



Nathaniel Samuel Payne III

March 13, 1937 - April 5, 2025

Nathaniel Samuel Payne, III, 88, died peacefully on April 5, 2025.

Sam was born in Danville, Virginia on March 13, 1937 to Nathaniel Samuel Payne, Jr. and Cammie Maxie Payne. He graduated from Whitmell High School in 1955 and later attended Virginia Tech where he earned his Bachelor's of Business Administration.

Sam began his career as an industrial engineer at Dan River Mills. In 1975, he joined West Point Pepperell in Georgia where he served as the Director of Industrial Engineering and Capital Expenditures until his retirement in 2002. Sam married Barbara Ann Cole on March 13, 1961.

Sam is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Barbara Cole Payne, children Deborah Ann Payne Wakefield (Bill) and Samuel Kirk Payne, grandchildren Margaret Ann Wakefield, Samantha Cole Wakefield and Sarah Margaret Payne and siblings Carolyn Thornton (Paul) and James Edward Payne (Linda).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nathaniel Samuel Payne, Jr. and Cammie Maxie Payne, and his sister Rosalind Lovelace.

The family will receive friends Sunday, April 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Wrenn-Yeatts North Main Chapel.

A graveside service will be conducted on Monday, April 14, at 11 a.m. at Highland Burial Park with the Reverend Winston Crichlow officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Grace Design Community Church or to your local Lions Club, to honor Sam's longtime service and commitment as a volunteer.

Wrenn-Yeatts North Main Chapel is respectfully serving the Payne family.

Cemetery Details

Highland Burial Park

3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wrenn-Yeatts North Main Chapel
703 North Main Street
Danville, VA 24540
(434) 793-5511
info@wrenn-yeatts.com
<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

Graveside

APR 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Highland Burial Park
3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA

Tribute Wall

RB

“ Sam was the most thoughtful and best supervisor I had at WWP Corporate Offices, always with instructive comments with an uplifting tone of voice,

Ronald Bolton - September 10, 2025 at 02:32 PM

DB

“ Sam was always great to be around. It was always good to see him coming, because you knew he would make your day better.

Donny Bolton - August 25, 2025 at 07:27 PM

AS

“ Sending sympathy to Barbara, Kirk and Sarah.
Audrey Sharp.

Aurey Sharp - April 12, 2025 at 07:50 PM

BS

“ We were able to spend many treasured years at church with Sam and Barbara. Sam was always cheerful and witty. Rest in peace, dear servant of God. You set a great examples and are now rejoicing at the feet of our Lord.



Becky and Jimmy Sands - April 11, 2025 at 01:28 PM

BC

“ So very sorry to hear of the passing of Sammy. I have very fond memories of growing up on Seminole Drive and having Barbara Ann and Nancy Lee as friends. I send my love and sympathy at this difficult time.

♥ Barbara Ramsey Conner

Barbara Ramsey Conner - April 11, 2025 at 07:27 AM