



## Richard H. Payne

April 20, 2023

Richard Hurst Payne, 87, of Monroeville, formerly of Charleston, West Virginia, transitioned from this life on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Mr. Payne was born on April 12, 1936, to Thomas L. Payne and Laura Ann (Lifsey) Payne in Charleston, West Virginia. In 1954, Mr. Payne graduated from Henry Highland Garnet High School in Kanawha County, Charleston, West Virginia, a year preceding the federal mandate to integrate public schools. While at Garnet, he played football and basketball and was affectionately known as “The Rabbit” because he would hit you and run in the boxing ring. He played drums for the marching band, served as president of the student council, and was a member of the Boy’s Speech Choir. He went on to study biology at West Virginia State College, now University, with graduate studies at West Virginia University; Indiana University of Bloomington, Indiana; and Marshall University of Huntington, West Virginia. In 1954, Mr. Payne met Barbara Leigh Booker at the Donnally Street pool in Charleston, West Virginia, where he worked as a lifeguard during summer vacation. They married in September 1960 and went on to have four daughters, Ruth Evangeline Payne (Stevens), Ph.D.; Laura Ann Payne (Milton) Chunn, ABD; Richelle Denise Payne (Owens), CCP; and Charlene Yvonne Payne (Covington) Parrish, MBA. Mr. Payne served more than four decades as Lead Equal Opportunity Specialist, responsible for administering Federal laws and policies that ensure all Americans equal access to housing. He served as principal on-site Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity civil rights official under the direction of the Philadelphia Hub

Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity with program management provided by the Pittsburgh Office. Previously, he was employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Stamp Division, where he participated in the introduction of the Food Stamp Program in the City of New York. That appointment was preceded by teaching positions in the Job Corp and the Public School System of Kanawha County, West Virginia. He was instrumental in the establishment of the West Virginia Human Relations Commission, the Charleston Human Rights Commission, the Huntington Human Rights Commission, and the Monroeville, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. He is a member of the Garnet Foundation Hall of Fame. He is a Life Member and former president of the Charleston and Monroeville, Pa., Branches of the NAACP, State of WV NAACP Youth Advisor, and co-founder and former president of UNION, a civil rights organization consisting of 35 independent organizations under the umbrella of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) headed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Also, Mr. Payne served as President of Multi-Cap, a tri-county agency serving the least amongst us. Mr. Payne is a founding member of the Pittsburgh Council of Men, Inc., a founding member of the Tau chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and a brother of the Washington Masonic Lodge #4 in Charleston, WV. In 2010, Mr. Payne retired from HUD, and completed an associate's degree in Biblical Studies from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. He also spent time traveling internationally, learning Greek, gardening, and spending time with his wife, his children, eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and family. Mr. Payne was predeceased by his father Thomas L. Payne and his mother Laura (Lifsey) Payne; his brother, Christopher Howard (Helen Berry); two sisters: Shirley Ann and Helen Jurina (Thomas Dolphus Brown); three sisters-in-law: Ernestine (Alvin Cooper, Sr.); Mary Elizabeth (Louis Anthony, Sr.); and four brothers-in-law: Charles Lawrence; Howard Leon; John Leonard and Eddie Lindsey, Sr. He is survived by his wife, Barbara (Booker) Payne; Mary Catherine "Pudgie" Booker and Constance Elizabeth Lindsey. Services will be held at Garden City United

Methodist Church, 500 Laurel Drive, Monroeville, Pa., on Saturday, April 29, 2023, with visitation beginning at 4:00 p.m., a service at 5:00 p.m., and a reception at 7:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Garden City United Methodist Church's 12 Baskets program for the homeless. For more information, contact 412-373-0391. Arrangements entrusted to the GENE H. CORL FUNERAL CHAPEL INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES OF MONROEVILLE. [www.corlfuneralchapel.com](http://www.corlfuneralchapel.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **29**. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Garden City United Methodist Church  
500 Laurel Drive  
Monroeville, PA 15146

## Celebration of Life Service

APR **29**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Garden City United Methodist Church  
500 Laurel Drive  
Monroeville, PA 15146

# Tribute Wall

LC

“ Happy Father’s Day Dad. I miss you so much. We wish we could hug and kiss you today and tell you again how much we love you. I just miss you so much.

Laura Payne Chunn - June 18, 2023 at 12:28 PM

SW

“ I’m so sorry of the loss of your Dear Father. I am just reading your post and realizing that he is now in the presence of God. You and your family are in our prayers. It’s evident that he has left an amazing legacy that will last through eternity by being an example of how life is to be lived and a family is to exhibit love. May he rest in peace and know that he is watching you from above. Steve

Steve Whittington - May 21, 2023 at 08:23 PM

LP

“ Dad. You are the greatest. I love you and miss you every day. Thank you for showing me the love of God through you. I smile, I laugh, I cry, I rejoice, I cry some more. I miss you.

Laura Ann Payne - May 07, 2023 at 12:33 PM

CI

“ We send our condolences and prayers for your family. We love you all Laura ,Mikalah, Nathan and Marcus. May God give you peace in your hears for your loss. Remembering all of you with love Ricky , Char, Ruth and Mrs Barbara Payne.

Cynthia and Eugene Wooten Iii - April 30, 2023 at 08:33 AM

SC

“ My deepest condolences to the family. Mr. Payne was an inspiration to so many and his legacy lives on .  
Elder Stanley Cousins.

Stanley cousins - April 30, 2023 at 07:16 AM

ST

“ We send our love, hugs, and prayers to the Payne family. What an honor and blessing to have known Mr. Payne. Rest well sir ❤️  
Scot and Shlesta Thomas

Shlesta Thomas - April 28, 2023 at 02:09 PM

RM

“ We were sadden to hear about the passing of Dick! We have known Dick for over 40 years and his presence will be missed. As Members of GCUM Church, we knew Dick as a stellar contributor and his input was well thought out with kindness and integrity. We visited GCUM last month and it was a pleasure to see Dick and two of his daughters. He was a true Mentor for many and we give him THANKS for all of his services! May God bless and bring peace to Barbara and the Payne Family!

Bob and Sharon Mungo  
Myrtle Beach, SC

Robert Mungo - April 28, 2023 at 11:23 AM

BH

“ My sincere condolences and prayers go out to the Payne family. Mr Payne was a kind, loving and great man. I was very fortunate to have known him. Heaven has gained a great angel.

Byron Keith Howze - April 27, 2023 at 11:45 PM

TG

“ My Condolences to you Laura and your family, may God keep and strengthen you and your family in this time.

Tyona Greene - April 27, 2023 at 10:54 AM

TG

“ Tyona Greene sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard Payne



Tyona Greene - April 27, 2023 at 10:50 AM

CC

“ From your nephew, the Eddie Cooper family . You are father, the mentor who said only a few words until asked ... Then you get the story start to finish... What a blessing to marry my Aunt Barbara and give us those girls ...in addition to being Relatives, Ruth, Laura Anne, Ricki, and Char are some of family's first friends. Love and Rest in Heaven Uncle Bunny. We're gonna be Alright... Thank you and We'll Done

Charles 'Eddie' Cooper - April 27, 2023 at 08:39 AM

BM

“ A man with a powerful force of spiritual energy, yet a man who was a gentle giant with a big heart in my eyes. Love Peace and Wholeness be unto his family left behind. 🙏❤️🙏🕯️

Belinda Gayle Milton - April 27, 2023 at 07:55 AM



“ Miss you My Best Friend ❤️ love you forever and always Grandpa  
❤️ ∞

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**Nate Milton** - April 26, 2023 at 01:01 PM

BM

*Laura, the McDay family sends it's condolences. Let not your heart be troubled nor let it be afraid. You are loved.*

*Deacon Ben McDay  
Shiloh Baptist Church*

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**Benjamin McDay** - April 27, 2023 at 07:25 AM

CJ

“ We send love and light to the family of Laura during this difficult time. We are praying for your peace and happy memories of your father.

*With deepest sympathy, APDS*

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**Charmaine Jordan-Morton** - April 24, 2023 at 07:38 PM