colorectal cancer, diabetes, cholesterol, and other significant health indicators.

I also hope that all my colleagues will help me by supporting my legislation to establish an Office of Men's Health.

HONORING DEBI BARRETT-HAYES,
EDUCATOR FROM FLORIDA

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the dedicated work of my constituents and one of Florida's finest educators. Debi Barrett-Hayes, has spent the past twenty years of her life working to enrich the minds of our youth by teaching Art to students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Today, June 14, 2000, Debi Barrett-Hayes will be inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. It is her invaluable commitment and dedication that we honor today.

Ms. Barrett-Hayes is currently the Chair of the Visual Arts Department K-12 and a teacher of Visual Arts grades 9-12 with Florida State University School in Tallahassee, Florida. She has spent her entire career committed to the arts. Debi began as a graphic designer and freelance artist, then moved into the education field where she has stayed for the past twenty years. She has been teaching art to students of all levels, including the Primary, Secondary and University levels. Throughout her career, Ms. Barrett-Hayes has