FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR RECEIVES AUDITOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hamilton County Auditor Dusty Rhodes was honored by County Auditors as the 2019 recipient of the “Richard J. Makowski Award for the Outstanding County Auditor of the Year”. The award was presented by Stark County Auditor Alan Harold, outgoing president of the County Auditors’ Association of Ohio (CAAO), at their annual conference on November 21, 2019. The award was started in 1996 to honor the late Richard J. Makowski, County Auditor of Geauga County and CAAO President in 1995. Mr. Rhodes is the 24th recipient of this prestigious award.

Mr. Harold noted that Auditor Makowski exemplified what it took to become an 'exceptional' County Auditor. A hard worker who never gave up on a worthy cause, he could always find a way to bring people together to accomplish the impossible. He always brought out the best in his staff and the people he worked with in the CAAO.

Dusty Rhodes was re-elected to an eighth term as Hamilton County Auditor in 2018, almost two-to-one (65%) over his opponent, the most of any candidate running county-wide. In 1990 he became the first Democratic endorsed candidate to win a Hamilton County administrative office in two decades. He was previously a Delhi Township Trustee and President of the Hamilton County Township Association for seven years.

A long-time area radio personality, his series of yearly music and radio histories from 1955 to 1969 is currently heard on WMKV, 89.3, on Sunday nights. His annual Christmas programs have been heard nationwide since the early 1990s. In 1964, he was one of the "Good Guys" sponsoring the Beatles' Cincinnati appearance during their first American tour, and in 1965 he was named "Cincinnati’s Most Popular Disc Jockey" by "Billboard" magazine. In 2001 he was inducted into the Ohio Radio & TV Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Under his stewardship, Hamilton County was one of the first metropolitan areas in the country to have a property search website. According to Dusty, “By making property records available 24/7 we have reduced the opportunity for corruption and saved countless trips to our office by professionals who use our information every day. The website allows us to communicate with citizens and even provides estimates of individual costs of proposed new tax levies”. Hamilton County was also the first to post expenditures on line, pre-dating Ohio’s Open Checkbook by a decade.

Dusty has served on the CAAO Executive Committee, is a founding member of the Western Hills Community Service Club, a member of the Cincinnatus Association and the Cheviot-Westwood Kiwanis, and belongs to several civic and political organizations.

Dusty and his wife Jo Ann celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary this year, have two sons, one grandson, and are members of the St. Vincent de Paul parish in Riverside.

The CAAO includes all 88 County Auditors. Now entering its 152nd year, the Association was established to promote and protect the interests of the taxpayers of Ohio and to improve the administration of county government.

#