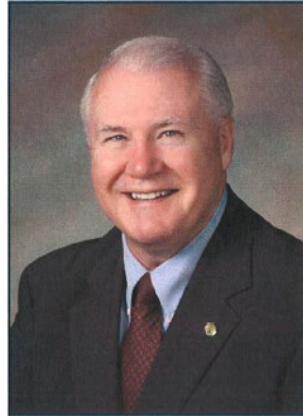


# In Memoriam

## Thomas H. McTavish, CPA



Our sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of former Auditor General Thomas H. McTavish, who passed away on Saturday, January 29, 2022.

Thomas H. McTavish (Tom) was born in Gallitzin, Pennsylvania, on January 12, 1943. He was sibling number 6 in a family of 8 children and had 6 brothers and 1 sister named Cindy. His parents owned McTavish's Tavern, and he was always ready to share the story that he and his 6 brothers shared 3 beds

in 1 bedroom, which was above the jukebox in the bar below, all of which was above the Gallitzin Tunnels where steam driven trains travelling east or west would rumble through the tunnels throughout the night. He attributed his love for music and the sound of trains to his childhood experiences.

He graduated from Gallitzin High School, as senior class president in the Class of 1960, and then attended Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), where he graduated in 1964, with an accounting major and economics minor.

Shortly after graduation from Penn State, he joined the Navy and was on active military duty in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1968, and then continued military service as a reservist from 1968 to 1993, serving a total of nearly 28 years. He last served as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Audit Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and retired from military service in 1993 as a Captain with six military awards and decorations.

Upon leaving active military service in 1968, he began his professional career as an auditor with Stockton Bates & Co., a regional CPA firm in Philadelphia, PA. He left there as an audit manager in 1973 to join the Pennsylvania Auditor General's office, where he was employed in various positions before being appointed Deputy Auditor General, serving in that position from 1987 to 1989.

Also, for 16 years during this same period of time, he was a part-time associate lecturer teaching introductory and intermediate accounting, business finance, and federal and state income tax courses at two community colleges and at Penn State.



Tom was initially appointed as Michigan's 41st Auditor General by House Concurrent Resolution 416 on October 18, 1989 and took office on November 2, 1989. On June 12, 1997, the Legislature finalized his reappointment for a 2nd eight-year term as Auditor General, and on October 26, 2005, he was again entrusted with the responsibilities of Auditor General for a 3rd eight-year term. At the request of the Legislature, Tom continued serving as Auditor General beyond the end of his 3rd full term, until June 8, 2014, for a total of 24 years and 7 months, resulting in him becoming Michigan's longest serving Auditor General.

During his tenure as Michigan Auditor General, Tom served as president of the National State Auditors Association (NSAA) in 1999-2000 and as president of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) in 2008-2009. He was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. He received the AICPA Outstanding CPA in Government Award in 2009, the MICPA Outstanding CPA in Government Award in 2011, and the prestigious NSAA William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award in 2014.

His accomplishments as Michigan's Auditor General are many. Not only did he accomplish his initial objectives to produce more performance audits and to improve communication with the Legislature, but also over the past 24+ years managed to build Michigan's Office of the Auditor General into one of the country's most effective and highly regarded state audit departments.

At a dinner held to celebrate his career and retirement, Tom was quick to point out that the profession-related awards he had accumulated through the years began after he became Michigan's Auditor General, he considered all of this recognition as team recognition, and he simply was the recipient on behalf of the staff of the Michigan Office of the Auditor General.

Tom and his wife, Cynthia, were blessed with 31 years of marriage and 6 children: Sean McTavish, Todd (Vanessa) McTavish, Melissa (Jakob) Carstensen, Adam Clere, Nick (Nicky) Clere, and Caitlin McTavish. They also have 6 beautiful grandchildren, Isa, Pia, and Mattias Carstensen and Adam, Luna, and Lucy Clere.



*“Those we love can never be more than a thought away, for as long as there’s a memory, they live in our hearts to stay.”*  
*Author Unknown*