

five monetary policies that are constitutionally requisite in the US, two of which are pertinent to this discussion:

(1) Only gold and silver coins and currency (banknotes fully backed by and readily redeemable in specie [gold or silver coins]) may serve as legal tender; and

(2) Neither the states nor Congress may issue fiat money notes (bills of credit . . .). One can only hope that his position on the first item above would be tried in the courts and found to have merit—and to start the process of reclaiming our national economic sanity.

So—Back to consumer inflation to close this out—Other than cutting back on non-essential purchases and being a so-called smart shopper, what might you do with all this? What can help your family in a wider framework or sense? Further inflation/shrinking of the US Dollar is now baked-in (thanks to government deficit spending), and the result will be the continued hollowing out of our Middle Class. It's not trite to say that we must PRAY for America, for our politicians, and for our upcoming generations. And of course, to impress upon our elected officials the need for major cost-cutting action on their part—for openers, how about a Federal Balanced Budget? I believe that we must walk a deep valley of stagflation or recession/depression if we are to hand over this land, as we have known it, to our children and grandchildren.

And in a narrower financial sense, one other answer is to own Hard Assets—tangible things you can touch, like land, buildings, gold, silver, classic cars, some fine art, and some collectibles or other physical items that would hold their value through inflationary times. If you can swing the cost of buying and owning a house or apartment, don't rent one—a house or a condo is the most common and most-sought-after Hard Asset owned by Middle Class folks. I've also read that a top-gun financial expert recently recommended that we need to scale down from building 2200-to-2400-square-foot houses and go back to 1200-1400-square-foot houses. And there are people out there who are researching cheaper-per-square-foot (modular) housing that would be delivered in pieces by truck, to reduce the amount of required on-site labor. (Some of that is already happening.) So that's some of what I'm seeing and hearing lately, and I hope this has helped you with some of the background that produced the inflation we're seeing.

RECOGNIZING THE KERN AUTISM NETWORK

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kern Autism Network on its 30th anniversary and to honor its longstanding commitment to supporting individuals with autism and their families in Kern County through education, advocacy, and community support.

Beginning in 1995, staff from the Kern Regional Center and HEARTS Connections brought together local families, educators, and other advocates in response to the limited public awareness and support available for individuals with autism. Soon after, Susan Houghton helped establish the first local chapter, which was chartered by the Autism Society of America on May 22, 1996. Under her leadership as the organization's first chair, the

chapter began its mission of increasing autism awareness, providing support and education, and connecting individuals and their families with valuable resources.

For 30 years, the organization's dedicated volunteers have worked to build greater awareness and understanding of autism throughout Kern County. Among its many efforts is its annual autism conference, which brings together experts, service providers, and community partners to share knowledge and resources with local families and professionals.

Through support groups and community outreach, Kern Autism Network has continued to create meaningful connections and opportunities for individuals with autism and their families. Its commitment to advocacy and inclusion has also helped strengthen the network of support for the autism community throughout Kern County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Kern Autism Network, its leadership, and dedicated volunteers on 30 years of service to Kern County. Their commitment has made a lasting difference in the lives of individuals with autism, their families, and the greater Central Valley community.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT JAMESON J. STITT

HON. JOHN W. MANNION

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Mr. MANNION. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Jameson J. Stitt, a distinguished airman from Syracuse, New York. Sergeant Stitt has served our country for nearly four decades from September 24, 1986, to July 17, 2026, in the United States Air Force and the New York Air National Guard. During his tenure, he earned numerous medals and awards. As Logistics Plans Superintendent at the 174th Attack Wing, he has played a vital role in organizing and supporting deployment operations.

Sergeant Stitt's career began in 1986, with assignments ranging from aircraft maintenance to logistics and deployment planning. He served in Operations DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, NORTHERN WATCH, and NOBLE EAGLE, adapting to new aircraft and mission challenges. He has managed major deployments, coordinated logistics for worldwide missions, and supported New York State operations, including COVID-19 response. As a member of the Base Honor Guard, Sergeant Stitt has participated in over 300 military funerals and many community events. His dedication extends beyond his service, training more than 50 guardsmen and honoring fallen first responders after 9/11.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Stitt has demonstrated integrity, commitment, and exceptional service. His decorations include the Meritorious Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster, the Air and Space Force Outstanding Unit Award with one Valor "V" device and four oakleaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with one service star, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with one campaign star. He has

also received several New York State military honors. Sergeant Stitt is a valued member of professional associations and has contributed to various committees over the years.

Mr. Speaker, Senior Master Sergeant Stitt has served our Nation with pride and loyalty. I congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his dedication. I wish him, his wife Shari, and daughters, Julisan and Kira, all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO ANQUINETTE HILL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Arbor Creek Elementary School teacher, Anqunette Hill. Mrs. Hill was recently named Region 11 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Hill has dedicated over 16 years to teaching, pouring into students and staff alike. She is known for always having a smile, and going above and beyond to provide new STEAM-based projects and opportunities to students.

Nominees submitted a professional portfolio that included a résumé, professional biography, and essays describing their instructional philosophy, contributions to school culture, community engagement, leadership experiences, and vision for the teaching profession. This award puts Mrs. Hill in the running for the State of Texas Teacher of the Year, which will be announced within the coming weeks.

I congratulate Mrs. Hill on her recognition and for serving students across North Texas.

HONORING SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Second Baptist Church, located on North Acadian Thruway West, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for its faith and community strength since its founding in 1920. The origin of Second Baptist Church began under the leadership of the late Reverend William Hall. The church's original name was Hall's Chapel Baptist Church and was subsequently changed to Hall's Second Baptist Church, with its first location in the 600 block of Eureka Street, now known as North Acadian Thruway West. Though membership initially consisted of about thirty members and the church building was small, it quickly became known as "the church with a lot of fire."

After Reverend Hall was called home to glory in 1922, Reverend Edward Doyle (E.D.) Billoups was chosen as Pastor. Under his outstanding leadership, the church was remodeled at a cost of \$3,030.00, which included land and building, and the debt was liquidated over nine years. Two more lots were purchased, and Hall's Second Baptist Church was built, along with an educational building

now serving as the Food Pantry & Clothing Distribution Center adjacent to the church.

In 1961, Reverend Leo E. Billoups was named Assistant Pastor, and Reverend E.D. Billoups became Pastor Emeritus. The church moved to a new location to build a one-story building for greater accessibility. After Reverend Leo E. Billoups's passing, Reverend W. Marshall Myles served as Assistant Pastor.

From 1983 to 1986, following Reverend E.D. Billoups's retirement, Reverend Leo D. Cyrus, Sr. was chosen as Pastor. During his tenure, a Fellowship Hall was added to the Sanctuary, and the SBC Christian Academy was formed, initially using one room in Fellowship Hall. Due to substantial enrollment, the Academy eventually moved to the SBC Unity Center, a two-story multi-purpose facility. Second Baptist Church was one of the original sites for the Fourth District Missionary Baptist Congress of Christian Education Institute, hosting leadership training and Christian Education classes.

Between 1991 and 1995, the church implemented the SBC Christian Education Institute, the Gertrude S. Hayes Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Evangelistic and Street Witnessing Ministry, and the Prison Ministry. In 1995, the church's name was formally changed to "Second Baptist Church," retaining its slogan: "You're in a Church Where You're Never A Stranger, and It's Always a Pleasure to Have You Come."

From 2001 to 2009, the Deaconess Ministries were combined, and members adopted a Mission and Vision Statement to be recited at services and church activities. In August 2005, Second Baptist Church assisted families affected by Hurricane Katrina, hosting mid-week and Sunday Worship Services for First Emmanuel Baptist Church of New Orleans for over a year at no charge. In 2008, the church partnered with local, federal, and national organizations to provide supplies for those affected by Hurricane Gustav. In June 2009, Second Baptist Church became part of a historic cooperative with the Southern Baptists and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, serving as a host site for weekly classes and theological education opportunities in Baton Rouge, bridging racial and denominational lines.

Second Baptist Church's ministries and affiliations are extensive and impactful. They include Adult, Young Adult, and Youth Ushers, Pastor's Support Group, Mission, Flower Circle, Youth and Media Ministry, Brotherhood and Women's Ministry, Health & Wellness Ministry, Food Distribution, Mass Choir, Male Chorus, Women's & Youth Choir, Hunts Correctional Facility Worship, and Foreign Mission Ministry in places such as St. Kitts and St. Dominique. The church supports institutions of higher learning and nonprofits including Southern University, Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, American Heart Association, United Way, Interfaith Federation of Churches and Synagogues, and the American Cancer Society. These ministries and partnerships reflect the church's mission to "minister to the needs and hopes of the total community by encouraging and exalting one another in Christian love."

From 2010 to 2016, Pastor Cyrus and other leaders organized "The Greater Louisiana Baptist State Convention," operating under the

guidance of the National Baptist Convention of the U.S.A., Inc. Reverend Cyrus served as Convention President, and Second Baptist Church, along with New Hope Baptist Church, was selected as an official FEMA site to assist residents impacted by the 2016 flood. In 2019, Reverend Cyrus added Reverend Samuel Calvin Lofton from Lafayette, Louisiana, to the Ministerial Staff as an Associate Minister, faithfully conducting and teaching weekly Prayer Services, Bible Study, and other church functions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic from March to December 2020, Second Baptist Church suspended in-person services but established live streaming via Zoom, Facebook, and other media outlets. The church also distributed food and supplies to residents of Lake Charles affected by Hurricane Laura. By mid-June 2021, in-person worship resumed, with continued online streaming. After Hurricane Ida, the church partnered with New Hope and Southern University Athletics Department to provide disaster relief for residents of New Orleans and Laplace, Louisiana, and volunteered to serve hot meals at St. Peter Catholic Church in Reserve, Louisiana.

In early 2025, after much prayer and God's guidance, Reverend Cyrus announced his retirement, concluding more than 41 years of service at Second Baptist and over 48 years at New Hope. On March 21, 2025, both churches hosted a retirement celebration in his honor, with reflections from area Pastors, Convention leaders, and community figures. On April 13, 2025, Reverend Samuel Calvin Lofton accepted the call to Pastoral Leadership and was officially installed as Pastor-Teacher on June 22, 2025. Pastor Lofton is recognized for his engaging, practical teaching and preaching style, presenting God's Word with clarity, simplicity, and conviction, making it accessible and applicable to all.

Today, Second Baptist Church continues its mission as a mighty fortress and guiding light to all mankind, striving to ensure preaching, teaching, and worship remain heartfelt and genuine. The church's Holy Spirit motivates sincere devotion, touching the hearts of those who seek Christ. Second Baptist Church remains steadfast and unmovable, faithful to Christ, reaching the community, and relevant to the culture, as inspired by Acts 2:42-47.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating Second Baptist Church, Pastor Samuel Calvin Lofton, and the devoted congregation for over a century of enduring legacy and ongoing impact. Their unwavering commitment to service and leadership continues to inspire and uplift families across Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish, leaving a legacy for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I missed yesterday's vote due to a lower back injury. Had I been present, I would have voted

NAY on Roll Call No. 293, and NAY on Roll Call No. 294.

HONORING PAM WILSON ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Pam Wilson on the occasion of her retirement. As the Senior Vice President of Long-Term Care at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Pam has lovingly and dutifully served older adults in Northwest Ohio for over four decades.

Tasked with connecting older adults to the care services they need, Pam took her role in stride, always going the extra mile for those who leaned on her. Most remarkably, she secured home care services for nearly 3,000 older adults annually across a ten-county area in Northwest Ohio. These are individuals who qualify for nursing home care but were instead able to remain in the comfort and safety of their own homes. Through these services, Pam provided a sense of security and dignity to countless seniors, along with their families and caregivers. The program represented one of the most extraordinary and successful Medicaid Waiver home care programs in the entire region.

A true wizard on the complexities of Medicare and Medicaid, Pam expertly navigated the systems to secure the care necessary for numerous individuals. She was pivotal in establishing and negotiating contracts with several managed care companies to ensure all recipients were cared for to the highest level. Her service did not end with our region's seniors—Pam was also a tremendous mentor to hundreds of nurses and social workers, and she provided support services to countless caregivers. She organized and led the first-ever Caregiver Support Program, creating a safe space and sense of relief for a group that is often overlooked. Her leadership in establishing high standards and ethical practices had a profound impact on the many nurses and social workers she trained. That impact that will only continue to grow as her mentees continue in the field of aging.

Pam's quiet capability, calm assurance, and caring heart, along with her professional excellence, made her a well-respected member of the aging network right from the start. Her legacy is carried forth in policy, precedence, and leadership throughout gerontology and among her colleagues and our community.

Please join me and our entire Northwest Ohio community in thanking Pam Wilson for her tireless service and in wishing her well in retirement. Pam's steadfast care and immense knowledge will be sorely missed by all she worked alongside and all whose lives she has touched. May her retirement bring her the same joy and peace that she brought to so many others during her time with the Area Office on Aging.