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 UNDEFENDED 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 worlds 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