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National Radiologic Technology Week Recognition Statement “An Image of Health”

by

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The week of November 3, 2003, has been designated by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists as National Radiologic Technology Week. More than 300 million medical imaging procedures are performed in the United States each year. Some are as familiar as dental and chest x-rays and some are as complex as magnetic resonance imaging. The 191 Medical Imaging Technologists in the Indian Health service, together with nearly an equal number in tribal health programs, perform more than a 100,000 imaging exams a year. Their dedication and commitment to excellence have helped to increase the quality of life for American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout Indian Country.

Radiologic Technologists work side-by-side with radiologists, who are physicians trained to interpret the images. The results of a medical imaging exam are among the first tool doctors use to diagnose illness or injury so that treatment can begin. The one thing that all medical imaging procedures have in common is that they must be exact and precise to increase the accuracy of a diagnosis and the success of a treatment program. Radiologic technologists use knowledge of physics, radiation protection, human anatomy, and a mastery of highly technical equipment to create medical images.

National Radiologic Technologists Week was first celebrated in 1979 and is now celebrated in November in the week that coincides with the discovery of the x-ray on November 8, 1895, by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen.

Our thanks go out to all the Radiologic Technologists throughout the nation for the help they provide patients on the road to recovery through their technical expertise, dedication, and professional knowledge. And our thanks particularly go to those who work daily to improve the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives.