



## Dr. David Emer Payne

March 29, 1944 - June 12, 2020

David Emer Payne, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on June 12, 2020 after a prolonged and valiant battle with cancer. He was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 29, 1944 to John W and Sara Harris Payne and spent a happy childhood in Provo, Utah. He graduated from BY High School and then attended Brigham Young University where he earned a B.S. in sociology. He served faithfully as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the British Mission. He honorably served in the U.S. Coast Guard during the Vietnam War. He earned his Ph.D. in sociology/business administration at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

Following his Ph.D. studies he met and married Grette Haglund on March 16, 1973 in the Provo, Utah Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Together they raised six children. Their home was filled with love, laughter, music, and service.

His career as a professor and administrator at several universities concluded with his 14-year tenure as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Sam Houston State University. While there, he introduced many new programs and innovations and left many friends. During his career, he was recognized as a leader in higher education both locally and around the world. David was a faithful member and lifelong leader in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served in many callings including Bishop and Stake President. He was known for his loving temperament, his kindness, and his

service to others. He lived by the scriptural admonition to “love one another and serve one another” and the Sam Houston State University motto “The measure of a life is its service.”

He is survived by his brother William Dennison Payne, his sister Maralin Bennett, his wife Grettle, six children: Sara Elizabeth Anderson (Adam), John David Payne (JaNae), Samuel Harris Payne (Mollie), Daniel Joseph Payne (Christina), James Richard Payne (Regent), David Emer Payne II (Kate), and 26 grandchildren. At a future date, a memorial service will be held in Huntsville, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the David and Grettle Payne Endowed Music Scholarship at Sam Houston State University (<https://shsu.edu/giving>) or to Latter-day Saint Charities which, as modeled by Jesus Christ, seeks “to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in the stranger, clothe the naked and visit the sick and afflicted” (<https://www.latterdaysaintcharities.org>). The family would welcome your leaving a favorite memory of David at <https://www.gatheringus.com/memorial/david-emer-payne/4029>.

Memorial condolences to the family may be made at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. David Emer Payne*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *So many wonderful memories of a well Respected man that loved all. I always remember getting a personal Christmas card every year.*

**Maggie Collum** - June 19, 2020 at 09:45 PM



“ *“I will greatly miss my friend and mentor David Payne. Much of the success and growth at SHSU can be linked to David’s vision and leadership. On a personal level, I have learned so much from him. He taught me so much by his quiet example. I will miss hearing his quiet chuckle. The world will not be as much fun without David. However, his spirit will persist in those of us whom he shaped.”*

*Dick Eglsaer*

**Dick Eglsaer** - June 19, 2020 at 04:10 PM



“ *I had the privilege of working under the guidance and steady hand of Dr. Payne. He led SHSU in its movement toward the position it now holds in the academic world. He was an academic who stressed excellence as the goal for the university. My wife and I salute Dr. Payne and his family for the contributions they made to SHSU and community of Huntsville.*

*Jerry & Betty Bruce*

**Jerry Bruce** - June 18, 2020 at 06:25 PM

MH

“ *M. Hyvl sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. David Emer Payne*



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**M. Hyvl** - June 18, 2020 at 11:03 AM

JD

“ *Dr. Payne was a powerful agent for good. His life exemplified excellence and he left an indelible mark on our University.*

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**Jim Dozier** - June 18, 2020 at 08:45 AM

KT

“ *My first interactions with David were when I was a brand new administrator. He wasn't sure at first what to do with this brash, passionate, loud, young woman. But overtime we both came to learn from each other. I learned to appreciate his kindness, soft-spoken voice, and love for learning. He always put the students' learning first. I will always appreciate the time he took to mentor me, but mostly I will remember the kindness he showed when my parents were ill and when they died. We talked about death and about the life they would share afterwards. His insights brought my family comfort. David was a true scholar, a kind man, and a mentor. I'll always be grateful for his advice but mostly for our talks about the important aspects of life: family, faith, and compassion. May you enjoy your celestial home, David.*

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**Kandi Tayebi** - June 18, 2020 at 12:46 AM

JT

“ *The kindest of kind that I ever met. Even after he retired, he would stop by the (his) old office to check on us and ask about our family updates....never mattered how bad he was feeling or his schedule.....he was totally concerned and would spend whatever time was needed to make one feel better...and feel important! Thank you Dr. Payne for believing in me and allowing me to be part of your “family!” Prayers and love being sent to your wonderful family..🙏❤️🙏*

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**judy thiele** - June 17, 2020 at 11:24 PM

DK

“ *May Dr. Payne's earthly journey enriching an abundance of family and friends surround the Payne family with loving and healing memories. He was a very gentle soul and a true pleasure to work with as Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs at SHSU. Heartfelt prayers for his loving family...*

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**Dianne Duncan Key** - June 17, 2020 at 09:58 PM

SH

*Prayers for the family. Wish everyone could have his kind heart.*

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**Sherry Hirsch** - June 17, 2020 at 11:09 PM

RL

*I remember when he personally came to welcome me to the Bearkat family so many years ago. I was fortunate enough to know him professional and personally. He was a true inspiration to all. Grettie, praying for you during this time.*

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**RL** - June 18, 2020 at 10:27 AM

AZ

*Please accept my condolences. While I never had the opportunity to work with Dr. Payne, I benefited tremendously from his mentorship. Every conversation was a mini-graduate seminar in leadership. I aspire to be the kind of servant leader that Dr. Payne exemplified. Few leave as big a legacy on an institution as Dr. Payne did. His vision for what higher education can and should be continues to move SHSU forward. His was a life well lived.*

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**Abbey Zink** - June 18, 2020 at 10:55 AM

JR

*I can't even begin to express my sadness to hear of David's passing. My heart goes out to his entire family in this time. It has been my honor to know David for over 20 years, back when I was just a high school kid, hanging out in his kitchen with boys playing board games. Over the years, he has been a mentor and a model to me for how I want to be both as a person and a professional. But, most importantly, I was luck enough to call him my friend.*

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**Jeff Roberts** - June 18, 2020 at 12:17 PM