

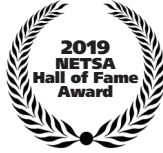


**2019  
NETSA  
Hall of Fame  
Award**

**In recognition of their outstanding  
Leadership & Contributions  
to the Tire & Service Industry in New England**

**2019 Hall of Fame Inductees March 30, 2019**

## 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee - Thomas O. Auger



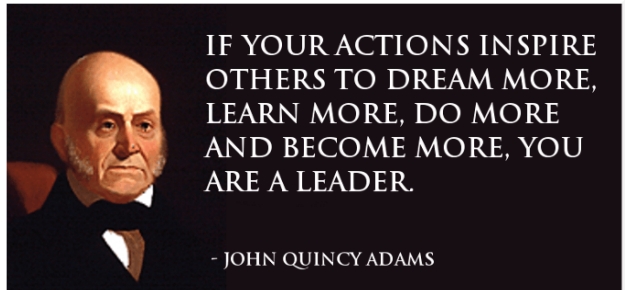
Thomas O. Auger was born in Lewiston, Maine January 14, 1928. He was educated in the Auburn, Maine school system where he showed outstanding promise as an athlete. As an eighth grader at Webster Grammar School he earned his first Varsity Letter playing baseball and went on to be a triple letter athlete at Edward Little High School. On completion of high school, he signed to pitch for the St. Louis Cardinals. After a promising start, a shoulder injury ended his baseball career. Tom proudly served his country from 1951 to 1955 in the U.S. Air Force. He married Mildred Parent in 1951, and they raised three children. They were married for fifty-nine years.

Tom was hired by B.F. Goodrich as a tire salesman after returning to Maine. In 1955 he started his own company called the L & A Tire Company in Lewiston, Maine with a \$300.00 loan, a used tire machine, and working out of a rented bay. By 1976 the business had grown to include auto parts and accessories, and L & A Tire became VIP Discount Auto Center. By the time Tom sold his business in 2001, VIP Discount

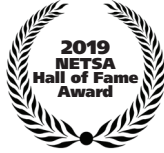
Auto Center had forty-six stores across New England.

Tom was very active in his community throughout his life, donating to numerous causes. He was a man known for his generosity, kindness, and sense of humor. He always had a smile on his face and always had a kind word to say. He was the recipient of numerous awards like Outstanding Business Person in 1990 by the Lewiston-Auburn Chamber of Commerce, Retailer of the Year by the New England Automotive Booster Club in 1991, and again by the Automotive Marketing Magazine in 1998. He supported local businesses and was always available to help individuals and causes. He supported the Great Falls Balloon Festival, Youth Athletic teams, and supplied warm-up apparel to his old high school. After the sale of VIP, Tom shared \$2 million with those employees who remained loyal to him and his business.

Thomas Auger died on October 6, 2010 at the age of 82 surrounded by his loving family, following a long illness. ■



## 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee - Harvey Rudnick



I was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1948. I have three older sisters, and at the age of seventy, I am still considered the baby of the family. In July, my wife Elaine and I will celebrate forty-three years of marriage. We have two children, Becca and Dan, and four terrific grandchildren. I graduated with a BA from the University of Oklahoma in 1970.

In 1971, I opened my first business with Ben Kravitz. It was a gas station in Norwood, Massachusetts. Within a few years we expanded to four gas stations. In 1975 we opened our first tire store, Windsor Tire. Over the course of many years we grew our business and at one point it included eight tire and auto service locations in Massachusetts. Then, while visiting my in-laws in Portland Maine, I discovered their neighbor owned a wholesale tire center servicing northern New England. We were offered the rights to expand the wholesale tire business in Massachusetts, so in 1979 Frank Ledwith, Ben and myself started Summit Tire. Eventually we serviced all New England with warehouses in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. In

2005, Ben and I started a wholesale auto parts business with my son Dan running the operation. Dan now owns and runs Mighty Auto Parts.

I wore many different hats during my career, but for the most part I oversaw anything that had to do with human resources. I did training for our store managers, and for our wholesale tire customers on all aspects of employment practices. I often mentored our wholesale customers on running a retail store. Helping our wholesale customers run their stores was a win-win situation. It gave the single store operator access to someone who knew the business from the inside out, also it was beneficial to Summit Tire to sell these retail locations tires. To me, mentoring the retail store owners was the most enjoyable part of the business.

I continue to mentor small business owners with the SCORE Program (Service Core of Retired Executives). I am now retired and living the dream in Southwest Florida. I enjoy biking and taking extended cruises with Elaine on our boat. I plan to live forever! So far, so good!

I would like to thank everyone involved, for this honor. ■

## 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee - Sid Tinson



My automotive career began in 1968 after I graduated from Bryant University, and was hired by Monroe Auto Equipment Co. (Monroe shocks and struts). I worked in the Western New York/Buffalo market for eight years, then was transferred to New England as a Sales Manager. Here my relationship with the NETSA membership began, I met and worked with many tire dealers and became a member of the association.

After twenty-three years with Monroe, I was hired as Sales Manager at Quinsig Automotive Warehouse (Christie & Thomson Auto Parts) in Worcester and five years later I joined Meineke Car Care Centers as Operations Manager in New England and portions of Upstate New York. Each of these automotive positions kept me involved with the tire industry, developing

relationships within the NETSA membership.

In 2005 I joined the Sullivan Tire team as Sales Manager of the Wholesale Division and became a member of NETSA's Board of Directors. I retired from Sullivan Tire after twelve years. It was a great ride! I continue to attend the annual convention to keep in touch with industry friends. My wife Kathy and I continue our friendship with the Sullivan family. We have worked many events together and we always enjoy meeting new people.

My family has always been supportive of the long hours and the traveling I did throughout my career. My wife Kathy is my biggest supporter, as well as our daughter Mary-Ellen and her husband Gino, our daughter Kelly and her husband Joe, our son Rob and his wife Ellen. Rob is following in my footsteps working in the automotive field nationally with Schrader/TPMS. Our children have given us eight beautiful grandchildren.

Kathy and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary this year. We hope to start making many more memories and look forward to continuing our friendship with all of you.

I would like to thank NETSA for the honor of becoming a NETSA Hall of Fame recipient. I also want to thank Larry Farrell for nominating me. ■

# *Congratulations!*

*to this year's inductees for your years of dedicated service & commitment  
to our industry from your Friends at*

**SULLIVAN  TIRE**