



Thomas Joseph Audley

December 10, 1939 - October 27, 2024

Thomas Joseph Audley, Jr, died in Charleston, South Carolina on Sunday October 27, 2024.

Tom was born December 10, 1939, in Kansas City, Kansas to Thomas Joseph and Mary (Quinlan) Audley. His paternal grandmother said that he was named for his great uncle Thomas Audley who had immigrated from Ireland, but later returned to Ireland to enable his parents to purchase farmland in Headford, County Galway. Tom enjoyed a rich diversity in Catholic education beginning with 4 years of elementary school at St Peter's Catholic school in Kansas City, Kansas, where he was taught by Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. At age ten his parents moved their family to Overland Park where he completed elementary school at the parish school of Queen of the Holy Rosary, taught by Ursuline Sisters of Paola. He treasured his high school education at St Joseph High School in Shawnee Kansas where developed life-long friendships with classmates. Here he was taught by

Benedictine Sisters of Atchison.

College studies took him to St Thomas Seminary in Denver staffed by Vincentian Fathers.

He transferred to Rockhurst College for his senior year to be introduced to the Jesuit

priests. That wonderful Jesuit experience lasted for more than 51 years.

His major professor of Philosophy secured his enrollment at Marquette University as an

Arthur J. Schmitt Fellow when he graduated from Rockhurst in 1961. Tom earned his

Master's degree here. It was here that he met his beloved and beautiful wife, Karen

Ellen Hackbarth. They were married in lower Gesu church on the Marquette campus.

While studying at Marquette he took the job as Registrar and Admission Director for the

Marquette School of Medicine. After a couple of years, he was named Director of

Admissions for the University.

In 1974 he returned to Rockhurst University as Director of Admission, a position he held

until he transferred to the Advancement Office in 1990. He retired as Assistant to the

President. While employed he earned a Paralegal Certificate.

In 1995 he and his oldest daughter Elizabeth were named Director of Planned Giving on

the same day. He at Rockhurst and Liz at Loyola University in Baltimore.

Tom served

in several positions in the advancement office before retiring in 2012 as Special

Assistant to the President.

During his service at Rockhurst he was very active in professional organizations for

Admission, Fundraising and Jesuit activities.

During retirement, Tom volunteered for 13 years with the AARP Tax-Aide programs to

prepare income tax returns on a voluntary basis.

Tom and Karen liked to travel and visited throughout the USA, Europe, the Caribbean,

and South America. They particularly enjoyed visiting cousins in Ireland. Both golfed,

though Karen was always the better golfer.

Tom is survived by his beloved bride, Karen, his beautiful and talented daughters,

Elizabeth, her husband Steven Ben Attias, and their two children Christopher and Kate,

who live in South Carolina; Mary, her husband Paul Dawdy and their two children

Thomas and Sarah, who live in North Carolina; and by his daughter Ann, her husband

Joseph Erskine and their two daughters, Kristina and Erin. Tom especially enjoyed his

card games with his grandchildren.

He is also survived by his sisters, Catherine Ann Audley and Sue Ellen Audley Chaffee

(David), and his brother John Francis Audley (Katie) and all of their children and

grandchildren. And he is survived by too many cousins to name, located all across the

globe. And by Friends across the country that he met through school, work

and

volunteer activities.

Tom requests instead of flowers, donations to The Audley Family Fund at Rockhurst

University to aid in the Jesuit education he enjoyed and promoted throughout his

career.

Finally, Tom requests your prayers for his eternal happiness as he awaits you joining

him.

A Memorial Mass will be held Thursday, October 31, 2024, at 11 am at Precious Blood

of Christ Catholic Church in Pawleys Island, SC. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held

at Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Overland Park, KS. The funeral will be at Queen of the Holy Rosary at 10:30 am on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The funeral will be preceded by visitation at the Church from 9:30 to 10:30. Burial to follow at Resurrection Cemetery. to be announced.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

OCT **31**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Precious Blood Catholic Church
1633 Waverly Rd
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
(843) 237-3428

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Dear Karen and family,
For the past year I have been thinking about this most kind and gentle man, and how he has been one of the greatest influences in my life - and continues to be this day. He always will. Tom is surely remembered as an expert in his field and the epitome of a gentleman. He was that to me but much more. He was a towering figure in my student years at Rockhurst and became legend when he shepherded and innovated the planned giving program at the University -- he made Maurice McNellis proud. When I was a fellow staff member - twice - he worked collegially with me and made sure my contributions mattered. Tom guided me in planned giving - along with John Shehane and Jane Lampo - and he believed that if we put the donor's interests and need foremost, then all would benefit. Tom was the embodiment of integrity. Tom encouraged and empowered. Tom cared. Tom also exemplified the family man - that family and faith were foremost. How he loved you all; his joy and pride and wonder in you radiated. One of the last sentiments he shared with me was. "I like you in my life." I feel the same way, dear Tom, and I always will. My heart and thoughts are with you.



Pamela Miller - November 25, 2025 at 05:10 PM

CB

“ I also worked with Tom at Rockhurst University. We actually completed the paralegal program at the same time.

Tom was a very kind, gentle, caring person. I really enjoyed working with him and think of him often and fondly.

May God's covering and mercy be with his family always.

Caroline Brown

Caroline Brown - May 21, 2025 at 07:32 PM