



James Charles Payton

April 1, 1961 - June 9, 2026

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of James Charles Payton, who passed away peacefully on June 9, 2026, in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, at the age of 65.

James was born on April 1, 1961 in Park Ridge, Illinois to James and Doris Payton. He spent early childhood in Hartland, Wisconsin before his family later settled in Woodstock, Illinois where he graduated from Woodstock High School in 1980.

From an early age, James possessed a spirit of adventure and a talent for building. He spent more than fifteen years on the island of Maui, Hawaii where he built custom homes while embracing the beauty and lifestyle of the islands. On Maui, he cultivated lifelong friendships and enjoyed many of the passions that brought him joy including surfing, mountain biking, and music. He played guitar and ukulele and was a talented artisan woodworker.

He married Cornelia (Connie) Braesel and moved to Hanover, Germany

where they had a son Maximillian. While in Germany, James dedicated himself to raising his young son, Max, of whom he remained so proud. Max now lives in Maastricht, Netherlands.

James returned to the United States and worked as a home builder and construction project manager with Keating-Moore Construction of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Throughout his career he earned the respect of coworkers, clients, and friends as a result of his personal craftsmanship, dependability, and strong work ethic.

Those who knew James will remember his easy smile, his generous heart, and his adventurous spirit. He had a natural ability to make others feel welcome and valued. He was kind without pretense, hardworking without complaint, and always willing to lend a hand. Friends and family alike cherished his sense of humor, his quiet strength, and the warmth he brought to every gathering. His life was a testament to perseverance, loyalty, and living each day with purpose.

James is survived by his wife, Cornelia (Connie) Braesel of Hanover, Germany; his son, Maximillian; his siblings, John (Denise), Joanne Henry (Albert), Robert (Pamela), Richard (Patricia), and Thomas (Natascha). He is also survived by his beloved godmother, Elaine Dytrych with whom he remained very close. He leaves behind many dear friends, and colleagues whose lives

were enriched by
knowing him.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate James' life at a gathering on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home, Jupiter, Florida. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, North Palm Beach, Florida.

James Charles Payton will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever carried in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him. May he rest in eternal peace.

Upcoming Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home
250 Center Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 744-2030
<https://www.taylorandmodeenflorida.com>

Funeral Mass

JUL 8. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church
10970 S.R. A1A
North Palm Beach, FL 33408