



Rodney Payne

March 10, 1947 - February 1, 2026

Rodney Douglas Payne, 78, passed away peacefully on February 1, 2026. He was born on March 10, 1947, and lived a life filled with laughter, friendship, and deep devotion to his family.

Rodney was the beloved husband of Cheryl, with whom he shared 43 years of marriage. He was a loving father to Stephanie Ruge and Karyn (Matt Salinger) Payne, and a proud grandfather to Jacob, Kylee, and Amber. He is also survived by his dear sister, Deborah (Allan) Childers; his nieces and nephews, Shayne (Bruce), Aaron (Pamela), Joshua, Corinne, and Claire; and his great-nephews, Drake, Sonny, Keith, and Shawn.

Rodney had a passion for cards-especially poker-and enjoyed many memorable hours playing billiards with friends. He loved music and enjoyed watching his friends play in their band. He also dearly loved his little dog, Lady, who was a constant companion and brought him much happiness. Above all else, Rodney treasured time spent with his family and friends, who meant the world to him.

A memorial gathering will take place at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd. (3 blocks east of Van Dyke), Utica, on Saturday, February 7th, from 12 p.m.until the time of service at 2 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made in Rodney's memory to the American Cancer Society.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

FEB 7. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Memorial Service

FEB 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Tribute Wall

SR

“ Dear Cheryl, my Godmother,
I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Rodney was truly one of a kind — such a big teddy bear with a kind, gentle soul and that warm chuckle that could make anyone feel at ease.
He had a quiet strength and goodness about him that stayed with you long after being around him.
I know no words can take away the pain you’re going through, but please know my heart is with you. I wish so much that I could be there with you right now to give you a hug and sit with you through this time.
I know his legacy of love, kindness, and service lives on through you and everyone who knew him.
Sending you all my love, prayers, and strength during this incredibly difficult time.
❤️💛🙏
xo Sonja

Sonja Rodriguez - February 07 at 01:48 PM

A&

“ Alita &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney Payne.

Alita &. - February 06 at 04:55 PM

OF

“ Onkel Siegi, Sonja, Karl, Jeff & family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Rodney Payne.



Onkel Siegi, Sonja, Karl, Jeff & family - February 05 at 08:05 PM

RM

“ Rene, Guy, Corinne, Claire, Bill, Marvin purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Rodney Payne.



Rene, Guy, Corinne, Claire, Bill, Marvin - February 05 at 08:01 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rodney Payne.*



February 05 at 02:27 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rodney Payne.*



February 05 at 09:44 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rodney Payne.*



February 04 at 12:27 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rodney Payne.*



February 03 at 01:11 PM

DD

“ *Dick, Marion and Dan purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rodney Payne.*



Dick, Marion and Dan - February 03 at 12:38 PM

DD

“ Dick, Marion and Dan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney Payne.

Dick, Marion and Dan - February 03 at 12:38 PM

TF

“ TerMarsch Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Rodney Payne.



TerMarsch Family - February 03 at 12:27 PM