



# Thurman Winston Payne

JUN 20, 1940 - JAN 9, 2025



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*Rader*  
FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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# Thurman Winston Payne

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**T**hurman Winston Payne was born June 20, 1940, in Luling, Texas, to parents Thurman Payne and Cloma Hanson Payne. He passed away peacefully on January 9, 2025, in Longview, Texas, at the age of 84.

Coming from humble beginnings, Winston's life was marked by accomplishment, faith and family.

Graduating in the 1958 class of Pine Tree High School, he excelled on the gridiron and was voted "Mr. Pine Tree" by the student body. At an early age, he developed a life-long love affair with all things outdoors – hunting, fishing, trapping – he was a true outdoorsman. In addition to these and because he was never one to sit around idly, his interests and hobbies also included: wood carving, flint knapping, gardening, knife making, bullet reloading/shooting and avid reading.

He married Donna Covin, the love of his life, on June 30, 1979, and they shared over 45 blessed years together as they forged a life of unity, perseverance and precious memories. From building their log home together on acreage east of Hallsville, to time spent in West Texas near San Angelo, then on to the suburbs of Houston in Deer Park – they never lacked for adventure. Eventually relocating back to the Longview area, they made their home a center of love based on Christian principles.

Winston accepted Christ as his savior at the age of 6, living confidently with the security of his salvation. He was a member of The Church at West Mountain where he served as an elder, during which time he studied and presented the case for Creation versus Evolution.

Winston retired from Eastman Chemical Company, Epolene Department, in 1996 after 32 years of service and began a new chapter in his life. He spent several years working as a hunting guide on the Baker 3 Ranch near Rocksprings, Texas. He and fellow guide, Johnny Woods, were always able to make their hunters' experience unforgettable. The friendships and memories made there cemented his status as



## Obituary

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“Legend”, and he surely won’t be forgotten!

Always ready with a story and quick-witted, those who knew him were entertained with his vast knowledge and homespun wisdom.

Tributes to Winston include: “he was one of a kind”, “they don’t make ‘em like him anymore”, “a great man and friend”, “led by example” – it was a blessing to know him!

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Walter Raymond Payne and daughter, Laura Payne Pelaia.

Those left to cherish his memory include his loving wife Donna, sons Rick Payne, Jim Payne, Carl Covin and daughter Susan Payne Laferney and husband Stacy.

Winston was blessed to have 15 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, 2 nephews and 1 niece.

Services are under the direction of Rader Funeral Home of Longview. The family will receive friends Friday evening, January 17, from 5-7 pm in the Chapel of Rader Funeral Home. A celebration of life service will be held at 11am Saturday, January 18, 2025, at The Church at West Mountain, Gilmer, Texas, with Pastor Eric Trimble officiating. There will be a private family graveside service at Mattox Cemetery, Diana, Texas, at 2pm.

Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to The Church at West Mountain Building Fund or Mission Fund.



# Events

**Thurman Winston Payne**

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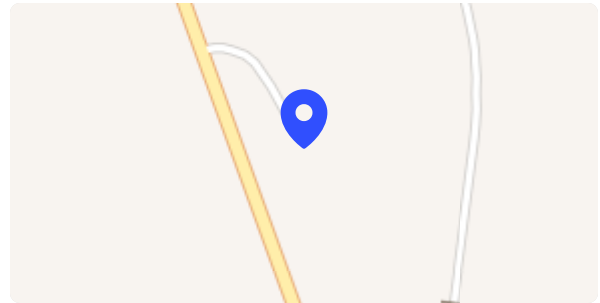
## Visitation

- Friday**, January 17, 2025
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
- Rader Funeral Home**  
1617 Judson Rd., Longview TX 75601



## Celebration of Life

- Saturday**, January 18, 2025
- 11:00 AM CT
- The Church at West Mountain**  
6259 U.S. Hwy. 271 S., Gilmer TX 75645



## Cemetery Details

- Mattox Cemetery**  
Diana TX





# Tribute Wall

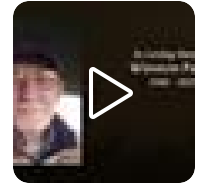
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**Rader Funeral Home** shared a **Video**.

January 15 at 8:48 AM



**Wyndolyn "Willie" Williams, Sr** lit a candle in honor of Thurman.

I was Very Saddened To Hear Of "Winston's" Passing, He Will Be Deeply Missed. To Mrs Donna And Family, You Have Our Prayers Of Deepest Sympathy In Your Great Loss. Winston And I Worked In Bldg 41 While At Eastman Chemical Company. He Always Called Me "Willie". May God Hold You In His Warm And Tender Embrace!.. Rest Well Dear Friend..

January 21 at 5:21 PM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thurman.

January 17 at 2:30 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Payne family.

January 17 at 2:30 PM



**Robert, Barbara Walsh And Family** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Payne family.

January 17 at 2:11 AM



**Susan** lit a candle in honor of Thurman.

January 15 at 6:19 PM





# Tribute Wall

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**Carey McClain** posted:

Donna and family, I'm so sorry for your loss.

January 15 at 9:04 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thurman.



January 15 at 5:26 AM



**Andrew Malen & Katie Neely** sent a Fiery Lily and Rose to the Payne family.



January 15 at 4:42 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Large Basket Garden to the Payne family.



January 15 at 4:39 AM



**Everyone At The Baker 3 Ranch** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thurman.



January 14 at 4:56 PM



**Everyone At The Baker 3 Ranch** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Payne family.



January 14 at 4:56 PM



# Tribute Wall

## Thurman Winston Payne

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**Carolyn And Wayne Hearron** lit a candle in honor of Thurman.

Donna, Dear Friend. I was so shocked to get your phone call the other morning telling me of Winston's passing. He was improving so much in the last couple of weeks that I could hardly believe what you were telling. He was such a fun person. Quite, but funny...His stories he shared with Me, Julee, and you at the ranch were totally unexpected. He made the trip to the Baker 3 Ranch a memory we will never forget!! He's in God's hands now and searching for him a new hunting partner. He will really be missed.  
Carolyn Hearron.



January 14 at 11:34 AM



**Robin Garvin** posted:

Donna, it was so sad to hear of Winston's passing. It's been so long since I've seen him, but I have such good memories of visiting with him years back. He always had a smile and was just the friendliest man. I'll be praying for you. What wonderful memories you must have.

January 13 at 7:24 PM



**Keith & Donna Blanton** sent a virtual gift in honor of Thurman.

Dear sweet Donna & family: We're so sorry to hear about Winston's passing. Unfortunately, we never got to meet him in this life, but there's a definite celebration we're going to attend with Winston when Jesus calls us home! Praise Jesus for all He does for us today through eternity. May He comfort you & yours now & always, with prayers, hugs, sympathy, love & friendship.:pray:Keith & Donna Blanton White Oak



January 13 at 4:20 PM



**Linda Bechtol** posted:

Donna, so sorry to hear about Winston. He was one of my favorite guys at Eastman and we had many conversations about life and just about any topic. Probably no one else thought we knew what we were doing, but we did. Again, my condolences to your family.

January 13 at 12:52 PM



**Marilyn M.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thurman.



January 13 at 11:25 AM



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MM

**Marilyn M.** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Payne family.

January 13 at 11:25 AM



FF

**From Faye Yates And Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thurman.

January 13 at 6:35 AM



FF

**From Faye Yates And Family** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Payne family.

January 13 at 6:35 AM



JM

**Jessica Murrell** posted:

Ms. Donna shared wonderful stores of your time together. I know memories of you will live on in her heart. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

January 13 at 5:50 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thurman.

January 13 at 5:17 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Payne family.

January 13 at 5:17 AM





## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thurman.



January 11 at 1:07 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Payne family.



January 11 at 1:07 PM



## Media

**Thurman Winston Payne**

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Rader Funeral Home shared a **Video**.

January 15 at 8:48 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Thurman by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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