



Larry Earl Payton

APR 20, 1948 - FEB 18, 2013



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FLORAL HAVEN

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Larry Earl Payton, Celebrity Attractions' President Larry Payton passed away Monday, February 18, 2013 at 9:50 p.m. at St. Francis Hospital due to complications from an illness. He was 64. Larry and his wife Kay started Celebrity Attractions in 1983 out of their home as a side job. Over the past 30 years, they grew the small company into one that presents major theatrical, musical and family entertainment in seven different regional markets. In addition, Larry was an investor in numerous shows for Broadway and the road. He was a founding member of the Independent Presenters Network, served on the Board of Governors for The Broadway League and was a Tony® voter. Larry was passionate about presenting quality entertainment and providing memorable experiences through live theater. Larry was an active member of Parkview Baptist Church in Tulsa where he was a deacon and served on the church council. He was actively involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes since college and served on the Board of Directors for the State of Oklahoma. Larry served on the Board of Southwest Baptist University for which he was also an alumnus. During his collegiate years at SBU, Larry was a nationally ranked tennis player. His love of tennis drew him to coach the women's tennis team at SBU and the men's tennis team at Ouachita Baptist University. A supporter of education, he was a former employee of the University of Tulsa as the Student Activities Director. Throughout his life, Larry built a network of friends and family and touched the lives of those he met in a special way. His strong Christian faith was forefront in his life as he was a devoted follower of Christ. He used his devotion in countless ways. He traveled to Venezuela on several mission trips with his church to preach to hundreds. He loved being there. He was also a valued mentor to many men eagerly sharing his own experiences and beliefs. His generosity knew no bounds. Larry was a dedicated lifetime fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. As a teenager, he ushered at the first game at Busch Stadium, later



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attended the last game in that stadium and cheered them on at several World Series games. Larry and Kay spent nearly every vacation at sea ' cruises provided much needed relaxation and reflection. Larry is survived by his wife of 37 years, Kay; son, Drew Payton and his wife, Charity; daughter, Laura Payton; brother, Ed Payton and his wife, Judith; nieces, nephews and great-nieces. Visitation will be Friday, February 22 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Floral Haven. There will also be a viewing on Saturday, February 23 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Funeral Services will follow at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Interment will be at Floral Haven. In lieu of flowers, a Tennis Scholarship Fund has been established in Larry's memory at Southwest Baptist University, Attn: President's Office, 1600 University Avenue, Bolivar, MO 65613.



Tribute Wall

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PC

Phillip Campbell posted:

Drew, your father always shared his passions with me like I was part of your family. I am so grateful for all those memories. Our prayers are with you and your family.

March 5 at 2:53 PM

RS

Real-Staging posted:

Please accept my honor from my deepest heart. I will never forget and my appreciation is always with Larry for the contribution has been made. Eric Anderson, <http://www.real-staging.com/>

February 28 at 11:54 AM

AD

Alan Davis posted:

On behalf of the leadership of NACA please accept our deepest sympathies. We will always appreciate Larry's contributions to the Association. Alan Davis NACA Office

February 26 at 8:30 AM

CT

Chuck Tryon posted:

While I cannot claim Larry Payton as a personal friend, we shared many conversations, usually about a favorite scene in a show. We often visited on flights to or from NYC or while he was greeting patrons in the lobby of a Tulsa show. During our most recent conversation, I thanked him for bringing "Les Mis" to Oklahoma City recently. My daughter and I have seen the show many times and that allowed us to enjoy the experience again. After seeing "Memphis" with my wife last year, I sent Larry an email telling him that I believe that to be one of the best shows he had brought to Tulsa. He later replied that he received my email while meeting with show producers in NYC and they were very pleased to hear the feedback. Larry made each Celebrity Attractions show a personal experience. I heard from cast and crew about how he lived out his Christian witness on a daily basis. He will be missed by anyone who appreciates good theatre.

February 25 at 6:25 PM

AN

Annmarie posted:

Our sincerest condolences from the DuPont Theatre in Wilmington, DE. Larry, you will surely be missed – you were a phenomenal mentor, and always so generous with your time and expertise. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Annmarie O'Hara-Townsend

February 25 at 2:09 PM



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AC

Art Campbell posted:

Dear Drew and Ed, What a great job you did at the funeral. Drew, the first picture of your dad on the video made me think "Oh my goodness, that's Drew out on 2nd base! Ed, thanks so much for the family story. I felt like I was getting to see home movies. We love you all and will miss Larry severely.
Art Campbell

February 25 at 7:50 AM

KB

Kathleen O'brien posted:

Larry made so many friends along his path and I so blessed to have known him. What a dear person – always willing to help... and with that calming and gentle smile. Tim and I – and all the folks at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville – send our love and sympathies to Kay and the family. He was a rock, a gentleman, and a visionary. A one of a kind... Kathleen O'Brien

February 23 at 4:51 AM

MR

Maggie Roller posted:

I am so sad for your loss, Kay, Drew, Charity and Laura. I first met Larry in the early '90's and had the privilege of giving Larry and Drew several golf lessons during that time. Looking back, they were more than golf lessons, they were spiritual encounters for me. I was, at that time, lost without Christ and Larry ALWAYS pointed me to the Christ I wanted nothing to do with back then. When God opened my eyes in 1999 Larry was one of the first people I called to tell him God had given me a new heart, one that wanted to live for Christ and follow this Christ Larry was always so passionate about. I remember Larry wept on the other end of the phone. Larry was one of the kindest, most sincere, patient, men I have ever known. He lived out Galatians 5:22, the fruit of the spirit. I rejoice with you all because I know Larry is in Glory, rejoicing forever in eternity with his beloved Jesus, yet I weep with you too. I will always remember those golf lessons. I cannot wait to see Larry again, in Glory!

February 22 at 3:49 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Larry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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