

predominantly Hispanic veterans organization. It is only fitting that we commemorate this occasion by granting a federal charter. This bipartisan bill provides a means for this Congress to recognize the sacrifices of the one million Hispanic veterans. I urge my colleagues to join this bipartisan effort to provide a federal charter to the American GI Forum.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM "HENRY"
ALSTON

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention William "Henry" Alston of Passaic, New Jersey who has recently passed away. Henry was born in Warrenton, North Carolina on July 23, 1923. He was the son of the late Wiley P. Alston, Sr. and Maggie Stamper Alston.

A lifelong resident of Passaic, Henry attended Passaic public schools and graduated from Passaic High School. He served in World War II and was very active in the community. He was the former President of both the former President of both the Passaic Democratic Club and the Passaic Alcohol Beverage Board. Henry worked and retired from the Manhattan Rubber Company of Passaic.

On October 7, 1951 Henry married the late Lulu Cornell Alston. From this union, two children were born: Elaine Everett of West Orange and Wayne Alston of Passaic.

Henry is survived by a brother, Irving Alston of Dover, New Hampshire and three sisters, Emma Moody of Passaic, Verne Cole of Port Charlotte, Florida, and Mary Coleman of Montclair as well as son-in-law Richard Everett, daughter-in-law Dawn Alston, brothers-in-law Robert Cole and Andy Coleman, and grandchildren Brian and Kelly Everett, Branden and Avery Alston, and Derek Hardy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, the family, friends and colleagues of Henry, and the City of Passaic in paying tribute to the memory of William "Henry" Alston.

THE WESTCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES DEDICATION EVENT

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Westchester Jewish Community Services' (WJCS) Dedication Celebration. This May 17th, 1998, on the 55th year anniversary of the WJCS, the organization's members will celebrate the opening of their brand new headquarters in North White Plains, New York with a WJCS Dedication Celebration at the new headquarters. I am thrilled to offer my congratulations for these milestone events.

WJCS began in 1943 in a three-story walk-up in White Plains, New York. Undergoing an enormous expansion since its inception in 1943, the WJCS is currently operating 29 program sites throughout Westchester. This

spring, as the center celebrates its 55th anniversary, it will open its doors to their own three-story headquarters at 845 North Broadway, North White Plains, New York.

The Westchester Jewish Community Services is a unique and invaluable resource to our community, offering a comprehensive, coordinated, continuum of quality care for the entire family. Over the past half a century it has educated, counseled, guided and supported countless numbers of Westchester citizens.

I am proud to welcome the Westchester Jewish, Community Services' new headquarters to North White Plains, and I look forward to working with the members WJCS as they continue to offer vital services for the people of Westchester.

HONORING THE PASADENA
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Pasadena Strawberry Festival as it celebrates its 25th anniversary, kicking off this year's festival with an opening ceremony at the Pasadena Fairgrounds on May 15, 1998. The multi-cultural event draws a crowd of more than 30,000 to enjoy the strawberries, entertainment, food, activities and fun.

The Strawberry Festival began in 1974 when Helen Alexander, better known as Miss Helen, "planted a seed" to promote the grand opening of the new Pasadena Historical Museum. The Museum project was close to her heart and she wanted the opening to be a memorable success. She sought a way to capture the imagination and attention of all the people of Pasadena and thus was born Miss Helen's Magic Festival Seed.

The seed Miss Helen planted grew into today's Pasadena Strawberry Festival, named to honor Pasadena's heritage as the Strawberry Capitol of the World. Rosalie Kuntz was the first chairman and Sterling Loomis, vice-chairman. Miss Helen asked the San Jacinto Day Foundation for help, but otherwise recruited volunteers and donations whenever possible: A.C. Czigan at Houston Lighting and Power provided free electrical hook up; Don Nichols of the Pasadena Citizen arranged for a special section featuring the event and the museum; Oaks TV and C.A. Spears donated the sound system; Bob Jones' Vending Company donated beverages; and Jimmy Harris from the Parks Department pitched in to help. Principal Lonnie Keller agreed to allow the use of the football practice field at Pasadena High School as the festival site.

It was a modest, but highly successful beginning with approximately 30 booths, each decorated with pride and enthusiasm. In the long tradition of festivals, there was a Beauty Pageant. In an interesting twist, however, only redheads and strawberry blondes could enter. It was a hit from the beginning.

When the museum opened on Festival day, the American Legion donated a flag and presided over flag ceremonies and the mayor cut the ribbon. From the large turnout, it was obvious that the Festival could be a very successful annual event for the community. Miss

Helen and her associate Beverly Jackson realized the economic benefits and historical significance this event could have for the entire area so they registered the San Jacinto Day Foundation as a nonprofit historical organization. The Foundation fosters the observance of San Jacinto Day and the Strawberry Festival and continues to grow and help the city of Pasadena.

Today the Pasadena Strawberry Festival is a two-and-a-half day multi-cultural event produced by hundreds of volunteers on the Pasadena Fairgrounds. Continuous live entertainment, arts and crafts, children's games, carnival rides, a fabulous variety of foods, special acts and demonstrations, and of course, "Texas' Largest Strawberry Shortcake," are just a few of the Festival's features. Income from the festival funds scholarships, books for college libraries, and community projects that preserve and promote the study of Texas history.

The Pasadena Strawberry Festival is big and exciting, but still maintains the warm, country charm of the original Festival. Most of all, the Festival remains true to its roots, reflecting the history and rich heritage of Pasadena.

INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST IS A
THREAT TO PEACE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was very distressed to hear of the recent Indian nuclear test. This test moves the subcontinent closer than it has ever been to a devastating nuclear war and threatens the peace of South Asia and the world.

Recently, the Rand Corporation, a widely-respected think tank, predicted a war between India and Pakistan. The Rand study predicted that this war could go nuclear. Unfortunately, this explosion in the Rajasthan desert brings that prediction dangerously close to materializing.

No one can be sanguine in the face of such a grave threat, especially since India refuses to join the other nuclear states of the world in accepting the restraints of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Pakistan has said that it will sign the treaty when India does; it is the Indian government that refuses to let South Asia escape from the threat of nuclear war.

It appears that even many supporters of India are worried about this dangerous test. The Center for Strategic and International Studies, a pro-India think tank, reportedly said that this test would backfire on India. I am encouraged that a prominent organization that supports India has spoken out about the danger this test poses.

America provides significant support for this nuclear campaign. India is one of the five largest recipients of aid from the hardworking taxpayers of the United States. We should end this aid immediately and impose tough sanctions on India to put the brakes on its aggressive nuclear effort. This will put pressure on