



Ron Payne

May 8, 1943 - October 5, 2018

Ron Payne, 75 of Ossian, passed away on Friday morning, October 5, 2018, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

Ron was born on May 8, 1943 in Bluffton to James Russell & Gwendolyn B. (Sommers) Payne. He graduated from Lancaster High School in 1961. A lifelong farmer, Ron also operated an excavating business and was a master Bobcat operator along with operating a welding and repair business on the family farm. He was a longtime member of the First Church of Christ, where he was known as the “sucker man” for always giving out suckers to the kids.

On January 11, 1964 in Bluffton, Ron and Joann L. (Dillon) Payne were married.

Survivors include his wife Joann of 54 years of Ossian and children; Stacey (James) Worth, Ron (Angie) Payne, Andy (Robin) Payne and a daughter-in-law, Jamie Vitz, all of Bluffton.

Ron is also survived by 7 grandchildren; Lucy Worth, Max Worth, Allie Payne, Jaden Payne and Claudia Vitz, Ellie Vitz and Sydney Vitz, and a brother Richard H. (Sharon) Payne of Bluffton. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by a son Eric Vitz and two sisters, Virginia Hartman and Carol Fiechter.

A Service to celebrate Ron’s life will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, at the First Church of Christ. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton. Calling hours will be held from 12 Noon to 8 P.M. on Tuesday at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton and for one hour prior to the service on Wednesday at the church.

In Leu of flowers, the family would prefer memorials may be made in Ron’s memory to First Church of Christ or Family Life Care (Hospice Care from Berne.)

Ron’s arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 9. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Visitation

OCT 10. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

First Church of Christ
909 W Spring St
Bluffton, IN

Service

OCT 10. 10:30 AM (ET)

First Church of Christ
909 W Spring St
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



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



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - October 13, 2018 at 11:59 AM



“ *Ron Payne*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Dear Rich,
I'm deeply saddened to learn of Ron's death. I can't imagine your loss. I have so many fond memories of the Payne kids riding on the bus!! May God grant you and the rest of the family comfort and peace in this difficult time.
Sandy Geist Funk*



Sandy Geist Funk - October 13, 2018 at 09:37 PM



“ *Joan , So sorry for your loss . Ron was one of the hardest working man I have ever seen. RIP RON*



Jerry Garrett - October 10, 2018 at 08:03 AM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Ron was always my favorite patient to visit. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Beth Cartwright RN



Beth Cartwright - October 09, 2018 at 08:40 PM

TH

“ Joanne and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. Mr. Ron will be greatly missed.

Tammy Holloway - October 09, 2018 at 08:40 PM

DJ

“ Dear Joann and family, Sorry to hear about Ron's passing. He was a great neighbor and a true friend. Lots of memories. He was always there in bad weather, plowing us out of the snow. If there was ever a problem, he was always there to help. He will be dearly missed by our family. My kids thought the world of Ron. Dennis Johnson and family

Dennis Johnson - October 09, 2018 at 08:18 PM

JF

“ Joann,
So very sorry to hear of your loss. I've shared this experience and it is not easy to lose a spouse and lifelong partner. Time has a way of healing and I wish the best for you going forward. You have been the centerpiece for keeping our 1960 class informed about each other's fortunes or misfortunes and for providing comfort in time of need. We so appreciate you and are thinking about you in your own time of distress and sorrow.

Love, and prayers,
Pat Flaningam

john p flaningam - October 09, 2018 at 08:12 PM

MO

“ If we had a hall of fame for fantastic people, Ron would be in it. What a guy! Max and Cathy Oswald

max Oswald - October 09, 2018 at 05:47 PM

DS

“ Joann and family. so sorry for your loss. We were blessed to be your neighbor. Remember when Dick had surgery? Who showed up at the door., the FTD florist man in his gold suit with twigs and dead weeds. For Rita's birthday, she got 1 snowball cupcake with a candle. Ron said, "you would've had 2 cupcakes but we ate one". We would've missed a lot of work if it hadn't been for Ron, out early in the cold and snow plowing our driveway! You will be missed. RIP. Love and prayers. Dick & Rita Snider

Dick & Rita Snider - October 08, 2018 at 09:52 PM

WL

“ With our love, Rosie and Laraine purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ron Payne.



With our love, Rosie and Laraine - October 08, 2018 at 08:16 PM

BK

“ Ron was an unique and special "one of a kind"...he was a good friend to Rex....we shared many memorable laughs....he will be missed



Billy Kreigh - October 08, 2018 at 06:55 PM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ron Payne.



October 08, 2018 at 05:38 PM



“ 149 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - October 08, 2018 at 05:02 PM

LN

“ Joan my condolences to you and the family. Ron was a life long friend and classmate. He will be missed.

Larry Newhard - October 08, 2018 at 02:22 PM

KG

“ To the Payne family, I am so very sorry for your loss. The loss of our dad is difficult...as he was the first man we counted on to protect us and provide for us. Later in life, we see him differently, but still with incredible love and respect. I'm sure your dad is safely in heaven, and continuing to watch over all of you.

Karen (Harty) Garay

Karen Garay - October 08, 2018 at 01:36 PM

TF

“ The Towne Family purchased the "The Old Rugged Cross 30" Rose Gold Sonnet Chime for the family of Ron Payne.



The Towne Family - October 08, 2018 at 01:26 PM

PH

“ Our sympathy is with you and your family. Those who love us never go away. Ron was one of my favorite cousins. I will never forget the great memories of all the summers I spent at the Payne farm. One summer stands out more than the others. I think I was about 10 or 11 and Ron ask Rich and I if we would like to go to the drive-in with him and his buddies and of course we said yes. Well we went in the pick up truck with a couch in the back. That was just one of many great memories I have of time spent with Ron.

Gone but never forgotten!!

RIP Ron

Phyllis - October 08, 2018 at 01:16 PM

CD

Extending our sympathy to the family. Our son Mike worked with Ron in the Bobcat business before going out on his own. Ron was a hard worker and Mike enjoyed working with him. Harry and Carol Dubach

Carol Dubach - October 08, 2018 at 05:56 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ron Payne.



October 08, 2018 at 11:40 AM

LB

“ *Lori Burke lit a candle in memory of Ron Payne*



Lori burke - October 08, 2018 at 11:24 AM

JB

“ *So Sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. You and your family are in our prayers.*
Joyce Bauermeister WW.

joyce Bauermesiter - October 08, 2018 at 08:29 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ron Payne.*

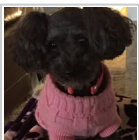


October 08, 2018 at 08:16 AM

SS

“ *Ron was always there when I needed him. Can't remember how many times he would pull my car out of the snow. Always came with a smile and if course he had to tease me about being in the snow again. It was three years ago I got to see him, and when we left, a big hug. Am flying in Wednesday, but in the evening. Was looking forward to seeing him again. RIP, Ron.*

Shelvia S Shaw - October 08, 2018 at 07:50 AM



“ *We are so sad to hear about the loss of Ron, he will certainly be missed by these neighbors who will literally remain neighbors forever. We can't count the number of times that Ron would show up at our home after a snow and plow Cathy and the kids out when Joe was on the road. It was always especially nice when he stopped in to warm his hands by the fire and visit before going back out into the cold to help someone else. Knowing that Ron was always there to help Cathy in bad weather took a huge amount of worry and pressure off Joe as he traveled. Thank you for treating our family like your own Ron. You will be greatly missed.*
Joe and Cathy Micklitsch

Cathy Micklitsch - October 07, 2018 at 05:52 AM