

A portrait of two men against a dark blue background with light blue diagonal stripes. The man on the left is older, with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a grey suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. The man on the right is younger, with short dark hair, wearing a red shirt. Both are smiling.

CELEBRATING
THE LIFE OF

Michael
RAY PAYNE

JANUARY 10, 1968 – MAY 29, 2026

Thursday, June 11, 2026 | 11:00 AM
ANCHOR OF HOPE CHURCH
2101 High Street, Denver, CO 80205
Pastor Victor J. Nellum, Eulogist

HIS STORY

Michael RAY PAYNE



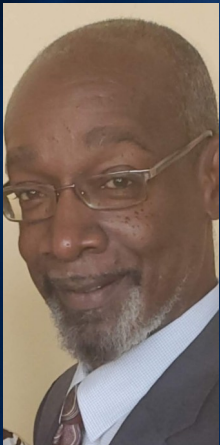
Michael Ray Payne passed away on May 29, 2026, at the age of 58.

Born to Annie Mae Payne and Richard Payne, Michael was the youngest of their children and proudly carried the title of the baby of the family throughout his life. He shared a close bond with his parents and remained deeply connected to his family over the years.

Those who knew Michael remember a man with a big personality and an even bigger presence. He was often the local comedian of the family, known for clowning, roasting those he loved, and keeping everyone laughing with his quick wit and sense of humor. Michael was highly competitive and never one to back down from a game, especially if bragging rights were involved. He enjoyed bringing people together and creating memories that would be talked about for years. Some of the fondest memories shared by family and friends are of Michael in the middle of a crowd, attempting to pop lock, do the worm, or lead a Soul Train line while everyone gathered around cheering him on. Whether through his stories, playful trash talk, or dance moves, Michael had a way of turning ordinary moments into memorable ones. He was intelligent, protective, and a natural leader who spent much of his career in leadership roles within the retail and grocery industries before later working in security.



Michael leaves behind his wife, Brenda McClellan-Payne; his daughters, Shantell Payne and Olympia Payne; his grandchildren, Elyjiah and Sanaa; his stepchildren and step-grandchildren; his siblings, Brenda King, Richard Payne, Ricky Payne, and Kathy Poston; along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Annie Mae Payne and Richard Payne; his sister, Ermia Halsey; and his brother, Junior King.



Michael's life touched many people in different ways. Those who knew him carry different memories of him, some filled with laughter, some with lessons, and many with stories that will continue to be shared for years to come. Through those memories, his presence will continue to live on in the hearts of family and friends. The family extends special appreciation to Brenda McClellan-Payne for her care, dedication, and support throughout the later years of Michael's life.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional
“Millions” by The Winans

Scripture Reading
Minister

Prayer of Comfort
Minister

Musical Selection
Renee Patilla

Acknowledgements & Obituary Reading
Richard Mathes & Ashlie Mathes

Remembering Michael
Family & Friends

Musical Selection
Earl Patilla

Eulogy
Pastor Victor J. Nellum

Benediction/Committal

Recessional
Clergy | Pallbearers | Family

Musical Selection
Renee Patilla





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family would like to sincerely thank everyone for their love, support, and kindness during this difficult time. The prayers, visits, and comforting words from all of you have meant so much to us, and will always be remembered with gratitude.

H
HARRIS
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