



Neill Hunter Payne

September 5, 1932 - September 12, 2019

Neill Hunter Payne, age 87 of Kankakee, passed away Thursday, September 12, 2019 at his home in Kankakee.

He was born September 5, 1932 in New York, New York.

He was adopted by Christy Payne Jr. & Katherine Wilhite-Payne.

Neill later moved to Pittsburg, PA with his parents.

He graduated from Shadyside High Academy in 1950.

Neill Hunter Payne was an accomplished pianist and musician.

He attended Mannes College of Music in New York, as well as Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio.

Neill served his country in the Peace Corps and in the U.S. Army as a radio and voice operator and Morse code specialist in Korea in 1955. He was honorably discharged in 1957.

Neill's love and talent for music allowed him the opportunity to work as a musician at Shakely Opera House and to teach music at Booker High School in Sarasota, FL.

Neill spoke several languages including as Chinese, French, Japanese, and Spanish. He traveled abroad to teach English as a second language in the Philippines and in Tokyo, Japan.

As a little boy, Neill attended an Angleton church with his family. He later joined the church of the Seventh Day Adventists.

In 2002, Neill met and married Vicentia Henry while residing in Texarkana, Arkansas.

He enjoyed playing piano and singing with his wife in church.

Mr. & Mrs. Payne relocated to Kankakee in 2011 and have happily resided there until the time of his transition.

Neill was preceded in death by his mother (Katherine Wilhite-Payne); his father (Christy Payne Jr.); and one sister, Anne Payne Soffel.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife, Vicentia Henry-Payne, who has lovingly cared for him until the time of his transition.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the 11:00 a.m. funeral service on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. Pastor Steven A. Welch will officiate the service.

Interment will follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Service

SEP 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
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Tribute Wall

MI

“ *I'm sad today because he truly was a great man to me. Hes definitely responsible for my music today. Thank you for being an awesome teacher. I only wish I could have let you see what my accomplishments have been through your skills and experience. R.I.P. Neill hope your listening to my recordings now.*
Mike Fuentes

Mike - October 17, 2019 at 09:54 PM

CK

“ *To the Payne family - I Was blessed with knowing Neill for many years, from 1970 on, one nice Christian man, and also a genius, in my opinion. I believe Neill spoke 6 languages, and played the piano so beautifully. He played Claire D' Lune for me one time, and I think it brought me to tears. Surely Neill is enjoying heaven right this minute, and enjoying the wonderful music there !*

Claudia Kochistringov - October 17, 2019 at 11:48 AM



“ *94 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - September 16, 2019 at 04:49 PM

MM

“ MR MRS sent a virtual gift in memory of Neill Hunter Payne



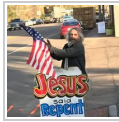
MR MRS - September 14, 2019 at 07:26 AM

JH

I knew Neil from 1970-1982. He was one of the kindest men I ever knew; never saying a mean word. A true Christian. Rest in Peace. The world was a better place because of him.

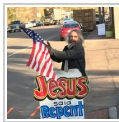
Judith Doctor Hunt

Judith Hunt - October 17, 2019 at 12:57 PM



my older christian's Older Brother,,,

Leslie Wood - October 19, 2019 at 11:57 AM



That Means a lot to me

Leslie Wood - October 19, 2019 at 11:58 AM