

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CHARCEY PRIESTER, SR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Reverend Charcey Priester, Sr., who is celebrating the 20th anniversary of service as pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Reverend Priester has provided steadfast leadership to his congregation, guiding the church with vision, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to faith and community.

Since becoming pastor in 2005, Reverend Priester has led St. Paul Baptist Church through a remarkable period of spiritual, physical, and financial growth. Under his leadership, the church's membership has increased tremendously, reflecting the strength of his ministry and the welcoming spirit of the congregation. As the church expanded, Reverend Priester introduced an additional Impact Service to ensure that even more individuals could feel welcome to visit and worship.

Reverend Priester's leadership has also been marked by a bold vision and careful stewardship. In 2007, the church purchased 46 acres of land that would become the site of a new sanctuary for the growing congregation. In April 2010, the members of St. Paul Baptist Church caravanned to their new church home—a beautiful sanctuary capable of seating 700 worshippers and a banquet hall that accommodates 300 guests. This milestone serves as a testament to Reverend Priester's leadership and the faith of the church family.

Throughout his tenure, Reverend Priester has strengthened the congregation by establishing and revitalizing numerous programs. These include a Minister-in-Training program, three-night revival workshop services, the Men's and Women's Ministries, as well as membership in the National Baptist Association.

His ministry has also focused on serving the broader Orangeburg community. St. Paul Baptist Church has implemented a grief reconciliation ministry for widows and widowers, organized a Girl Scout troop and a 9th Grade Character Academy, and reactivated the Health Ministry. Through its Missionary Society, the church provides meals and clothing to those in need, reflecting a deep commitment to compassion and outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Charcey Priester, Sr., on this important milestone. We also recognize the love and support of his wife, Minister Sarah Priester, and their children, Charcey Priester, Jr., and Majesty. May Reverend Priester continue to inspire and uplift his congregation and community for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I missed three of the votes in the vote series on

March 4, 2026, due to a classified call that occurred during this time period. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 83; YEA on Roll Call No. 82; and YEA on Roll Call No. 81.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on January 9, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 12.

REAFFIRMING IRAN REMAINS THE LARGEST STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1099 is nothing more than a naked attempt to justify the war with Iran that the President has already started. I refuse to play their game and will vote NO.

Last week, President Trump took our country into an illegal war with Iran—a war that the American people do not want and the Congress did not authorize.

The President has claimed legal authority to take our country into a war with Iran by pointing to Iran as an imminent threat to the United States. The fact is that Iran does not currently possess ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States, and they are further from a nuclear weapon than they have been in years. H. Res. 1099's assertion that Iran poses a "direct and persistent threat to the U.S." directly reinforces the President's own rationale for taking the United States into this disastrous war.

This resolution also states that Iran is "harboring" al-Qaeda. I am deeply concerned that this is an attempt to justify the use of the Authorization for Use of Military Force enacted by the Congress after the 9/11 attacks to provide legal backing for the President's Iran War. That law authorized the use of military force against "those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons."

While the government of Iran has, in the past, maintained some ties to members of al-Qaeda, the administration has not presented any evidence to substantiate any current presence of the organization in Iran.

If the administration intends to make this claim to justify the ongoing military action, they must provide that evidence to the Congress and make a convincing case before I can vote to endorse the claim.

The Iranian government is no friend of the United States. Their nuclear and ballistic missile programs are deeply concerning.

That is why I have supported sanctions on Iran and the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal, which

placed real constraints on Iran's nuclear program. President Trump decided to remove all constraints on Iran's nuclear program by withdrawing from that agreement, and laid the groundwork for the illegal war he initiated last week.

The best way to ensure that no more San Antonians in uniform are put in harm's way is to end this war and negotiate an agreement with Iran these concerns rather than pursue a regime change war that will only make us less safe.

If this resolution had included a clear statement that a war with Iran would require explicit congressional authorization—as required by the Constitution—and if the administration had made a clear case to the Congress substantiating the statements in the resolution, I would have considered voting for it.

I oppose the President's decision to join Israel in launching an illegal and disastrous war against Iran. The Republicans are playing partisan games with matters of war and peace, and I refuse to participate, which is why I will be voting NO on H. Res. 1099.

REAFFIRMING IRAN REMAINS THE LARGEST STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1099. While I unambiguously condemn the brutal, repressive Iranian regime, I will vote against this resolution because I fear it will be used as a pretext to support Trump's illegal war of choice.

I oppose Trump's illegal war in Iran, which is killing U.S. servicemembers, destabilizing the Middle East, wasting billions of taxpayer dollars, and raising the price of gas, all while Americans are losing their healthcare. I remain clear-eyed about the nature of the Iranian government and condemn its malign activities across the region and its brutal domestic repression, including its recent slaughter of thousands of protesters. However, the appalling behavior of governments abroad cannot give Trump the unilateral power to start forever wars across the globe.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALL TOWNSHIP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 2026, the citizens of Wall, New Jersey will officially recognize the 175th anniversary of the founding of their Township, a historic and vibrant municipality located in the 4th Congressional District of New Jersey.

From its critical contributions in support of the American patriots during the Revolutionary War, to the important technological innovations discovered there during the 20th century, to the expansive selection of primary and specialty medical care providers offered there

today, Wall Township has given its residents much to be proud of and celebrate.

Officially incorporated in March of 1851, Wall Township was named in honor of Garret D. Wall, a notable New Jersey lawyer, judge, and U.S. Senator during the mid-19th century. Senator Wall was also a veteran of the War of 1812, who was stationed at Sandy Hook, and a Quartermaster general for the State of New Jersey. And Senator Wall was the only man appointed to Governor who declined to serve. Naming Wall Township in his honor speaks to Senator Wall's humility, patriotism, integrity, and once-in-a-lifetime service.

But Wall Township's rich and expansive history can be traced back to before its incorporation—as far back to pre-Revolutionary War times. In 1693, East and West New Jersey Governor Andrew Hamilton established Monmouth County, New Jersey, which, at the time, only consisted of three townships: Freehold, Middletown, and Shrewsbury.

Modern-day Wall Township existed within Shrewsbury's historic borders. And during this time, Wall Township established itself as a critical, resourceful, and productive part of Monmouth County and New Jersey as a whole.

In 1776, when the Continental Congress issued urgent calls to the colonies to boost salt production, the colonists of early Wall Township answered. They established numerous emergency saltworks, which were critical for preserving fish, meat, and hides, in addition to making gunpowder—vital to the success of our nascent army.

Among these emergency saltworks was the infamous Union Saltworks on the Manasquan River, which was repeatedly destroyed by the British and reconstructed by the Americans—showing that the residents of Wall were then, as they are now, the “salt of the Earth.” In fact, the repeated rebuilding of Union Saltworks is a testament to the enduring grit that still defines Wall residents to this day. Nearly two centuries later, Wall Township again became a hotspot for making significant contributions to U.S. military operations and national security.

In the early 20th century, Wall Township became the birthplace of the Marconi Belmar Wireless Station, a massive trans-Atlantic radio transmission complex built by inventor Guglielmo Marconi. Prior to the United States' entry into World War II, the U.S. Army acquired the Marconi Station in 1941 and established Camp Evans, a military communications center and cutting-edge radar research facility.

At Camp Evans, military researchers and scientists developed novel broadcasting and defense technologies, many of which are still used today. Namely, Camp Evans boasted the radar technology that was able to detect the Japanese planes within an hour of their bombing of Pearl Harbor. This technology was also used to aid U.S. air power, playing a vital role in securing Allied success during World War II.

Camp Evans is also the home of Project Radar Diana—an unofficial U.S. Army project named after the Roman moon goddess Diana and conducted during the mid-1940s—that contributed to momentous breakthroughs in space exploration. Project Radar Diana laid the foundation for future U.S. space exploration and helped make our first voyage into space possible.

Wall Township's innovative spirit lives on through its nearly 27,000 residents, as the home of a diverse small business and growing eco-tourism sector, numerous parks and open spaces, and highly rated schools. Among the scientists, astronauts, entrepreneurs, musicians, political leaders, and decorated war heroes who have all called Wall Township home are the supportive parents, good neighbors, hard workers, and caring citizens that make up this amazing community.

I am honored to congratulate the entire municipality and join in celebrating this amazing milestone. It has been a momentous past 175 years, and I can only imagine the great heights to which Wall Township will soar over the next 175 years.

HONORING THE INSTALLATION OF
BISHOP JULIUS HARRISON
MCALLISTER, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., who, at the Fifty-Second Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio, was elected and consecrated as the 144th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and now serves as the Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District, which includes the State of Alabama.

A fourth-generation preacher and lifelong churchman, Bishop McAllister answered the call of the ministry in 1992, shortly before his graduation from South Carolina State University, where he received his baccalaureate degree in criminal justice. He later continued his educational journey at Turner Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree, and Chicago Theological Seminary, where he earned his Doctor in Ministry.

The son of Supervisor Joan McAllister, Bishop McAllister holds a unique place in AME history. He and his father, Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr., stand as the only father and son to serve concurrently in active episcopal ministry since the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1787 and its incorporation in 1816, marking a moment of profound generational legacy in the life of the Church. A dedicated servant of God, Bishop McAllister has devoted 32 years to pastoral ministry, 16 of which were spent at Bethel AME Church in Tallahassee, Florida, where he led a ministry of strong spiritual formation, stewardship, and impact. During his 16-year pastorate, Bishop McAllister received 1,300 new members into the church, strengthened Christian stewardship with a strong emphasis on tithing, and guided the congregation in raising two million dollars annually in tithes and offerings. Additionally, he oversaw the construction of 85 single-family homes at a cost of fifteen million dollars, helped more than 1,000 men and women overcome drug and alcohol addiction through the Christ-centered “A Life Recovery Center,” and developed a ten-acre church campsite.

Bishop McAllister also served as pastor of Greater Institutional AME Church in Chicago,

Illinois, where he launched the Come Home for Christmas Ministry, serving over 5,000 homeless men and women and providing more than 2,000 children with a clothing shopping spree at Target or Sears at a cost of \$750,000 to support needy families during the Christmas season. As the President Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District, Bishop McAllister leads with compassion, integrity, and a deep commitment to shepherding God's people. His pastorate is distinguished by a shepherd's heart; being present with his members, ministering to them through life's joys and sorrows, and building ministries that nurture spiritual growth, Christian stewardship, community outreach, and holistic support for families. On a personal note, as a daughter of Selma, Alabama, and lifelong member of the historic Brown Chapel AME Church, I know that it was within the sacred walls of the Black Church that our foremothers and forefathers organized and strategized for the rights and freedoms we enjoy today. As the President Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop McAllister has carried forward that proud legacy in the ongoing pursuit of justice. That is why I am proud to recognize his faithful leadership, ministry, and service as we commemorate the 61st anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., as the President Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

RECOGNIZING THE INVESTITURE
OF JUDGE WILLIAM MERCER

HON. TROY DOWNING

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Montanans gather for the investiture ceremony of Judge William Mercer, marking an important moment for our state and judicial system.

Since 1994, Bill Mercer has served as the assistant United States attorney for the District of Montana, the acting United States Associate Attorney General, and as a member of the Montana House of Representatives in addition to a stint as a practicing attorney and partner at law firm Holland and Hart in Billings.

Throughout his judicial endeavors, Bill developed a reputation as a respected and principled practitioner of the law. On July 10, 2025, he was nominated to serve as United States district judge of the United States District Court for the District of Montana by President Donald J. Trump—a distinct honor in and of itself.

Bill brings a wealth of experience to the bench, and I have complete confidence that he will uphold the rule of law and serve the people of Montana with integrity, professionalism, and honor. I congratulate Bill and best of luck as he embarks on this new chapter.