

with them on this legislation and we would urge all members of the House of Representatives to join with yourself. Chairman Goodling, Ranking Minority Member Clay, and Representative Kildee in supporting this bill that is about to be introduced.

NAFIS is very pleased with the refinements included in the bill to insure that all local educational agencies eligible for funding under Section 8002 of the program (federal properties) are treated equitably. Although the changes that were made to this section of the program in 1994 did a better job of measuring the financial impact that federal property presents to the taxing authority of a local educational agency, it did—due to the lack of funding for this element of the Impact Aid Program—pose a real threat to primarily rural school districts. The changes included in this legislation will both insure that small rural schools are provided a foundation payment while at the same time recognizing the true fiscal impact of federal property to the tax base of the community served by the school system.

The bill also puts into law, a pilot project that has been included in both the Fiscal Year 1999 and 2000 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriation Bill. The project being placed into the Impact Aid statute will mean that "Heavily Impacted Local Educational Agencies" will now receive their additional funding under the regular Impact Aid basic support program and will not have to wait up to 18 to 24 months after the appropriation is made to receive their funding. This change will make it easier for these school districts to budget their Impact Aid funding and it also insures that the Federal Government reimburses a school district only for the cost of the impact of the federal dependent child rather than the cost for all children, both federal and non-federal, enrolled in the school district. These changes are welcomed by the heavily impacted community and NAFIS appreciates the understanding of the committee to incorporate the pilot project that has already proved to work into the Impact Aid reauthorization.

NAFIS also supports the recognition by the committee of the problems that a changing military force have placed on those school systems educating military dependent children. Committee language addressing the issue of privatization of on-base housing will insure that the funding levels provided under current law for on-base children will remain, even if on-base housing and the land upon which it is built is turned over to a private developer. This is a realistic approach to an issue that could become potentially a major threat to school systems providing educational programs to the children of our military personnel.

NAFIS would also like to commend the committee for recognizing the facility needs of school systems that are highly impacted with Indian land and military children. The committee bill recognizes that many of these school systems lack the capacity to issue capital construction bonds and in addition, many of these same school systems are currently educating children in facilities that pose a serious health threat to the students and faculty working within them. The responsible approach taken by the committee to address this very serious issue is welcomed by the impact aid community and NAFIS urges the Congress to support the committee's recognition of the federal obligation to address this serious facilities issue.

Although NAFIS would like to see an increase in the weights for on-base military and civilian dependent children, we strongly support the bill that the committee is about to introduce and again offer our gratitude to you for introducing this legislation and Chairman Goodling and his committee staff

as well as to Representatives Clay and Kildee for the work that has been put into this legislation. In summary, NAFIS urges all members of the House to support this legislation when it comes before the full House for a vote in the near future.

Sincerely,

JOHN B. FORKENBROCK,
Executive Director.

IN TRIBUTE TO HAZEL WOLF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Hazel Wolf. Having achieved her goal to have a foot in three centuries, Hazel passed away on January 19, 2000 at the young age of 101. Tomorrow I hope to join hundreds of her friends gathering in my district to celebrate her life of tenacious dedication to the environment and human rights.

Hazel was born in Victoria, British Columbia on March 10, 1898. She immigrated to the United States in 1923 as a single mother seeking work to support her young daughter. After a successful career as a legal secretary, Hazel officially became a citizen in 1976.

Through all her years Hazel championed issues of importance for women, working people, human rights, and the environment. A true citizen of the world, her efforts were recognized with awards by numerous international, national, state, and local organizations. Her work continues in the hearts of all who were privileged to share her goals and projects.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in tribute to Hazel for demonstrating to us the value of a life of simplicity adorned with the riches of gracious service to humanity and nature. We will miss her wit and wisdom, and we will cherish her memory by pursuing her lessons of love and understanding for all living creatures.

YELTSIN'S NUCLEAR THREAT SHOULD ALARM AN UNDE- FENDED AMERICA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, former Russian President Boris Yeltsin's startling and sobering reminder last November of his country's robust nuclear weapons capability was as accurate as it was menacing. Firing back at Bill Clinton's public criticism of Russian military assaults on Chechen rebel strongholds, Yeltsin roared, "[Clinton] must have forgotten for a moment what Russia has. It has a full arsenal of nuclear weapons."

Though arguably an impulsive response to embarrassing and unwanted criticism, Yeltsin could not have delivered a more concise and troubling threat to our Nation's security, nor a more valid and fortified one. Despite highly publicized accounts of Russia's deteriorating economic, political, and conventional military realities and capabilities, the country is anything but lightly armed in nuclear weaponry. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Russia still maintains over

20,000 nuclear weapons, most sitting atop highly accurate and fully functioning silo- and sub-launched ballistic missiles awaiting final target coordinates and a "fuel and fire" command.

Yeltsin's impetuous warning—however untenable to an America placated by decisive United States victories in the cold war and the gulf war, and blessed with 60 years of domestic tranquility and tremendous economic prosperity—should be taken quite seriously. In 1993, Russia adopted a national security policy placing even greater reliance upon nuclear deterrence due to its worsening economic crisis and deteriorating conventional military capabilities. Not only does this reality enhance the threat of an intentional launch, it heightens the prospects for an unintentional launch too.

Mr. Speaker, the United States remains defenseless against any such launch. American citizens trust that the first responsibility of their government is "to provide for the common defense," and must accordingly assume there must be in place an effective shield against missile attack. This, however, is not the case. Public opinion polls show most Americans still do not realize the U.S. military—the most powerful, most technologically advanced, and most lethal military force ever assembled—could not stop even a single ballistic missile from impacting American soil today.

In fact, long-range ballistic missiles are the only weapons against which the U.S. Government has decided, as a matter of policy, not to field a defense. Bill Clinton is a fierce defender of this doctrine of deliberate vulnerability and repeatedly threatened to veto any serious congressional legislation enacted to the contrary.

Clinton's doctrine is predicated upon antiquated agreements dating back to 1972 when the United States signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty with the former Soviet Union. At the time, and until relatively recently, the U.S.S.R. was the only nation known to be capable of delivering nuclear warheads to our shores. The world is different now, and the U.S.S.R. no longer exists.

Not counting Yeltsin's unexpected reminder of Russia's formidable nuclear arsenal, Mr. Speaker, Russia is generally considered on the lower end of America's threat scale. That's because it's predictable, if not rational. United States and other intelligence sources have firmly documented the aggressive—and in some cases successful—attempts by many of the world's most violent, unstable, and anti-American entities to develop and acquire weapons of mass destruction, and the means to deliver them.

In 1998, the bipartisan Commission to Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States, led by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, asserted the United States may have little or no warning before the emergence of specific new ballistic missile threats to our Nation. The Commission estimated some 20 Third World and outlaw nations, including North Korea, Iran, Iraq, and Libya already have, or are vigorously developing, such capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Communist China already has this capability. In 1998, the Central Intelligence Agency confirmed 13 of China's 18 long-range nuclear-tipped missiles were targeted at U.S. cities. In 1996, Chinese officials threatened to launch those missiles at American targets, including Los Angeles, if our Nation intervened

on behalf of Taiwan during China's threatening missile tests over that nation. One official remarked that Americans "care more about Los Angeles than they do Tai Pei." Adding fuel to the fire, U.S. defense intelligence officials just revealed plans by China to build a second short-range missile base near Taiwan, thereby allowing it to target the island's primary military and civilian areas.

The communist Chinese have also profited greatly from successful espionage missions within the United States. Intelligence officials have confirmed China is beginning work on a new strategic submarine built specifically to target U.S. nuclear forces. The subs will reportedly carry missiles armed with miniaturized warheads modeled after American designs developed at Los Alamos then stolen by spies. These smaller, advanced warheads will also allow China to place multiple warheads on new Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs). Such missiles would have the range to target not only Los Angeles, Mr. Speaker, but also more "target-rich" cities like Washington, Denver, Chicago, and New York.

It should be all the more alarming then that President Yeltsin's perceived threat of nuclear retaliation was delivered from Beijing. Yeltsin emerged just minutes before his pronouncement from a meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, who stood confidently beside Yeltsin, both physically and figuratively. Relations between the two nuclear powers have warmed significantly over the last few years, and that alone should be cause for concern to an American left undefended from missile attack.

No matter the source and nature of the threat, however, this much is clear: America must build a National Missile Defense system as soon as technologically possible. Last year, in spite of the general reluctance of Bill Clinton and his administration, the House and Senate both overwhelmingly passed legislation to do so, albeit substantially watered-down in order to appease White House objections.

But in order to ensure the timely and successful completion of this most important of tasks, America must stand united in our efforts. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, if Russia ever follows through with its nuclear threats, all we'll be able to do is fire back, and kiss our planet goodbye.

CONGRATULATING LOURDES T.
PANGELINAN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Ms. Lourdes T. Pangelinan for her selection as Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The SPC is an organization dedicated to the advancement of the Pacific Region's active membership in the global community through the protection and promotion of mutual interests. The organization strives to emphasize the unique interests of the island nations comprising the region. With these objectives on top of their agenda, the SPC would surely reap great benefits from Lou Pangelinan's abilities, knowledge and vision. Lou is the first Chamorro and the first woman to occupy the SPC's top post.

Born on the island of Guam, Lou is the daughter of Maria Camacho Taitano Pangelinan and Jose Guerrero Pangelinan. She grew up in the village of Asan and attended the Adelup Elementary School. In 1966, the family moved to Castro Valley California where Lou attended the Castro Valley High School. She was later admitted to the University of California at Davis, California, where she became a University of California Board of Regents Scholar and a California State Scholar. While working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree, Lou took part in a study abroad program in France focusing on political science and the French language. Upon graduation, she was a fluent speaker of Chamorro, English and French.

In 1977, Lou returned to Guam to work as a reporter for the Pacific Daily News. She later served as liaison to Guam's overseas residents and coordinator of federally funded programs from 1979 to 1982. She did this while working as special assistant to the Lieutenant Governor of Guam in his San Francisco, California office. In 1983, Lou worked on national research studies on the effectiveness of U.S. health programs with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Seattle, Washington.

Lou was back on Guam in 1984, serving as executive assistant to then Guam Senator Joseph Ada. While employed by the senator's legislative office, she was placed in charge of developing legislation, conducting research, disseminating public information, and handling constituent services. Upon Senator Ada's election as governor of Guam in 1994, Lou was appointed his chief of staff. In addition to being the governor's chief assistant on policy development and implementation, she also had purview over the Cabinet and the governor's staff.

Between January 1995, and February 1996, Lou was employed by the Superior Court of Guam. At this point she has served in top level management positions in all three branches of the island's government. As the Deputy Director/Director of Communications, she managed the operations of Guam's trial court. In addition, she facilitated judges' requirements and acted as liaison to the Guam Legislature on budget and policy matters. During her service with the government of Guam, she represented the island in key meetings and hearings before the United States Congress and the United Nations Committee on Decolonization.

Lou's involvement with the SPC dates back to the early years of the organization's development. Representing the island of Guam, she served as Chairperson of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations in May 1989. For the past decade, she played an active part in the organization's growth. Her command of the French language, her vision, her technical knowledge, and her leadership capabilities made her an ideal candidate for a leadership post within the SPC. Prior to landing the top job, she served as the organization's deputy director general. Upon becoming a member of SPC's executive team, Lou was given oversight over the Social Resources Division, Support Services Programme and Finance/Administration. As Director General, Lou is in the best position to facilitate and convey the island of Guam's commitment and support as the SPC charts its course for the new millennium.

Through her distinguished career and outstanding achievements, Lou has brought recognition upon herself, the island of Guam, and its people. Having been granted the honor and opportunity to be instrumental in the future growth and development of the Pacific Region, I am sure that Lou will successfully meet the challenge. She has always made us proud.

I join her family in celebrating her extraordinary accomplishments. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend my sincerest congratulations to Lou on this recent accomplishment. I wish her and the SPC continued success in the years to come,

TRIBUTE TO STEVE LEW

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise to pay tribute to our good friend, Steve Lew, who has just completed a two-year term as Chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association. Steve is a man of immense charm, business smarts and considerable political skills. He is, in short, a born leader. He will be sorely missed at VICA.

During his two-year tenure as chairman, VICA became much more active in state, local and federal affairs. Steve expanded VICA's sphere of influence; the organization now covers eight congressional districts, six State Senate districts and ten Assembly districts. He made a point of attending many meetings of the various government committees.

In 1999, Steve led VICA's year-long 50th anniversary celebration, which included a new graphics campaign, newsletter, logo and website. He also helped spur a 25 percent rise in revenues to VICA, which enabled the organization to initiate new advocacy programs.

In 1975, Steve took a job with Universal Studios, where he has held several executive positions. These include Vice President, Government and External Affairs, Universal Studios, Inc; Senior Vice President, Universal Studios Recreation Group and President and CEO, Universal Studios Florida.

In addition to his professional duties and his work with VICA, Steve is Chair of the City of Los Angeles Volunteer Advisory Council, a member of the Executive Board of the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley and Past President of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Steve Lew, whose commitment to helping business and his dedication to the community are second to none. We are honored to be his friends.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF AGING
ORGANIZATIONS: PRINCIPLES
FOR MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION
DRUG LEGISLATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, following is a letter I submit for the RECORD that was sent to