

VAAPI CAUCUS

Virginia Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus

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Virginia Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus shares grief and outrage over the senseless acts of hateful violence targeting people of color and vulnerable communities across the nation

Richmond, VA — While hardly a week goes by in our nation without gun violence striking down innocent Americans, the targeted cruelty displayed over the past few days has been even more outrageous, and the damage especially painful for members of certain communities.

This weekend, ten lives were taken at a supermarket in Buffalo, NY, by a self-avowed white supremacist who drove for hours to reach his intended target – a predominantly Black neighborhood. Donned in tactical military gear, an 18-year-old used an assault weapon to gun down 13 people, most of whom were elderly Black Americans. To add to the savagery, the racist allegedly used an online platform to live-stream the mass murder to his demented followers.

Also, one parishioner was killed and several were wounded at a luncheon following a worship service inside a Taiwanese church in Orange County, CA. The shooter, who drove for miles from a neighboring state, appears to be a man from mainland China who apparently held deep prejudice against Taiwan and its people.

On the previous Wednesday, in a terrifying episode reminiscent of last year's murders of Asian American women in Atlanta, GA, three Korean American women were shot and injured while working at a hair salon in the Koreatown area of Dallas, TX. The shootings appear to be related to a recent series of incidents targeting Asian American-owned businesses in Dallas. The perpetrators have not yet been identified but the police are investigating these crimes as motivated by hate.

While none of these incidents are connected, the perpetrators share a common underlying motivation: they acted based on their hate for the race or ethnicity of their targeted victims. We must recognize that as long as racism and sexism are normalized by our political leaders and segments of the media, America is not a safe place for people of color, women, and other marginalized groups.

The Virginia Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus mourns the loss of these lives, shares our deepest condolences for the families of the victims, and wishes for a full recovery of the survivors.

We also stand in solidarity with the communities impacted by these recent acts of terror, and with all victims who have been targeted by acts of violence driven by hate.

We remain committed to combating any and all forms of race-, gender-, or white-supremacy that pervert the ideals of our democracy.

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The Virginia Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus (VAAPIC) is a legislative organization recognized by the General Assembly to serve as a collaborative voice for Virginia's Asian American and Pacific Islander communities by identifying public issues of interest and to develop formal positions, facilitate discussions, and advocate for policy outcomes.