



# Tommy Orville Ira Payton

January 13, 1944 - April 19, 2019

Tom Payton was born in Paul's Valley, Oklahoma on January 13, 1944 to Maggie Margaret Havron Payton and Thomas Payton. Tom was interested in and studied about the world's religions and cultures from a teenager and on until his death. Tom was introduced to the Church of Christ when he started dating Patsy Vaughan in high school. The first year of their marriage Tom began studying with a minister in Weatherford, Oklahoma and was baptized. From that point he became a true scholar of the Word. Tom always knew that through God's grace and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ he would someday be blessed to meet his Lord in Heaven and be able to ask all the questions he wanted about the biology, astronomy, and creation of the universe. Tom went to meet his Lord and started asking those questions on April 19, 2019. For the first few years of his life he played on the grounds of the mental hospital where both his mother and father worked in the wards with patients. Perhaps watching his parents interact with patients created an intuitiveness into the psyche of people. At age five, he moved with his parents to Norman, Oklahoma where he graduated in 1963 from Norman High School. He married Patsy in 1964 and he graduated with a double bachelor's degree in Natural Science and Psychology from Northwestern State University, Alva Oklahoma, in 1968. After teaching chemistry and physics in the Moore, Oklahoma School District, Tom decided to pursue his Master's degree at University of North Texas. After doing his internship at the now closed Beverly Hills Psychiatric Hospital in Dallas, Texas, he began his psychology career as chief psychologist. After six years on staff he began his private practice in Dallas. For forty seven years Tom counseled in individual, group, and hypnosis therapy. Tom's desire for learning led him to work toward a doctorate degree every summer in Europe for several years. He finished ABD. He studied with some of the well-known experts in the field of psychology: Professors from the University of Munich, Japan, Albert Einstein Medical School of New York. Anna Freud, the daughter of Sigmund Freud, Goldenson, Jean Piaget and Erica Fromm. Tom finished his doctorate at the University of North Texas. Tom and Pat would have been married fifty-five years in June. Tom was survived by his two children: Tracy Lynn Watson and husband Tom with their children Taylor and Thomas and Christopher Payton and wife Lori with their children Noah and Gianna. His extended family of nieces, nephews, and cousins; acquired family Dalia and Kyle Cravener, Tom, Karen,

Scott, Teena, Noah, and Carly Watson. Visitation for Mr. Payton will be held Monday, April 22, 2019, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Restland Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be held Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 11:00 AM at Prestoncrest Church of Christ. Funeral arrangements for Tommy Orville Ira Payton have been faithfully entrusted to Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery, which is located at 13005 Greenville Ave., at the intersection of Restland Road, Dallas, Texas 75243, and can be reached at (972) 238-7111.

# Comments

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“ I met Tom when I was 20 years old, and had the blessing of his counsel for over 7 years. He saved my life.

**Tamra O.** - January 05, 2020 at 06:25 PM

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“ Patsy, Christopher and Tracy, We are so very sorry to hear of your loss. I met Tom when he was an intern at Beverly Hills, his counseling had such an impact on my life as well as our family. I will always be grateful to and for Tom and his family. As we prepared to celebrate Easter and Jesus's resurrection I can picture Tom embracing Jesus thanking Jesus face to face. Tom's remarkable family and life will be a treasure to me and those who love this family. Blessings Always, Debbie Denny

**Debbie Denny** - April 23, 2019 at 12:31 PM

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“ Patsy, Tracy, Christopher, family & friends: We are sooo sorry Tom's life was cut short but he packed it FULL while he was here on this earth. I can't even begin to tell how much he helped me, my family, husband and who knows how many thousands of others. He left us all a part of himself by his teaching and helping and setting examples. Also fun along the way: a water balloon fight with him, me bringing him Baklava back from Boston on one of my trips, y'all introducing me to the Greek Food Festival... I can't say enough good things about the Christian man, Christian counselor Tom was or how much he means to Lynn & I and my family! God Bless Y'all now and always, Debbie & Lynn Foster & Opal Pittner

**DEBBIE FOSTER** - April 22, 2019 at 10:37 PM

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Debbie & Lynn Foster & Opal Pittner

**DEBBIE FOSTER** - April 22, 2019 at 10:37 PM

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“ What a lovely obituary..... it must have been so hard to put into words what Tom has meant to so many people. It would be hard to calculate the number of people who have enjoyed better lives because his love and support. Tom never told anyone “I don't have time.” Until the day I die, I will remember what he has done for me. Dearest Pat.... he was a wonderful husband and father..... he knew how lucky he was. I love the Payton-Watson family with all my heart.

**Suzie Horlock** - April 22, 2019 at 09:22 PM

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“ Tom was the most nurturing, kind, wise, encouraging man I had the awesome privilege to know. Thank you, Tom, for sharing your knowledge and gifts, for all the La Croixs, for loving my humor and loving me as your sister in Christ. I shall miss sharing a cup of hot ginger tea with you. To “Pretty Wife”, I'm so very sorry for your grief and continue to pray for you and your family.

**Janeen** - April 22, 2019 at 03:38 PM

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“ We were so saddened to hear of Tom's passing! Tom was a Wonderful influence in our families' lives. His counseling and wisdom were life changing and will be carried on through generations to come. He is the most amazing person we have ever known. Thank you, Wonderful Wife, Wonderful Daughter, Wonderful Son – for sharing your Wonderfully Beloved Husband/Dad with us and so many others who had the honor of knowing him. He has blessed our lives beyond measure!

**Tammy and Greg Maxie** - April 22, 2019 at 09:43 AM