

Thomas Webb Jr. (1948 - 2015) ¹⁷⁰

(News article) Thomas I. Webb, Jr., a partner in the Toledo law firm of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick and a leader in cultural and civic groups, died Wednesday in his Ottawa Hills home. He was 66.

He'd had a long illness, his wife, Polly, said.

Mr. Webb joined Shumaker Loop in 1973 after admission to the Ohio bar and became a partner of the firm as his late father had been. He regularly represented financial institutions and publicly and privately held businesses, according to the firm's website, and regularly received professional honors.

His specialties included mergers and acquisitions, international transactions, securities law, and public finance. He was a former chairman of the firm's corporate law department.

Mr. Webb was a pillar of the firm, said Dave Rectenwald, also a partner, and he put the partnership's interests ahead of his own. In legal matters, Mr. Webb calmly thought matters through.

"He had tremendous finesse to resolve the most complicated and combative situations," said Mr. Rectenwald, who met Mr. Webb as a Shumaker Loop summer intern in 1984. "He dealt with opposing attorneys with great respect, rather than being aggressive. He had an approach different from most corporate lawyers, and it was very effective."

Mr. Webb and Stephen Staelin were on student council together at Ottawa Hills High School and, later, had clients in common.

"He was the consummate professional lawyer, always available for sound advice," said Mr. Staelin, a retired managing partner of the accounting firm Ernst & Young's office in Toledo.

Mr. Webb in 2001 was appointed by Gov. Bob Taft to the Medical College of Ohio board of trustees. He'd also been a trustee of Lourdes University and Maumee Valley Country Day School.

Until recently, he was Ottawa Hills' commissioner of taxation. He was a past trustee of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority and was a former board president of the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo. He was a former president of the Toledo Club and had been vice chairman of the AAA Northwest Ohio board. He served on the board of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and as a trustee of the Toledo Symphony.

To his board service, Mr. Webb "brought a sound legal mind, with a particular sensitivity to good governance," said Mr. Staelin, a fellow symphony trustee and chamber of commerce board member.

He was born Sept. 16, 1948, to Marcia and Thomas Webb and was a graduate of Ottawa Hills High School. He was a graduate of Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., and Case Western Reserve law school.

His great-grandfather, Willard Webb, was an original shareholder of what became Ohio Citizens Bank. His grandfather, Willard, Jr., and uncle, Willard III, were chairmen of the bank.

"He was very proud of where he came from and talked about it a lot," his wife said.

Ohio Citizens and National City Corp. merged in 1982, although the Ohio Citizens name endured for several years afterward.

Mr. Webb, a dedicated golfer, was a member of Crystal Downs Country Club in northern Michigan and enjoyed time at the family cottage on Crystal Lake. In Toledo, he was a member of the Inverness Club and the Toledo Country Club.

"He always put work in perspective, and it was subordinate to the more important things in life, including family and vacation time," Mr. Rectenwald said.

Surviving are his wife, Polly, whom he married Oct. 11, 1986; daughters, Elisabeth Webb, Amy Oathout, Katie Williams, and Becky Kloefer; brothers, Robert and Tim; sister, Leslie Janiak, and nine grandchildren.

A celebration of life is to begin at noon Monday at Toledo Country Club. Arrangements are by the Walker Funeral Home.

The family suggests tributes to Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen, Mich., or the American Red Cross.