

and three out of every four RSD patients are women; and

Whereas, Alfie C. Burns founded the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association of California in 1992. The mission of the not for profit organization is to promote education and awareness of this debilitating disorder. The RSDSA-CA is the longest standing organization of its kind in the state and it serves as an RSD information resource; and

Whereas, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) involves numerous medical procedures and a variety of medications if the disease becomes chronic and there is no single standard treatment for the condition. Additionally, medical costs for treatment of the disease can be prohibitive. One of my goals is to double funding for medical research so that new treatments may be found and costs may be curtailed for all Americans with health problems; Now therefore, be it

Resolved, that in recognition of the numerous accomplishments of the RSDSA-CA, the month of October 1999, is hereby proclaimed "Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Awareness Month" in the cities and communities of California's 51st Congressional District.

PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND FAMILIES INTO THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 1999*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 202 and urge its adoption. The House Committee on Banking and Financial Services has incorporated three other worthy bills into H.R. 202. Together, this bipartisan legislation assures affordable housing and needed services for low-and-moderate income senior citizens. This bill will provide a continuum of care to our seniors by making certain that our seniors can afford to live independently in their own homes, and continue to preserve their dignity and self-sufficiency by obtaining services in an assisted living facility as an alternate to nursing home care.

Like other areas around our country, Suffolk County, NY is plagued with high property taxes and very expensive real estate prices. Even middle class senior citizens run out of money and the ability to afford to live on their own, in an assisted living facility, or in a nursing home. In some of our towns, such as Riverhead, Long Island, 25% of our citizens are senior citizens. Some senior citizens are only able to live in their apartments because of the assistance provided through Section 8 vouchers. Others need the supportive services provided by an assisted living facility, but these services are not always available. Although assisting living facilities are being constructed every day, more are needed.

Today, I would like to focus on some particularly important aspects of this bill that will help to address this problem in eastern Long Island and everywhere else in our country.

As contracts with the federal government expire in increasing numbers, landlords can "opt-out" of the Section 8 voucher program that makes housing more affordable for low-income residents, particularly elderly and disabled individuals. Through its "mark-up-to-

market" initiative, HUD recently began to offer increased rents for below market projects whose market rents are between 110% and 150% of Fair Market Rent. This encourages owners not to "opt-out" of the Section 8 program. H.R. 202 expands HUD's "mark-up-to-market" initiative, facilitating even more owners to remain in the program. Even where owners do "opt-out," however, HUD will be able to provide "enhanced vouchers" so that seniors who have been living independently in their homes for years can remain there. The expansion of the mark-up-to-market initiative and these enhanced vouchers are critical to keeping our seniors from having to face relocation or loss of their housing.

The Section 202 program also provides capital to nonprofit organizations to finance construction and rehabilitation for rental housing with supportive services for the low-income elderly. It also provides rent subsidies for sponsors of projects to help make these assisted-living facilities affordable. The Section 811 program provides capital and subsidies for similar housing programs for disabled individuals. H.R. 202 allows refinancing or canceling of this debt for certain older facilities. If the project sponsor accepts these new financial terms, it must put at least 50% of that savings into increasing supportive services, rehabilitation, modernization, or retrofitting of structures for the elderly. Through this innovative process, this bill will help to create more assisted living facilities for our elderly and disabled individuals in all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, as the newest Member of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, I am proud of this bill and urge its passage.

TRIBUTE TO BYRON AND DOROTHY DAVIDSON GERSON ON THE DEDICATION OF THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD TRIPLE GATE MONUMENTAL STAIRS AND OBSERVATION PLAZA

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday October 1, 1999.*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the outstanding civic contributions of Dorothy Davidson Gerson and Byron Gerson. The Gersons and their wonderful family have, for decades, supported a wide range of civic and philanthropic causes. I am honored to know them and welcome the opportunity to pay tribute to them for their unusual devotion to advancing Jewish community life.

The most recent example of the Gersons' generosity will be inaugurated this weekend. On Sunday, October 3, in Jerusalem the Second Temple period Triple Gate Monumental Stairs and Observation Plaza will be dedicated. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, and other Israeli leaders and scholars will participate in this celebration. The Triple Gate restoration project, located in the Jerusalem Archeological Park and developed by the Israel Antiquities Authority, was realized thanks to the strong support of the Gersons. It will be dedicated in loving memory of Dorothy's parents, Sarah and Ralph Davidson, both highly respected for their own contributions to the Jewish community and to civic life.

The historical significance of the Gersons' altruism will be appreciated for generations to come. The Triple Gate and the Double Gate, also known as the Huldah Gates, were one of the principal entrances to the Temple Mount for pilgrims during biblical times. This area of the southern wall was badly damaged following the destruction of the Second Temple. The western Huldah Gate, or Double Gate, now lies below the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The eastern Huldah Gate, or Triple Gate, consisted of three arched entryways at the time of the Second Temple. Now parts of the threshold and the doorjamb are all that remain of the Triple Gate. A monumental staircase was earlier located in front of the Triple Gate. Much of this staircase has now been reconstructed, affording visitors the opportunity to envision the southern entrances to the Temple Mount as it was during the Second Temple period.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the generosity of Byron and Dorothy Davidson Gerson, and in congratulating them on the forthcoming dedication of the Triple Gate Monumental Stairs and Observation Plaza. This project will serve not only as a historical treasure, but also as an appropriate monument to the Gersons' passionate devotion to ensuring that the lessons and legacy of our past are preserved for centuries to come.

RECOGNIZING BASF

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 1, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize BASF for its outstanding contributions to the community.

BASF is one of the world's leading agriculture product companies. Its products range from natural gas, oil, petrochemicals and innovative intermediates to high-value-added chemicals, crop protection agents and pharmaceuticals. Among BASF'S Hallmarks are its comprehensive know-how, highly developed integrated systems, which are called Verbund and a significant proportion of specialties.

BASF has an enviable and long history of innovative crop protection technologies and agronomic systems. But perhaps nowhere is the rich legacy of BASF more evident than in the soybean industry. BASF also helps cotton growers around the world solve costly insect, disease, weed control and plant physiology problems in more than 50 crops. When it comes to weed control, BASF is the peanut producer's oldest and most reliable partner. BASF is also instrumental for its agricultural products in the crops of corn, rice, apples, citrus and fruits, and vegetables.

All of BASF's products and services help to conserve and maintain values. As a company that operates throughout the world, BASF is responsible for the effects of its products and processes on humans and the environment. BASF is constantly looking for improvements in safety, environmental protection, and health.

Founded in 1965, BASF is committed to being the best provider of knowledge and innovative solutions for crop protection, in the eyes of its customers, employees and the public.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize BASF for its service to the community, nation and world. I urge