



## Martha Ann Payne Boden

November 2, 1944 - January 5, 2021

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved, Martha Ann Payne Boden. She entered into heaven on January 5th, at age 76, after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Martha was born in Kalamazoo, MI, on November 2, 1944. She was the eldest daughter of the late Joseph and Virgie Payne, founders of Payne's Produce in Winfield, WV.

Martha graduated from Winfield High School in 1962 as Valedictorian, and always spoke fondly of her teachers and fellow classmates there. Though she had not lived in the area for many years, she considered Winfield as home, and traveled back to visit relatives regularly. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree from WV State College, she taught at Winfield Middle School for a short while. She received a Master's Degree in Special Education from Trenton State College in NJ.

Most notable about Martha was her dedication to the welfare of Exceptional Students during her 32 years with Miami Dade County Public Schools. Her passion was helping special education students and their families. She was a tireless advocate for them, and spent countless hours assisting them. She held every administrative position in the field of Exceptional Student Education, including coordinator, area director, district director, and executive

director. She was instrumental in planning and implementing programs and services for over 30,000 handicapped students. In 1988 she was promoted to Region III Director where she supervised a staff of 40 responsible for identification and education of exceptional students. She was an excellent hands on leader and was known for giving equal attention to each of her staff, respecting them as the professionals that they were. Her goal was to make a difference in the lives of her children every day.

She was the President of The Council For Exceptional Children; a member of Delta Delta Kappa, an honorary sorority for Women Educators; Executive Board member of MDCPS Administrator's Association, and co-host of the weekly TV program, BOLD Presents, "Broader Opportunities for the Learning Disabled". She received many awards during her career, including being voted Florida Administrator of the Year by the Florida Association of School Psychologists, honored by BOLD for her numerous contributions to youth awarded by the Dade County Preschool Interagency Council for the Handicapped for her efforts in initiating the most comprehensive programs for preschool handicapped children in the state and was honored by Dade County Career Guidance Association for her achievements in the area of career and vocational preparation for the handicapped.

Martha was strong in her faith and loved the Lord with all her heart. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Perrine for many years. She taught Sunday School, and was on the Board of Trustees for Perrine Baptist Academy. She loved Reverend Tommy Watson, who played a large role in her faith journey.

Martha had many personal interests. She loved the beauty of South Florida, particularly the unique tropical foliage. Gardening brought her a lot of joy and she enjoyed sitting in her back yard to relax. She also loved to decorate, especially for Christmas, and make her home and holidays special for her family and friends. She loved pampering the many dogs she had over the years. Music was very important to her and she enjoyed singing her favorites

by Frank Sinatra and Elvis. Though Alzheimer's took much of her, she remembered the words and sang them with joy until the end. She also was fascinated with finance and took pride in sharing her knowledge to help others be successful.

Upon Martha's retirement, she and Les moved to Ocala, Florida. She devoted much of her retirement to spending time with her daughter, Natalie and granddaughter, Ashton. Martha loved the mountains and was determined to find a great place to escape and relax. She and Les built a home in the mountains of North Carolina to spend more time with family.

Martha was an extraordinary person. She spent her life in service to others. Her beautiful, welcoming smile and radiant personality will be remembered and cherished forever. She was loving to all, and will be missed greatly by all who knew her.

Martha is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Lester Boden Jr., daughter, Natalie Dilling (Jason), of Monroe, NC, granddaughter, Ashton Williams, of Monroe, NC, brother, John Payne (Yvonne) of Winfield, WV and sisters, Loretta Guttman (Ralph) of Bryn Mawr PA, Sue Littlejohn (Dave Gladkosky) of South Charleston, WV and Kathy Payne (Paul Fourney) of Winfield, WV, sister-in-law, Linda Boden; nieces, Kelly Best and Melinda Hamblin; nephews, Dave Guttman, Anthony Payne and Jason Payne.

Martha's siblings would like to pay special thanks to her husband Les for the unwavering devotion and care he gave to Martha in her last few years. Special thanks to her daughter, Natalie, for how well she managed the care of both parents through very difficult times over the last 3 months.

Due to the challenges of the pandemic, a celebration of her amazing life will be held at a later date. A private service for immediate family only will be held

at Chapman Funeral Home in Winfield, WV on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm, followed by a brief graveside ceremony at the Payne family cemetery located on Rocky Step Road in Winfield, WV.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you find it in your heart to help someone in need to honor Martha. She always took pride in being a life coach to others and would want her legacy to continue.

Chapman Funeral Home, family-owned and located at 12848 Winfield Road, Winfield is honored to serve the Boden/Payne family.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Martha Ann Payne Boden*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *Just learning belatedly of Martha's passing. She did so much for the parents' advocacy group my mother started in the 1970s here in Miami, Broader Opportunities for the Learning Disabled (BOLD). And she was a very special personal friend to my mother for all those years--as she was to so many. Martha would even call me after my mom's death in 2014, always asking about my autistic brother Robert. My condolences to her family, and gratitude for her life and example.--Peter Schmitt*

**Peter Schmitt** - July 27, 2021 at 04:04 PM



“ *Happen to still have this article from Winfield Junior High School, dated June 7, 1967. She was the best. A favorite teacher of my favorite subject.*



**Patti Shinn** - February 05, 2021 at 04:22 PM



*Thank you so much for your kind words of my amazing mom. I loved this!!*

**Martha Boden** - March 02, 2021 at 01:44 PM

OG

“ *Olga Garcia lit a candle in memory of Martha Ann Payne Boden*



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**Olga Garcia** - January 29, 2021 at 10:40 AM

GP

“ *I am so fortunately to have called Martha my friend and happy we always stayed in touch after she retired. Martha was the best adminisrator to work for and with in Region III. She was kind, caring and always there for you. Martha's love was Special Education and always put the students' need first. Marth...I wil miss our fireside chats and the many good times....Lots of Love, Gail Pacheco*

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**Gail Pacheco** - January 24, 2021 at 07:28 PM

TH

“ *Tina Hankerson lit a candle in memory of Martha Ann Payne Boden*



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**Tina Hankerson** - January 12, 2021 at 01:17 PM

TH

“ Ms. Boden was my director at the Region III for many years. She interviewed me for as a Social Worker in the Transfer Department. She was always supportive and encouraging. Her smile is what I remember the most. No matter what she needed to discuss with you she began and ended with a smile. She was a beautiful person. I'm saddened to hear of her passing. My prayers to the family.

*With Deepest Sympathy,*

*Tina Hankerson  
Central Region Office  
Miami Dade County Public Schools*

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**Tina Hankerson** - January 12, 2021 at 01:15 PM

SL

“ I have nothing but fond memories and the highest respect for Mrs. Boden, who "walked the talk" as I saw it in her professional life. I was a school social worker in Region III and was privileged to be under her leadership. My sincerest condolences to her family whom she dearly loved and spoke of frequently. She was a great champion for children with disabilities and their families, and was an inspiration to me personally.

*Sarah Laucirica, M.S.W.*

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**Sarah Laucirica** - January 11, 2021 at 05:43 PM

LP

“ I recently retired from MDCPS and had been thinking about Martha as she was my first administrator in the system. She was an amazing woman and I remember Natalie was the apple of her eye. God bless you and you're family. With much love ❤️

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**Linda Perez** - January 10, 2021 at 01:47 PM

WM

“ I worked with Martha in the Exceptional Dept from 1975-77; I was the Executive Director and she was one of my Area Directors. She was a quintessential administrator and a dear friend. She loved her work and was greatly respected by her staff, parents and fellow administrators. I wish the world had more Martha Bodens.

*William Malloy Ed.D  
Professor Emeritus  
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill*

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**William W Malloy** - January 08, 2021 at 12:29 PM



“ Liz and I were so blessed to have Martha as a friend and colleague. She brought so much into the lives of those around her. Her bright insights, her deep caring for the disadvantaged and her love of friends and family. We know she is now no longer in pain. May God be with her daughter, Natalie and family. Joe and Liz Jackson

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**Joseph Jackson** - January 08, 2021 at 10:35 AM

RF

“ So sorry to hear of Martha's passing. She was a pioneer in our field of special education and spent her career advocating for students with disabilities. But more than that, Martha was a nice person with whom you felt comfortable when working through issues. Her advice, knowledge, and persistence guided my career. I am grateful for having known a person who enriched my life. You may not be on this earth any longer, but your spirit lives on in those you touched.

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**Russell Feldman** - January 07, 2021 at 10:46 PM

LG

“ So sad to hear of Marthas passing...such a beautiful person and a wonderful teacher...RIP

Linda Gillispie - January 07, 2021 at 03:43 PM

LG

“ So sad to hear of Martha's passing...such a beautiful person and a wonderful teacher....RIP

Linda Gillispie - January 07, 2021 at 03:36 PM

RF

“ So sad to hear about Martha. She was a great leader and an incredible mentor. She did so much to make it possible for me to have an amazing career. Her support and wisdom was invaluable. She touched so many who will remember her fondly.  
Ron Felton

Ron Felton - January 07, 2021 at 12:14 PM

ND

Thank you Ron. She loved working with you. She missed you once she retired. She would appreciate your kind words. Love, Natalie

natalie dilling - January 07, 2021 at 08:44 PM

SE

“ As a Special Ed teacher in Dade County for 30 years it was my great pleasure to have worked with Martha. Her joy for the teaching profession and the people who worked for her were well known. . Martha made a difference and her passing will be marked with sadness but tempered with joy knowing that she lived a good life.

Sally Enright - January 07, 2021 at 10:45 AM

RB

“ *Martha was always such a gracious woman. Brilliant, fair, tough, with a smile and a laugh that lit any room she entered. May her memory be a blessing to her family and loved ones.* ”



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**Rona Abramson Brandell** - January 07, 2021 at 10:30 AM

CG

“ *Cristina Garcia-Granda lit a candle in memory of Martha Ann Payne Boden* ”



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**Cristina Garcia-Granda** - January 07, 2021 at 08:52 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Martha Ann Payne Boden.* ”



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January 07, 2021 at 12:02 AM

SP

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. My husband Robert Payne is Don and Wilma Paynes grandson. You will be in our prayers* ”

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**Sandy Payne** - January 06, 2021 at 09:43 PM

HE

“ Martha was a wonderful and well-loved woman. My deepest sympathy to the family on her passing. May all of your happy memories of Martha sustain you now and in the future.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Harris Himot Enteen

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**Harris Enteen** - January 06, 2021 at 09:27 PM

LC

“ Laureen Clarke lit a candle in memory of Martha Ann Payne Boden



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**Laureen Clarke** - January 06, 2021 at 09:23 PM

LC

“ Martha always supported me, even when I was overly verbal to principals during my young years as a SLP. I learned from her the in and outs of ESE and how to be the voice of the children. Angel in heaven taking care of those special angels. L. Clarke

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**Laureen Clarke** - January 06, 2021 at 09:22 PM



“ Mary Payne lit a candle in memory of Martha Ann Payne Boden



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**Mary Payne** - January 06, 2021 at 06:51 PM