



Gary Craig Payne

March 22, 1955 - July 15, 2021

Gary Craig Payne, 66, passed away at his home in Dunnellon, FL on July 15, 2021. Gary was born in Redington Beach FL. on 3/22/1955 to Roy and Dorothy Payne where he was brought home from the hospital in a fruit basket to live in a small cabana at the Tides Bath Club. Gary was very self reliant and moved out on his own at the young age of 13. He attended school and worked until he enlisted in the army. He served in Vietnam and later Germany. He took full advantage of exploring Europe while in Germany. Upon his return he attended the University of Florida. He had vast knowledge in many areas due to holding jobs in numerous fields. He retired from Hillsborough County Water Resources. Having 4 sisters, he was always a protector and champion of women. He volunteered for nine years as security for the Krewe of Pandora and on numerous occasions saved women from serious injury during parades. He was a proud and long time member of the Tampa Rough Riders. He enjoyed the charity work and the comradery of other members. He lit up the room with his smile and sense of humor. Whether it was stories or bar tricks, he loved to entertain and make people laugh. Animals sensed his kind spirit and were drawn to him.

He was predeceased by his parents and recently his sister Connie Becker. He is survived by his wife and soul mate of 20 years, Lisa Payne; sister Bonnie Schillman, sister Helen Disken and her husband Al and sister Joy Chapman; sister-in-laws Dr. Carolyn Abernathy and JulieAnne Parker, many neices and nephews and his fur babies Barkley and Sassy.

He recently moved to Dunnellon where he spent endless hours on the patio enjoying the beauty, wildlife and serenity of Lake Rousseau.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 31. 1:00 PM (ET)

Payne Residence

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Craig Payne.* ”



July 30, 2021 at 11:20 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Craig Payne.* ”



July 29, 2021 at 03:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Craig Payne.* ”



July 29, 2021 at 01:45 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Craig Payne.* ”



July 26, 2021 at 04:49 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gary Craig Payne.*



July 25, 2021 at 11:18 PM



“ *Lisa and family
I am saddened and shocked to learn of Gary's passing. He ways always in good mood and happy and he took such good care of the Pandora's during parade season. I hope you find some solace in knowing how we all appreciated him and was glad he was there for us. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*With deepest sympathy,
Val Lineberry*

Val Lineberry - July 25, 2021 at 09:23 PM



“ *Gary,
Just wanted to tell you how fortunate I was to have had you as my little BIG brother. I will miss you but will see you in my every thought. your sis Helen*

Helen Disken - July 21, 2021 at 10:28 AM