

## ***M. Claire French***

Former Monmouth County Clerk, M. Claire French, has served the residents of Monmouth County and her home town, Wall Township, for more than 37 years in various capacities ranging from Assistant Administrator of District 11 Little League to helping counties train for better jobs as a member of the New Jersey Job Training Council.

As the original Chairwoman of the Monmouth County Improvement Authority, she guided the development of programs that financed more than \$700 million in public capital projects through the County and saved taxpayers more than \$25 million during the agency's first ten years.

A volunteer at the local, county and state levels, Mrs. French had been appointed by two governors to serve in several state posts, including the Board of Trustees for the Brisbane Child Treatment Center and the Local Finance Board, of which she was Vice Chairwoman. She also served on the Advisory Board of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

Mrs. French worked to bring new business and jobs to Monmouth County for the Department of Economic Development. She has been a member of both the Monmouth County and Wall Township Planning Boards and served on various local and regional authorities and chambers of commerce.

Currently she serves as Chairman of the Government Relations Committee for Meridian Hospital System; she is a Director of Central Jersey Bancorp; she is a member of the Monmouth County Water Resources Association; she is a member of the Monmouth County Association for the Blind, and Treasurer of the Route 34 Wall Business Group.

She served on the Wall Township Committee for seven years, including two terms as Mayor. During her tenure, Mrs. French was instrumental in creating Wall Township's first K-9 Unit, which frequently assisted police departments in surrounding towns. Mrs. French served for seven years as a Police Commissioner with the Wall Township Police Department. She also chaired the Co-Operative Education Advisory Council for the Board of Education and the Volpe Scholarship Committee for Keptel Industries, and was a charter member of the Wall Township Education Excellence Foundation.

Mrs. French was appointed County Clerk in 1997 and elected to a five-year term that year, and again in 2002. She was 2001 President of the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey and has been recognized for her work by the Southern Monmouth County Chamber of Commerce, which gave her the Golden Osprey Award. She is also a recipient of the Women in Leadership Award from the Monmouth County Commission on the Status of Women, the Women of Distinction Award from the Monmouth County Council of Girl Scouts, and the Point Pleasant Beach High School Hall of Fame Award.

Mrs. French has been involved with the Information Age Science and History Learning Center since 1993 and was the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of InfoAge from 2006 to 2014. She is currently Secretary of the Board.