



## James Payne

October 25, 1945 - August 1, 2025

James David Payne, 79, of High Ridge, Missouri passed away on August 1, 2025. He was born on October 25, 1945, to the late Ernest and Edna Payne. A man of many talents and a heart for service, James spent his career as a maintenance professional with the Special School District, where he was known for his dedication, work ethic, and problem-solving skills. His expertise in HVAC systems and his passion for fixing things extended well beyond his job—James was always the one others turned to when something needed repair.

James was a proud Southern Baptist and a committed member of several fraternal organizations. He was a member of the Scottish Rite, a charter member of the High Ridge Elks, a Moolah Shriners member, and a longstanding brother of the Algabil-Freedom Lodge #636.

Family was central to James's life. He is survived by his son David R. (Jackie) Payne, granddaughter Gloria Payne, great-granddaughters Eva Ortiz and Ellen Ortiz, and his brother Eddy Payne.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Charolette (nee Taylor) Payne; his son James D. Payne Jr.; and sisters Darlene (Lester) Weatherby and Diane Fields.

James will be remembered for his generosity, strong values, and deep commitment to his loved ones and community. His legacy lives on in the hearts of those he touched.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals for

Children, an organization James proudly supported.