



Lawrence "Larry" Howard Payne

July 11, 1938 - December 19, 2020

Lawrence (Larry) Howard Payne, age 82, passed away peacefully at his home December 19, 2020. He was born July 11, 1938, in Memphis, Tennessee to Richmond Byron Payne and Margery McReynolds Payne. He married his lifetime sweetheart, Bettye Bain, in 1959. Together they raised five children, Letty (Scott) Thies; Rick (Kim) Payne; Rich (Holly) Payne; Larry (Lori) Payne; and Susan (Peter) Cook. Other surviving family members include 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all of whom will miss him very much.

Lawrence led a lifetime of achievement and service to others. He grew up in Olive Branch, Mississippi, where he enjoyed playing football, basketball, baseball, and discus on the track team. Other activities included band, glee club, yearbook staff, Boy Scouts and the 4H Club. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Mississippi where he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and graduated in 1961 with a B.S. in Business Administration.

After college, he held positions of increasing responsibility at REA Express in Jackson, TN; Jackson, MS; Memphis, TN; Lexington, KY; and St. Louis, MO. Thereafter, he joined the Procter and Gamble Corporation and moved to Cape Girardeau. He had many offers to leave Cape but decided to remain here to raise his family. He was active in many youth-oriented activities while his children were growing up. He served as Cub Master for Pack 20 at Alma Schrader school, was head of the Parent-Teacher-Student organization at Cape Central High School, coached Cape Youth Baseball Little League, Pony League, and Sr. Babe Ruth teams and served as Commissioner of Cape Youth Baseball. He was instrumental in procuring lights for the baseball fields inside the track at Arena Park. He also coached in the Cape Youth Flag Football League and the Optimist Youth Softball League.

He left Procter and Gamble to start his own business and acquired Rose Concrete Products, Inc. and SEMO Ready Mix, Inc. He was also the owner of Metro Concrete, Inc. and Arrowhead Steel, Inc. In 2000, Rose Concrete Products was awarded the Small Business of the Year by the Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce. In 2005, Rose Concrete Products was honored by the Missouri House of Representatives for Excellence in Industry.

Lawrence was a tireless advocate for his community. As a member of the National Water Pollution Control Federation, he served on the Corps of Engineers task force that provided the justification and funding to improve the flow of Cape La Croix Creek that finally ended the constant flooding of the Town Plaza area of Cape Girardeau. As a member and eventual Chairman of the District 10 Committee to Pass Proposition B and 15-year Plan, he fought for the construction of the Bill Emerson Bridge and the four-lane highway between Cape and Jackson.

As Chairman of the Cape Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee, he committed himself to set up and gain voter approval for the Transportation Trust Fund. This program was approved after other efforts to gain funding for street improvements had failed. As Chairman of the Board of the Cape Chamber of Commerce, he was instrumental in the initiation of the Rush H. Limbaugh Award and bringing representatives of Southeast Missouri University and the City of Cape Girardeau on the Board as ex-officio members. He was also a Charter Member and a Board Member of the Scott City Chamber of Commerce.

Lawrence was appointed to the Cape Girardeau Road and Bridge Advisory Board where he was elected as the first chairman. He was later asked to work with the Missouri Department of Transportation on the redesign of the center junction project. When the US Census declined the Cape Girardeau-Jackson area as a statistical urban area, it required the formation of an Urban Planning Organization. He was instrumental in forming the organization and became the first chairman of the SEMPO Technical Planning Committee. He was also a member of the Associated General Contractors of Missouri, the Southern Illinois Contractors Association, the West Kentucky Contractors Association, and the Southeast Missouri Contractors Association where he served several years as Treasurer. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Concrete Pipe Association and chaired the Education Committee for two years while also serving on two technical committees of the National Pre-Cast Concrete Association.

During his spare time, he became an avid quail hunter and served as GOFER for Tower Club for ten years.

Lawrence's wishes were not to have a funeral or memorial service. Instead, he has asked his children to host a "grand party" in his honor where dear friends, colleagues and family could gather to celebrate the gifts of life and happiness. Rest assured to all who loved him that the family will make this happen as soon as it is COVID-safe to do so. In lieu of flowers, Lawrence wished to support two of his favorite causes: Christmas for the Elderly and Toybox. Please mail donations to Cape Jaycees, P.O. Box 4, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703-0004. Checks should indicate, "In Memory – Larry Payne" and also indicate whether the money should go to "Christmas for the Elderly" or to "Toybox."

Comments



“ Sorry for your loss. Met Larry though youth baseball years ago and have been friends since. He will be missed.
Harvey Hecht

Harvey Hecht - December 27, 2020 at 05:58 PM



“ Dear Payne Family, We are so sorry about Larry. We had been neighbors for so long and have some good memories. Susan, we can still close our eyes and see you and Kim on the basketball court. Those games were exciting to watch. Larry cheered as much as we did.
It is hard to lose a husband, Dad, and a Paw paw, so we pray that God will give you strength for each new day, and that the memories that you shared will also bring much comfort.
God's love and ours,
Harold and Jeanine Hager

Harold & Jeanine Hager - December 23, 2020 at 05:17 PM



“ To Bettye and the "kids", my sincere condolences to you. I have many memories of Lawrence; he was always a gentleman. Lawrence was always nice to my sons and me from little league through college. Thank you, Lawrence.
Judy Bullock Graetz.

Judy Bullock Graetz - December 21, 2020 at 04:38 PM