



## Stephen Charles Payne

June 2, 1954 - June 20, 2021

Stephen Charles Payne, 67, died on June 20, 2021, at his home in Chestertown, MD. He was born June 2, 1954, in Fort Worth, Texas. Stephen was predeceased by his parents, Robert K. and Virginia H. Payne. Survivors include a son, Stephen Vincent Payne, a daughter, Lauren Nicole Payne, his grandchildren, and sisters Elizabeth A. (Lizanne) Payne and Leslie K. Eckard. Steve graduated in 1972 from Yorktown Sr. High School in Arlington, Va. For many years, he operated a home remodeling business in Bowie, MD, specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, and additions. He also worked in commercial real estate. Steve eventually moved to Chestertown, MD, where he found his real passion for community theater and sound production. He began his own sound and video company, Sundown Studios, where he recorded many local and touring musicians and singers as well as podcasts and other projects, including a film on Freedom Riders during the Civil Rights movement. For the last 15 years he was a community fixture, volunteering as a soundman and videographer for the Kent Cultural Alliance, the Garfield Center for the Arts, Church Hill Theater, and many other community organizations in and around Kent County. His friends described his absolute kindness, his subtle and integral tech wizardry that always brought a dose of “electric life” to productions, his always welcoming presence, his love for everyone he met, and his one-of-a kind smile.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stephen Charles Payne*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Stephen Charles Payne*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Stephen Charles Payne*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *What a beautiful and loving tribute to an amazing guy. I appreciate so much learning more details of Steve's life and the stellar contributions to his community. As the older brother of my best friend growing up, Steve felt almost like an uncle. I wish I had the privilege of knowing Steve as an adult but am grateful to learn more about him through what the family has shared. His values—shown by the kindness and generosity in how he treated others—indicated he was clearly a Payne in the tradition of his parents and siblings. Hugs to Leslie, Layne, and the rest of the Payne family.*

**Laurie Potteiger** - July 09, 2021 at 11:46 AM



*Correction of my typo above: Hugs to Leslie, Lizanne, and the rest of the Payne family.*

**Laurie Potteiger** - July 09, 2021 at 12:31 PM