

June 14, 2000

TRIBUTE TO THE ROUND TOP, TEXAS, INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

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Statement of HON. RON PAUL OF TEXAS

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- 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!'