

Sherman	Thanedar	Vasquez
Simon	Thompson (CA)	Veasey
Smith (WA)	Thompson (MS)	Velázquez
Sorensen	Titus	Vindman
Soto	Tlaib	Walkinshaw
Stansbury	Tokuda	Wasserman
Stanton	Tonko	Schultz
Stevens	Torres (CA)	Waters
Strickland	Torres (NY)	Watson Coleman
Subramanyam	Trahan	Whitesides
Suozi	Tran	Williams (GA)
Sykes	Underwood	Wilson (FL)
Takano	Vargas	

NOT VOTING—14

Amodei (NV)	Gonzales, Tony	Mace
Aucinloss	Kean	Moulton
Balderson	Kelly (IL)	Schrier
Carey	Krishnamoorthi	Swalwell
Fallon	Luna	

□ 1734

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes in order to attend the dignified transfer of six fallen U.S. Service members. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 92, AYE on Roll Call No. 93, YEA on Roll Call No. 94, and YEA on Roll Call No. 95.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1007

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) as cosponsor of H.R. 1007 because he was inadvertently added to the legislation by my staff.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

(Mr. GUTHRIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, tonight, the Kentucky congressional delegation rises to honor Army Staff Sergeant Benjamin Pennington and U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Ashley Pruitt, who were both killed in the line of duty while serving in support of Operation Epic Fury. Their selfless sacrifice will never be forgotten by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and these United States of America.

Staff Sergeant Benjamin Pennington of Glendale, Kentucky, was 26 years old. Growing up in Hardin County, he ran track at Central Hardin High School and was an Eagle Scout. After graduating in 2017, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving with distinction

ever since. He leaves behind a loving family and community.

Technical Sergeant Ashley Pruitt of Bardstown, Kentucky, was 34 years old and a native of Nelson County. In high school, she was a member of the Air Force Junior ROTC program. Joining the Air Force in 2017, she found her passion as a boom operator aboard the Boeing KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft. She leaves behind her husband, Greg; their 3-year-old daughter, Emilia; her stepson, Oliver; and her loving parents.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America will forever be grateful to these brave heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our Nation. Their families and loved ones will always remain in our prayers.

On behalf of the Kentucky congressional delegation and the House of Representatives, I ask the United States House of Representatives to observe a moment of silence in their honor.

ESTABLISHING A SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

(Mr. MAGAZINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, there are more than 60 million Americans aged 65 and older, nearly 20 percent of our population.

Older Americans face a range of challenges: dealing with rising costs on a fixed income; getting access to the care they need, housing, and transportation; dealing with scams and elder abuse; and more.

That is why we must reestablish the Select Committee on Aging in the House of Representatives, to ensure that older Americans' needs are being looked at holistically by this body.

The committee existed from 1974 to 1994. Its work led to the passage of legislation to make nursing homes safer, increase home care benefits, improve research and care of Alzheimer's, and more. It is time to bring it back.

Along with Republican Representative MARIA SALAZAR of Florida, I am reintroducing a bipartisan bill to do just that. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it for today's seniors and for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include this article in support of the bill in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

[February 9, 2026]

BIPARTISAN PUSH TO RESTORE HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
(By Herb Weiss)

MAGAZINER AGAIN PUSHES HOUSE TO RESTORE AGING PANEL

According to Meals on Wheels America, every day, 12,000 Americans turn 60. By the end of this decade, one in four Americans

will be over 60—an irreversible and historic change in population. Yet even as the nation ages, older Americans remain without a permanent seat at the House legislative table to shape aging policy.

In 1993, during the 103rd Congress, the House Permanent Select Committee on Aging (HSCoA) was dismantled as part of a budget-cutting push by House Democratic leadership, which stripped \$1.5 million from its funding. From 1974 to 1993, the committee had served as Congress's primary forum for aging issues, initially with 35 members and ultimately expanding to 65.

Looking back, the HSCoA had handled a heavy workload, carefully scheduling hearings and issuing a steady stream of reports. In a March 31, 1993 St. Petersburg Times article, Staff Director Brian Lutz of the Subcommittee on Retirement Income and Employment reported that during its 18 years of existence, the House Aging Committee had been responsible for about 1,000 hearings and reports.

SIXTH TIME COULD BE THE CHARM

Since its elimination, House lawmakers have made four attempts to reestablish the committee. Former Rep. David Cicilline first introduced a resolution during the 114th Congress, with efforts continuing through the 117th. In the 118th Congress, Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-RI) picked up the baton and revived the initiative. On January 21, 2026, he once again introduced House Resolution 1013 to restore the panel—this time with bipartisan support, including original cosponsor Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL). At press time, the resolution had been referred to the House Committee on Rules for markup prior to consideration by the full House. No Senate action is required.

More than 30 years later, as the older population surges, Congress's failure to reinstate a dedicated aging committee is no longer merely an oversight—it is an increasingly costly mistake.

"It is about time—or really past time—for the House to re-establish the HSCoA, says Max Richtman, president of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM), who served as staff director of the Senate Special Committee on Aging in the late 1980s.

Richtman says that a re-established HCoA would be of tremendous value to older Americans, because it could conduct investigations and develop legislation for the committees of jurisdiction in the House to take up, as the Senate committee historically has done. "We need an HSCoA in the House because its full-time job would be to safeguard the interests of seniors. There is no other House committee that can do that."

Richtman notes that, without an HSCoA, it can be challenging for other House committees to fully review senior-related issues "that cross jurisdictional lines or involve complex interactions of a wide range of disciplines."

Opponents argue that eliminating the HSCoA reduced wasteful spending, noting that 12 standing committees already have jurisdiction over aging-related issues. Advocates counter that these committees lack the time, staffing, and singular focus needed to examine aging issues comprehensively, as the select committee once did.

"Older Americans are an important and growing part of our population, and they deserve a seat at the table when Congress considers issues that directly affect their lives," said Rep. Magaziner. "Protecting Social Security and Medicare, strengthening housing stability, and lowering everyday costs—including prescription drugs—highlight the need for a dedicated committee focused on improving seniors' quality of life."

"I am proud to reintroduce bipartisan legislation to reestablish the House Permanent Select Committee on Aging so we can better deliver for older Americans nationwide, he added. "This committee would bring members of Congress together for meaningful work on the challenges and opportunities that come with aging, and I remain committed to working across the aisle to advance this effort."

Magaziner has acknowledged entrenched opposition from senior committee leaders of both parties who are reluctant to cede jurisdiction. Nevertheless, he remains committed. "I will continue working to ensure older Americans have the focused advocacy they deserve in Congress," he pledged.

Magaziner's resolution has been endorsed by the Legislative Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), a national coalition of advocacy groups currently chaired by Richtman and NCPSSM. "The Select Committee would have an opportunity to more fully explore a range of issues and innovations that cross jurisdictional lines, while holding field hearings, engaging communities, and promoting understanding and dialogue," said LCAO in a letter supporting the resolution.

AN EASY FIX

According to the Congressional Research Service, creating a temporary or permanent select committee requires only a simple resolution establishing its purpose, defining membership, and outlining responsibilities. Funding for staff salaries and operational expenses are authorized through the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.

Magaziner's 203-word resolution, amends House rules to establish a Permanent Select Committee on Aging. The committee, having no legislative authority, would be charged with conducting comprehensive studies of aging issues—including income, poverty, housing, health, employment, education, recreation, and long-term care—to inform legislation considered by standing committees. It would also encourage public and private programs that support older Americans' participation in national life, coordinate governmental and private initiatives, and review recommendations from the President or the White House Conference on Aging.

Aging policy touches nearly every aspect of American life, yet it does not fall neatly within the jurisdiction of any single standing committee. Depending on the legislative, five to seven standing committees may draft a bill affecting older Americans. Without an HSCoA, pressing aging issues may be ignored. A focused committee would bring together Republican and Democratic lawmakers from multiple committees to closely and comprehensively examine legislative proposals, both transparently, and responsibly.

While standing committees draft legislation, the HSCoA would serve a distinct but equally vital role—providing oversight, public education, and keeping the spotlight on aging issues. Key priorities include ensuring the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, lowering prescription drug costs, supporting family caregivers, combating elder fraud, and addressing affordable housing, healthcare access, and social isolation.

For more than 60 years, the Senate has recognized the value of its Special Committee on Aging. The House once did as well—producing lasting, bipartisan results. The People's House should reclaim that leadership, particularly as older Americans face rising costs, employment barriers, and growing loneliness.

CAPITOL VETERANS SPEAK OUT TO BRING BACK HSCOA

According to Bob Weiner, former HSCoA chief of staff during the tenure of the late Rep. Claude Pepper (D-FL) his tenure as se-

lect committee chair, the legislative panel elevated aging issues that otherwise struggled to gain sustained attention in Congress. "The bill stopping end to mandatory retirement would never have happened," says Weiner who was a confidant of Chairman Pepper.

He recalls how it unfolded: "Chair Pepper and the committee got the President and Congress to abolish age-based discrimination in employment and mandatory retirement. President Carter invited the entire committee to the White House and later signed the bill with a powerful statement."

"Pepper even went to the Bush and Reagan administrations and said, 'Over my dead body' would Social Security be cut or privatized" Weiner added.

If reestablished today, Weiner believes the committee should draw lessons from its past. "We need full-scale investigations into fraud and scams, along with strong protections for Social Security and the Older Americans Act," he said. He also argues the committee could play a critical oversight role in accelerating research into Alzheimer's disease. "Seniors are justifiably terrified of dementia and Alzheimer's. Advances in biological treatments may offer hope for prevention and reversal."

Responding to standing committee concerns about jurisdiction, redundancy, and budgetary impact, Weiner dismisses claims of duplication. "The Aging Committee uniquely focused on aging priorities. That focus is sadly missing today," he said.

Weiner also urged Rep. Magaziner to visibly demonstrate his commitment to recreating the House Aging Committee. "If he talks it up around the House floor like Pepper did, he'll earn goodwill and support from members of both parties" he said. "It is crucial that House Res. 1013 pass the Rules Committee. Nothing meaningful on aging will happen without dedicated congressional leadership."

MOMENTUM OR MISSED OPPORTUNITY

With the midterm elections just 266 days away, and now that Rep. Magaziner has secured support from a Republican lawmaker, he must continue building bipartisan momentum. None of the previous five attempts to restore the House Aging Committee attracted Republican cosponsors.

In the 119th Congress, Magaziner should seek endorsement from the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus, led by Co-Chairs Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01) and Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY-03). Aging policy should not be considered a partisan issue but a bipartisan one.

It would also be extremely helpful for Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar to reach out to the Republican House Caucus, especially to the Florida Congressional Delegation (20 Republicans and 8 Democrat) to become cosponsors of H. Res. 1013, honoring the legacy of the late Rep. Claude Pepper, Florida's most prominent chair of the House Select Committee on Aging.

What made the House Aging Committee truly influential was Claude Pepper's leadership. Others chaired the committee before and after him and did good work, but none brought national attention to aging issues the way Pepper did. Even today, members of Congress still say, "We need another Claude Pepper," says Thomas Spulak, president of the Claude Pepper Foundation and former chief council when Pepper chaired the House Rules Committee.

"While that will never happen, it would take someone with a rare combination of commitment, visibility, empathy, and knowledge to restore that level of importance to an aging committee, this is exactly why resolutions like this one matter—to remind us of what effective leadership on aging

once looked like, and what it could look like again," Spulak observed.

The Claude Pepper Foundation should engage these lawmakers to encourage their active involvement in restoring the committee. In addition, the Claude Pepper Foundation should educate lawmakers on the positive benefits of restoring the committee. According to the Foundation's core mission is to promote policies and programs that improve health, expand economic opportunity, and advance social justice for all Americans—especially older adults. It also seeks to provide policymakers and the public with research and information on these issues, and to encourage actions that enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

AGEISM BY OMISSION

"Ageism is as much about what you don't do and what you do the failure to establish the HSCOA is one obvious example Why is a HSCOA vitally needed. To help avert Possible major cuts in Social Security in as soon as 7 years. Getting a family caregiver tax credit passed. Renewing the Older Americans Act This House has done so little for older adults. Passing the Magaziner resolution would go a long way to improve on this sad record," adds a Bob Blancato, a staff person serving the committee from 1978 to 1993 and now president of Matz, Blancato and Associates.

□ 1740

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING SPECIALIST KRYSSTOFER LOPEZ

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, with heavy hearts, alongside my colleagues from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I rise today to honor the life and the service of Specialist Krystofer Lopez, who passed away on Thursday, March 12, following a training exercise at Letterkenny Army Depot in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

Specialist Lopez answered the call to serve by enlisting during his junior year of high school at Biglerville High. He was driven by a deep love of his country and a sense of duty that truly defined his life.

He served as a military police officer and as a Personnel Force Innovation member of the 947th Quartermaster Company.

In the words of Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address, Specialist Lopez gave his last full measure of devotion. For that, we as a Commonwealth from Pennsylvania, we as a country, and we as a community are forever grateful.

It has been said that our flag does not fly because the wind moves it but with the last breath of those who defend it. Specialist Krystofer Lopez now rests among those heroes. Now and forever, this brave soldier will be a source of inspiration throughout his enduring devotion to duty and call to service.

Please join us, the Members of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania delegation in the United States House of Representatives, in a moment of silence to honor the life of Specialist Krystofer Lopez.