

"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.

HONORING JASON HUGHES

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of North Hall High School teacher and coach, Jason Hughes.

Mr. Hughes was more than just a teacher. He was a beloved mentor and role model. From heading the math department and educating students in the classroom to coaching multiple teams and leading Bible studies, Jason met every opportunity with a simple, yet thoughtful, question: How can I serve you better?

Jason's service-driven life made an unforgettable impact on countless students, athletes, parents, and teachers throughout the North Hall community.

In addition to his passion for serving others, Jason was known as a devoted husband, loving father, and a man of deep faith.

Tragically, a terrible accident cut his remarkable life short too soon. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Laura, and their two sons, Owen and Luke, during this unimaginably difficult time. I ask that we continue to pray for comfort and healing over his loved ones and the North Hall community.

Mr. Speaker, may we take comfort in knowing that Jason is with our Heavenly Father, who welcomed him home with the words: Well done, good and faithful servant. "Soli Deo Gloria"; "To God alone be the glory."

RECOGNIZING THE RYE RECORD

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the exemplary work of The Rye Record, the local newspaper that covers the comings and goings of the Rye community since 1988.

Printed twice each month, The Rye Record features stories about the activities of local government, city council, the planning board, zoning board, and other such agencies.

Chronicles in The Rye Record include programs and services provided by local nonprofit organizations such as the Rye YMCA; the Rye Free Reading Room; the Rye Nature Center; the Rye Historical Society, and much more. It also includes the event and religious services of Rye's houses of worship and the many advanced recreation programs and special events.

The newspaper, owned by the new team of John Elsen and Zach Wydra, has led a group of new and experienced writers working together on local sports, letters to the editor, calendar of community events, articles about Rye's history, school news, and sports.

The Rye Record features reporters Camille Botello, Chris Marshall, and

Miranda Ferrante, among many. It also includes contributing writers like long-time Rye residents Paul Hicks and David Hessekiel. They capture it all.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute The Rye Record, another example of local entrepreneurship and media savvy.

HONORING GEORGIA GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Georgia Governor Brian Kemp for being recently recognized by the Safari Club International as their 2026 Governor of the Year.

Governor Kemp has excelled in his efforts to support wildlife conservation, sportsmen's rights, and public access to hunting lands. Governor Kemp has a long history of fighting for and protecting Georgians' right to hunt and their Second Amendment rights.

His administration has prioritized funding for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, which has supported wildlife habitat and conservation initiatives in the acquisition of high-value game lands.

On a personal note, knowing Governor Kemp as I do, I can assure my colleagues very few people love the outdoors and love hunting as much as he does.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Governor Kemp for prioritizing these important freedoms and congratulate him on being awarded the 2026 SCI Governor of the Year.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA CAZARES

(Mrs. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize America Cazares, an extraordinary young woman from my district and a proud fellow warrior from Pueblo High School.

Over the past 4 years, America has electrified her community with her talent, determination, and relentless drive on the basketball court. Through countless hours of hard work and unwavering commitment to excellence, she has achieved a truly historic milestone.

America is now the all-time leading scorer in Arizona girl's basketball history across all divisions. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to perseverance, discipline, the power of believing in yourself, and believing in your abilities.

America has not only raised the bar for athletes across our State but she has also inspired young people in southern Arizona and beyond to dream big and work hard. Her success reflects the strength of her family, her coaches,

her teammates, and the Pueblo community that has supported her every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, we are incredibly proud of America. "Felicidades"; "congratulations" on this historic achievement. We look forward to all she will accomplish in the years ahead. "Adelante"; "forward."

□ 1750

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Agriculture Week. In my home State of Georgia and in Georgia's 12th District, who I represent, agriculture remains our number one industry.

During this special week and every week, I recognize and celebrate the farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers who keep America strong, clothed, and fed. Their hard work, innovation, and dedication helps to sustain our community and provide the food and fiber that we rely on every day.

As the son of a farmer and having grown up on our family farm in Columbia County, I know how important it is to ensure that future generations can pick up that mantle and become agricultural leaders.

That is why, in the Working Families Tax Cut Act, House Republicans included a provision that saved over 6,000 family-owned farms in Georgia—12 from an increased death tax. This means more farms stay in the hands of Georgia farmers and not the Federal Government.

This week, let's take a moment to thank those who work in acres and not hours.

Happy National Agriculture Week.

BETRAYAL OF TRUST

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

Mr. MENEFEER. Mr. Speaker, I was 5 years old in 1993 when Tupac Shakur said:

You know, it's funny when it rains it pours
They got money for wars, but can't feed the poor.

Today, those words feel as real as ever.

President Trump, no one wants this war, and the American people literally cannot afford it.

Mr. Speaker, I am not an economist, but I understand that the U.S. war with Iran has shaken global markets, driven oil prices up more than 40 percent, and is even raising fears of a worldwide recession, impacting flights and the cost of goods. We feel it at home, where the price of gas is far more expensive than it has ever been.