

# Tallahassee Democrat.

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## BICENTENNIAL

The TLH 200: Gerald Ensley Memorial Bicentennial Project is proud to announce another installment of our rolling list of 200 people who laid the foundation for the growth of the civil society we find today in Tallahassee.

As the city commemorates the 200th anniversary of its founding, the Tallahassee Democrat and Real Talk 93.3 have cast a wide net to find artists, educators, civil rights leaders, politicians, athletes, builders, business titans and neighborhood icons who earned a place in the spotlight.

## Charles Saxon Ausley (1907 - 1972)

There were some impressive shoes Charles Saxon Ausley had to fill. Tallahassee appreciated the work of his dad, the physician Charles, so much they named Ausley Road on the west side in his honor. And his grandfather George Saxon was the founder of the Capital City Bank, the city's oldest operating business.

Charlie, who carried both men's names, set out to be, in the words of the Tallahassee Democrat, a "good citizen."

He left his mark on the community. In 1930, he teamed with future Florida Gov. LeRoy Collins to create the Ausley McMullen law firm, one of Tallahassee's oldest law firms. Ausley wrote the first charter of the Florida State Foundation, founded the Tallahassee Jaycees, served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, as corporate officer of the Tallahassee Democrat and director of the Orange Bowl committee.

Charlie also was a municipal judge, city commissioner, and state senator – filling in for Collins when he resigned to join the Navy during World War II.

When he died, a Tallahassee Democrat editorial acknowledged he served as the newspaper's legal counsel but also extolled him as a "good citizen."

Wrote the editorial board, "In the 42 years since he returned to Tallahassee with his law degree from the University of Florida, there was hardly a worthwhile project or mission on which his help was not sought and given without hesitation. It is such good citizens as Charlie Ausley who have made Tallahassee the place for the good life it is."