



Thomas Payne

January 4, 1968 - March 11, 2026

Thomas Allen Payne, age 58, passed away on March 11, 2026. He was preceded in death by his mother, Ruth Caplinger Sark; his father, Jerry Payne; his uncle, Gary Britton; and his best friend, Joe DeVictor. He is survived by his children, Brad (Megan) Payne and Alli (Greg) Brewer; his grandchildren, Branson, Averi and Emeri; his Fiance, Shefali Cromer and her children, Kirin and Jacob Cromer. Tom is also survived by his cousins and aunts: Kimberly Woods, Judy (James) Woods, Todd Britton, and Joyce Britton.

Growing up in Columbus, he enjoyed playing baseball, basketball, and softball with close friends. He graduated from Father Wehrle High School in 1986 and went on to spend 40 years in the automotive industry. During that time, he owned a detail shop and later built a successful career in sales, most recently with ATG. He was especially proud to be recognized as Metro Jobber of the Year in 2015.

He moved to Michigan in 2020 to be with his future wife, where he quickly formed deep bonds with new family and friends. Tommy created their annual Friendsgiving celebration where, in Tommy's words, "no one ever left thirsty". He and his Fiancé, loved traveling the world to discover places both near and far with family and friends. Tom took great pride in building his outdoor oasis, surviving Shefali's boat driving skills, and embracing countless joyful moments with the euchre crew, Nassau family nights, and family weekends away in Saugatuck.

Moreover, he was a devoted father who would do anything for his children. He

loved being with family and friends and was known for his humor and ability to make people laugh.

He was also a passionate sports fan who loved cheering for the Ohio State Buckeyes, Dallas Cowboys, New York Yankees, and Kentucky Wildcats.

He will be remembered for his generosity, humor, and the love he had for his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and forever loved.

There will be a Celebration of Life in honor of Tom on Saturday, April 18 from 4 PM until 7:30 PM at The Post Bar, Plymouth, MI. His favorite band will be playing starting at 7:30 PM, open to all.

To Share a memory, please use the Share a Memory Tab on this web page.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 18. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

The Post Bar
844 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, MI 48170

Tribute Wall



“ John O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Payne.

John O. - April 18 at 03:38 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Payne.



April 17 at 04:50 PM



“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Thomas Payne.



April 17 at 04:35 PM



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



April 17 at 02:25 PM



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

April 17 at 02:25 PM



“ Tommy was special. Playing baseball at sills, then high school at Wherle. As seniors creating the name I went by “chilly. You will be missed friend

Brett Anderson - April 07 at 03:00 PM



“ Lisa, Jeff, Chris, Jim, Leanne and George purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Thomas Payne.



Lisa, Jeff, Chris, Jim, Leanne and George - March 30 at 01:13 PM

RD

“ Dear Brad,
What are the chances my brother, Joe DeVictor, and your dad, Tommy Payne, would die unexpectedly on the very same day, albeit 16 years apart? That is real connection. I'm stunned. Unexpected death of a "young" one (yes 42 and 58 are young) I'm convinced, is the worst type of death for those of us left behind. Details of this time become fuzzy if not forgotten altogether. I do remember flying across the country; the weather was terrible all over the USA. My layover in Atlanta turned to hours. The airport was overcrowded, everyone was trying to get flights and there was me, the one crying woman. No one knew why except the gate attendant who tried vigorously to get me on a plane. (Wish I knew his name so I could thank him.) Others in line made fun of me. I cried aloud (too loud) in the women's room. I phoned and don't remember if I spoke to my mom or sister Rocky - or someone else - letting them know my flight wouldn't arrive until 2-3am (can't remember). I told them I could take a taxi to Joe and Tricia's house where everyone was gathered. Nope. No way. Not a second thought; not even a hesitation. Tommy would be there to pick me up no matter what time my plane got it. I didn't want anyone to stay awake for me, not that anyone slept that night, or nights thereafter. And when I got curbside, there was Tommy, waiting for me...and you, too. Of course you were there with your dad to pick me up. Your connection with him, and Joe's with Nathan, were super strong. You four were quite a force. That bond will always remain. Sixteen years later I strongly remember, "Tommy will be there to pick you up". I wish there was some way I could now pick you up. Sending you lots of love and peace...

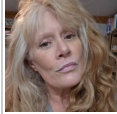
Rhonda

Rhonda DeVictor - March 22 at 03:30 PM

RD

*were there... (how to edit?)

Rhonda DeVictor - March 22 at 03:37 PM



He really was a great guy. Joey & Tommy both. Thanks for sharing this memory ♡

Lori Bowen - April 07 at 07:02 PM

JB

“ Never forget the first time I met you and you couldn't make a joke about my last name fast enough. Then couldn't wait to share that you made the picture that pops up when I call Booger from Revenge of the Nerds. Haha! I liked you from the moment I met you and always had a blast whenever I saw you. From just hanging out and grabbing lunch at Roosters in Columbus to hosting an impromptu party at the hotel bar at the Colorsource convention in Tampa. Never a dull moment. Rest in peace brother. I'm sure I'm not the only one who wishes they could have had more time.

Boofer

Jeff Boofer - March 22 at 02:15 PM

RM

“ Oh Tommy, I have so many memories of you and Joe, but one of the ones that cracks me up, is you riding a bicycle that had a seat kinda thing on top the rear wheel, you picked Joe up somewhere, and he said go to my house, you guys did, and he went in the house and took a seat cushion off of mom's couch, and straddle that on the bike, and you guys rode around the neighborhood. I was walking down the road when guys went by me acting all crazy. I was like WTH are you guys up to now!!😂 My heart hurts for your family, you will be sadly missed. My heart is happy that you get to be with my little brother again,Joe!!! Until we meet again rest easy Tommy.

Roxanne DeVictor Mills - March 22 at 10:02 AM