



James "Don" Payne

August 27, 1955 - May 13, 2025

James Donald Payne, 69, passed away on May 13, 2025.

Don was born on August 27, 1955 in Texas City, TX to Jefferson D Payne and Alleen Batson Payne. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University (Summa Cum Laude) where he was named a Gathright Scholar in the College of Business. He also possessed a Master of Business Administration from Rice University, Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Administration with Summa Cum Laude honors.

Don spent his entire life in Texas and most of his career in the greater Houston area. He started his career as an auditor for Arthur Andersen. Later he served as the VP Finance for UMC Petroleum Corporation (formerly Entex) an energy company where he led a \$90 million public offering and listed the Company on the New York Stock Exchange. From oil and gas, Don shifted his emphasis to work in executive leadership positions in the world of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. He had decades of acknowledgements and achievements during his professional life, including being co-author of seven scientific publications and an inventor of three U.S. patents.

Don loved and embraced his family, was a caring and thoughtful friend, and was a dedicated and compassionate leader and mentor. He is uniformly remembered for his warmth, humor and intellect. Don had the unique ability to

bring people together in a selfless manner. Don is remembered by his record of always being on time and his 10/10 grammar score. He enjoyed reading, especially historical biographies and narratives. He was an avid traveler and instilled this joy in his daughters by taking two trips every year when they were younger.

Don is survived by his children and their spouses, Allison and Brian Hardman and Laura and Hannah Paynebinder; his grandchild Makai Paynebinder; his sister Betty Payne Crowder; his sister-in-law Marleta Payne Rape; his nieces and nephew Erik Larsen, Amanda Bofferding, and Christina Turrubiate; and his numerous great nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents Jefferson D Payne and Alleen Batson Payne; his brother H. Dwayne Payne; and his brother-in-law James C Crowder, Sr.

Don held two things dearly: Education and Medicine. If you would like to make a donation in Don's memory, please make a contribution to BridgeYear, an education non-profit, or to Houston Methodist Hospital.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Addison Funeral Home
18630 Kuykendahl Road
Spring, TX 77379
(281) 350-0998
addisonfh@yahoo.com
<https://addisonfuneralhomes.com>

Tribute Wall

JS

“ My condolences to Don’s family. He and I were good friends for more than two decades. He was a brilliant and witty man and the only one I could discuss politics with, even though our opinions differed or he pretended so for the sake of a fun argument. I was so sorry to hear of his passing. I will dearly miss him.

Judy Santerre - June 01, 2025 at 06:24 AM



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

May 23, 2025 at 08:09 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Don" Payne.



May 23, 2025 at 08:09 AM

ND

“ N Bachour and spring creek forest dental planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Don" Payne.

N Bachour and spring creek forest dental - May 22, 2025 at 03:45 PM

ND

“ *N Bachour and spring creek forest dental purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James "Don" Payne.*



N Bachour and spring creek forest dental - May 22, 2025 at 03:45 PM

PO

“ *Don was a generous mentor and trusted professional colleague. Having known him since 2001 and having worked alongside him in the early 2000s, he continued to provide valuable insights into MedTech, even recently as his health declined. I am saddened by his passing and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.*

Patrick O'Neal - May 22, 2025 at 02:48 PM

SH

“ To the Family of Don Payne,
Please accept our heartfelt deepest condolences on the passing of Don. He was a member of our Board of Directors and also worked closely with us at Ansun. He was a beloved member of our team, and his presence and wisdom elevated strategic discussions and improved all aspects of Company operations. His wit brought us many laughs and was always part of our engaging conversations. Don was not just a colleague but a true friend who will be greatly missed. We will always cherish the time we spent with him.

The Ansun Biopharma Team

Nancy Chang

Stephen Hawley

Ron Moss

Trevor Gale

Lana Ordonez

Courtney Burke

Reiko Bachand

Stephen Hawley - May 22, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of James "Don" Payne.



May 22, 2025 at 12:53 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Don" Payne.*



May 20, 2025 at 10:48 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James "Don" Payne.*



May 19, 2025 at 07:45 PM



“ *Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of James "Don" Payne.*



May 19, 2025 at 04:04 PM



“ *Michael Redman purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James "Don" Payne.*



Michael Redman - May 18, 2025 at 03:26 PM