



John W. Payne, Jr.

April 23, 1921 - April 15, 2009

John Payne, a gracious and gentle man, was born in Amarillo, Texas on April 23, 1921 and died in Huntsville, Texas, on April 11, 2009. He graduated from Texas Tech University and taught public school briefly before deciding on an academic career. He began graduate school at the University of Texas, initially focusing on American Studies before completing a master's degree with a major in English and a minor in history. John went on to earn a Ph.D in history at UT Austin. He spent all but two years of his professional career at Sam Houston State University teaching United States and Texas history. Friends, family, and colleagues remember him as a man with little ego and no guile, a man of dignity without formality. He possessed a wry sense of humor but shunned loud laughter and boisterous behavior. John masked a keen intellect with genuine humility and an assuming nature. A gifted writer and editor, he generously shared his talent with younger colleagues, reading, rereading, and editing their manuscripts, always helping them, with neither frustration nor sarcasm, to think and write more clearly, to "use fewer words without losing meaning." He was a mentor without peer. John saw the world as it is without ever losing hope about what it might become. He is survived by Louie, his devoted wife and by five nieces and one nephew. Services will be held Wednesday April 15, 2009 at 2 PM at St. Stephens Episcopal Church with the Rev. James Morgan officiating. Interment will follow at Brooke Cemetery under the direction of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home of Huntsville. The family will receive friends Tuesday April 14, 2009 from 4 to 6 PM at the funeral

home. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to St. Stephens Episcopal Church or the John W. Payne, Jr. Endowed Scholarship in History at Sam Houston State University, SHSU Office of Advancement in Huntsville, TX 77341. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Did John ever teach at Spence Jr Hi in Dallas, Texas?* ”

Janice Wiggins - August 31, 2023 at 10:18 PM



“ *John W. Payne, Jr.* ”

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I had Dr. Payne for several classes while at Sam ('64) and I worked two years for him as a grader. I have thought of him many times over the years. I know he had a part in my receiving a history scholarship my junior year and I will always be appreciative of that. He was a most kind gentleman. You are in my prayers. Annanelle Hay.* ”

Annanelle Schultz Hay - April 15, 2009 at 09:23 AM



“ *I had Dr. Payne as a prof in the 70's and really enjoyed his classes. He was a great teacher, very inspiring and kind and all the good things a teacher should be. He'll be missed. Thanks for sharing him with so many students!* ”

Laura Ann Cannon - April 14, 2009 at 09:29 AM

CJ

“ Dear Louie:

Devana and I were saddened to hear of John's passing. He was truly a gentleman and friend. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. It was good to see you on our last visit to Huntsville. Hopefully it won't be too long before we visit again.

Sincerely,

Curt and Devana Jackson

Dallas, Texas

Curtis Jackson - April 14, 2009 at 08:46 AM

NJ

“ Dear Payne Family. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to have known Dr. Payne as a former student of his and then again while I was the SHSU Alumni Director (1977-1992). Such a smart man and a gentleman. He will be greatly missed. Norma Dell Jones of Lovelady.

Norma Dell Jones - April 13, 2009 at 12:47 PM