

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.

CELEBRATING THE INCREDIBLE
LIFE OF DR. NORMAN CHRIS-
TOPHER FRANCIS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise with immense pride as we honor a remarkable leader and my mentor, the late Dr. Norman C. Francis. His commitment to advancing education through social justice transformed Louisiana and had a profound impact on this entire Nation.

As the longest-serving president of Xavier University, my alma mater, Dr. Francis set the gold standard for HBCUs, fostering excellence in higher education. His leadership during the civil rights movement was instrumental in breaking down barriers and fighting for equality.

In 2006, Dr. Francis was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor, in recognition of his deep intellect, compassion, and character. His tireless dedication to uplifting others has left a lasting impact on countless lives, including my own.

Today, I ask for support in granting Dr. Norman C. Francis the distinguished Congressional Gold Medal. This honor would celebrate his lifetime of service and his enduring legacy, ensuring that his works continue to inspire future generations.

I thank Dr. Francis' family for letting him be a part of our lives. I thank Dr. Francis for his extraordinary contributions. His legacy will live forever and continue to light our paths toward a more just society.

HONORING CHELESA CARTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Chelesa Carter of Greenville, Mississippi, for her outstanding leadership and historic service to Washington County.

In 2017, Ms. Carter was appointed County Administrator for Washington County, becoming the first African American woman to hold this distinguished position. In this executive

role, she oversees the daily operations of county government, including administrative management, financial oversight, personnel administration, and the implementation of policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Her work ensures that county services are delivered efficiently, responsibly, and in a manner that serves the best interests of the citizens of Washington County.

Ms. Carter's appointment marked a significant milestone in the history of local governance in the Mississippi Delta. Her leadership reflects professionalism, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to public service. By breaking barriers and serving with excellence, she has paved the way for greater representation in government leadership and has set an example for future generations of women and young people aspiring to serve their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chelesa Carter for her historic achievement and her continued dedication to the people of Washington County. Her contributions strengthen local government and embody the very best of public service.