

Ages' food distribution efforts during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to his duties at Rock of Ages, Pastor Ervin serves as a Detroit Police chaplain at the seventh precinct.

Please join me in recognizing Pastor De'Shante Ervin's service to the communities of Michigan's 12th District as we wish him well in his new role as pastor of Rock of Ages Missionary Baptist Church.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE AANAPISI OPPORTUNITY ACT

### HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the AANAPISI Opportunity Act. This legislation seeks to ensure that the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides research and career opportunities to students at all Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) by creating grant programs for the only MSI without any USDA support: Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs).

The AANAPISI Opportunity Act is modeled after several already existing competitive grant programs for MSIs in USDA. Specifically, the bill establishes grants to support Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI)-centered agricultural research and scholarships to support agricultural education and career development. Additional funding will be given to AANAPISI students through a 50 percent institutional matching requirement. For low-resourced AANAPISIs who might not be able to match, like Northern Marianas College in my district, USDA may provide a waiver to help keep them in consideration for grant awards.

In addition to enhancing the potential of American agriculture, this bill will have generational impact by investing in the AAPI agricultural pipeline. USDA's 2017 Census of Agriculture identified 25,310 Asian producers in the United States, most of whom were younger and more likely to have recently started farming than U.S. producers overall.

Although 25,310 accounts for only 0.7 percent of the country's farmers and 2 percent of total U.S. agricultural sales, this bill would bolster the number of skilled AAPIs that contribute to our nation's agricultural workforce and output. A 2019 Journal of Research in Technical Careers article found that the highest-rated student retention strategies for underrepresented students pursuing agricultural careers were "academic support [and] giving students practical work experiences in their intended major."

U.S. agricultural priorities can only be met when all producers are given opportunities to compete and succeed, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Now it is time for Congress to fully commit to investing equitably in one of the nation's most indispensable industries.

I thank my colleagues who joined me in introducing this important, bipartisan legislation—Mr. CASE, Ms. CHU, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. RADEWAGEN, and Ms. TOKUDA.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION AND CONVERSION ACT OF 2023

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Conversion Act of 2023. This bill would require that, beginning on the date that the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have begun the verifiable and irreversible elimination of such weapons under the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Treaty), the United States redirect resources that are being used for nuclear weapons programs to be used for addressing the climate crisis and human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care and restoring the environment.

In 1993, District of Columbia peace activists were successful in getting a ballot initiative in D.C. passed that called for nuclear disarmament. Every Congress since then, I have introduced a bill based on that initiative, including this bill. In March 2019, the D.C. Council passed a "Sense of the Council" resolution urging the United States to approve the Treaty. These actions show that D.C. residents were early, prescient leaders on this important issue. It seems that the rest of the world is, thankfully, starting to catch up to D.C.

As the only Nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses one of the largest nuclear weapons arsenals, my bill would help the United States reestablish its moral leadership in the world by redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons to address the climate crisis and urgent domestic needs.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF BISHOP HENRY HEARNS

### HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a giant of the Antelope Valley and historic leader who is celebrating his 90th birthday, Bishop Henry W. Hearn, Sr., of Lancaster. Bishop Hearn is a model for younger generations and exemplifies what it means to truly be a man of service. As our community congregates to celebrate the 90 wonderful years Bishop Hearn has spent with us, we also gather to commemorate and reflect on his accomplishments from his military service to his public service to his community service.

Bishop Hearn came from humble beginnings, growing up as a sharecropper in Mississippi. Going on to serve his nation with honor in the U.S. Army, and having served overseas in Korea, he came home determined to pursue new opportunities and make a bona fide difference in any way he can. He settled on engineering, first attending Tennessee State University and later earning a master's degree in environmental engineering from the

University of Southern California. He went on to lead a groundbreaking career at Edwards Air Force Base. It was during this time, when he was immersed in his passion and providing for his family that he answered a higher calling, to serve as the Senior Pastor of what would become Living Stone Cathedral of Worship.

Upon his retirement in 1989 from Edwards Air Force Base, Bishop Hearn decided to carry on his charge of service by becoming the first elected African American official in Lancaster, California. Elected multiple times by his peers, including as Mayor, Bishop Hearn sought to make our community an incredible place to live. Even as he now serves as Mayor Emeritus, he continues to volunteer his time by serving on the boards of multiple service organizations.

So as the Antelope Valley community gathers to celebrate Bishop Hearn's birthday, we also thank him for his lifetime of continued service. We salute his resolve and his patriotism, and we look forward to his future contributions to the city that he loves so much.

#### REMEMBERING COLUMBINE

### HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the horrific mass shooting that occurred at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado 24 years ago. It has been 24 years since 12 teenagers and one teacher went to school and never made it home.

It's been 24 years since Daniel Rohrbough's mom gave him a hug and kiss goodbye before he walked out of their home one last time.

It's been 24 years since Dave Sanders placed the lives of over 100 students above his own before he was murdered.

It's been 24 years since Steven Curnow's greatest concern was when he could finally see Star Wars: the Phantom Menace.

It's been 24 years since John Tomlin held the hand of his classmate to comfort her as they hid under a table in the library.

It's been 24 years since Daniel Mauser was shot and killed two weeks after he expressed concern to his dad about America's gun laws. Daniel asked his dad about the loopholes in the Brady Bill that allow individuals to obtain guns online or at gun shows. Daniel's life was taken by a gun purchased through one of those loopholes.

I ask: What has changed since Columbine?

The gun show loophole remains open to this day. Gun violence in this country is the worst it's ever been. Our children fear going to school every single day, and Republicans in Congress refuse to take the necessary steps to protect them.

Americans have had enough. I've had enough.

A quote etched into the side of the Columbine Memorial reads: "It brought the nation to its knees but now that we've gotten back up how have things changed; what have we learned?"

We can and must do more to protect our children and our communities from gun violence. We must ban assault weapons and ensure these weapons of war are inaccessible to the general public.