

## Richard H. Payne

February 7, 1948 - May 1, 2026

Richard H. Payne, 78, of Bluffton, passed away Friday morning, May 1, 2026, at Christian Care Retirement Community.

Richard was born on February 7, 1948, in Bluffton to J. Russell and Gwen (Sommers) Payne. He graduated from Lancaster High School in 1966 and furthered his education at International Business School. He was the Vice President of Old First National Bank for many years. He also worked for Pizza Hut. Richard was a member of First United Church of Christ and had more recently been attending Life Community Church. He enjoyed Christmas, reading, and spending time with his family and his granddaughters.

On March 7, 1970, Richard and Sharon Carney were married in Bluffton. The couple has been blessed with 56 years of marriage.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon Payne of Bluffton and a son, Reid (Angie) Payne of Martinsville, along with two granddaughters, Brianna and Morgan Payne.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his siblings, Ronald Payne, Virginia Hartman and Carol Fiechter.

A memorial service will be held at 1 P.M. on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Mike Gilbert officiating.

Visitation will take place from 10 A.M. until 1 P.M. prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be made to Stability First in Martinsville and may be directed through the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends may share online condolences with the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 9. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-3850  
info@thomarich.com

## Memorial Service

MAY 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-3850  
info@thomarich.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard H. Payne*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - May 09 at 10:08 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Richard H. Payne.*



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May 27 at 08:54 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard H. Payne.*

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May 27 at 08:54 PM

SF

“ Dear Sharon, Reid, and family,  
What a beautiful soul has been taken from this earth. I haven't seen Rich in many a year, but I will always remember him for his gentlemanly, caring ways. He was gracious, even as a teen. He and his siblings rode the school bus with me, so I will remember the entire clan! When Rich was still in high school, he worked in the lab at Caylor-Nickel ~ that's when I really got to know him. Sharon and I got our hair done by the same lady and I remember her telling us about their unexpected blessing when they found out Reid was on his way! Rich seemed to always have a smile on his face. I can still hear his gentle chuckle! Rich was a very kind person, always finding the good and the positive. May your memories fill your hearts with much love. Sending prayers of comfort and peace at this difficult time. Lovingly, Sandy Geist Funk



Sandy Geist Funk - May 09 at 05:53 PM

GH

“ My condolences to the Payne Family. Richard was a year ahead of me at Lancaster Central. Remember all the Payne siblings! Have memories of Richard at Old First National too. He was always so friendly and kind. May God Bless you with precious memories to bring you peace and comfort!!  
Glennis (Schoeff) Henly

Glennis Henly - May 09 at 05:13 PM

LP

“ Love, Bobby, Lisa, Baylor and Preslie purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Richard H. Payne.



Love, Bobby, Lisa, Baylor and Preslie - May 08 at 06:18 PM

LP

“ Love, Bobby, Lisa, Baylor and Preslie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard H. Payne.

Love, Bobby, Lisa, Baylor and Preslie - May 08 at 06:18 PM

CH

“ connie Headdy lit a candle in memory of Richard Payne



connie Headdy - May 08 at 05:45 PM

CD

“ Payne Family, I met Rich as a teenager and in-law (Ron) on the Dillon side. We were all family back then. I will always remember his big sweet smile and caring greetings. Prayers and best wishes for your family in the days ahead.

Cindy Dillon - May 08 at 10:59 AM

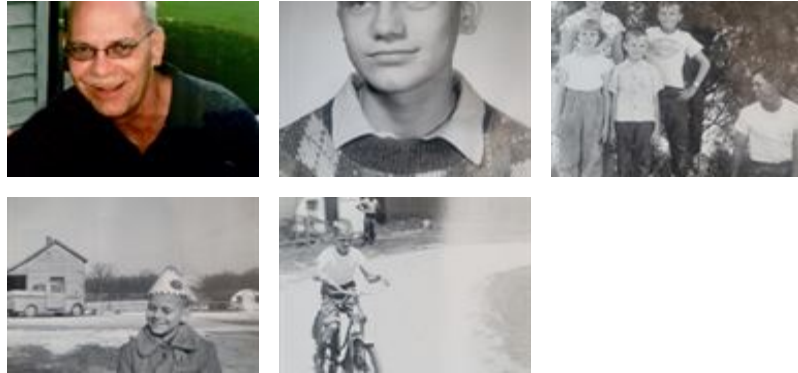
JE

“ To, Sharon and Family  
We have nothing but fond memories of Rich. Rich, and Sharon, have lived their lives in service to their community. He will be missed by all who knew him.  
the Espich's

Jeff Espich - May 07 at 08:38 AM



“ 56 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - May 06 at 06:40 PM



“ THE BALLARD FAMILY, OF LAFAYETTE ( BONNIE), A sister of AUNT GWEN IS SO SORRY TO HEAR THIS. WE SEND OUR CONDOLENCES. HUGS, LOVE, KISSES. Ted will come to the showing Funeral on Saturday May 9th at 10 am to share in the Payne family loss as not all of the Ballard's will be able to come. 🙏  
❤️

TEDDY BALLARD - May 06 at 03:12 PM



“ Brian Sheltz purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Richard H. Payne.



Brian Sheltz - May 06 at 09:16 AM

BS

“ Brian Sheltz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard H. Payne.

Brian Sheltz - May 06 at 09:16 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard H. Payne.

May 06 at 08:40 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard H. Payne.



May 06 at 08:40 AM

DW

“ Sharon so very sorry to hear of Rich's passing. He was a kind and gentle soul, always considerate and caring, in business and in life. You both helped us, in our much younger days, and celebrated various holidays at BK's. Sending prayers for comfort and peace to your entire family.

Devon Willey - May 05 at 08:41 PM

KW

“ Sharon, so very sorry for the loss of Rich. He was a kind, gentle soul. Don and I send prayers of comfort and peace to your entire family. You and Rich were always there to help and we will never forget your kindnesses.

kindness. Willey - May 05 at 08:00 PM

HH

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I loved working at Pizza Hut with Rich back in high school and so missed him being my banker! He was always so kind and always had a smile that could light up a room. Prayers to you Reid and Sharon.

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**Holly Hacha** - May 05 at 07:57 PM

BG

“ Sharon, I'm so so sad to hear about Rich's passing .. no matter how long the battle .. we are never fully prepared... I remember so well the good times that we had at Life Community Church and small group.. I'm so glad that I was able to know both of you and treasure our memories.. God Bless!!

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**Brenda Gibson** - May 05 at 06:34 PM

JJ

“ Gosh Sharon - am sorry for your loss and won't be able to attend his service but am sending you love. Lots and lots of memories of the good old banking days! how time has flown by and the "good, old days" are just great memories.

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**jackwyn e johnson** - May 05 at 03:53 PM

JG

“ I'm sorry for your loss. Richard was always nice to me. I remember him when I was a young girl. We went to pizza hut every Sunday. He always had a sile for us. He was very kind.

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**Jonelle M Gibson** - May 05 at 03:00 PM

TM

“ Sorry to hear of the loss Of Richard -Prayers of comfort Sharon and Reid and Family. I will be out of town Saturday



Trudy Murray - May 05 at 02:30 PM

DE

“ We have had the honor of knowing this man for many years, he was a good man all the way around ! My heart goes out to his family, God bless!

Denise - May 05 at 02:19 PM

CH

“ We are so Blessed to have known Rich and have him in our Family. He was such a Special Loving Man. Our Love And Prayers are with Sharon, Reid, Angie, Brianna, Morgan and family 🙏❤️

Connie Headdy - May 05 at 02:18 PM

SZ

“ Prayers for your family he was one of the kindest mam that I had the privilege of knowing the world lost a kind soul

Sherri Zook - May 05 at 12:49 PM