



# Martista Xavier Payne

SEP 16, 1972 - AUG 11, 2025



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Hamlin & Hilbish  
Funeral Directors

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# Martista Xavier Payne

SEP 16, 1972 - AUG 11, 2025

## In Loving Memory of Martista Xavier Payne September 16, 1972 – August 11, 2025 Kissimmee, Florida

Martista Xavier Payne, affectionately known as DJ Xavier, passed away on Monday, August 11, 2025, at the age of 52. Born in Tallahassee, Florida to Laverne and Nellie Payne, Martin spent most of his life in Florida, with a meaningful chapter also lived in Illinois.

Martin was a man of many passions and talents. Professionally, he served as a social worker with the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County, where his compassion and dedication touched countless lives. He was also widely known as DJ Xavier, a vibrant entertainer who performed at venues from Las Vegas to Atlanta, and brought joy to weddings, birthday parties, Quinceañeras, and resort events in Kissimmee.

His love for music was matched by his enthusiasm for superhero culture—Marvel, DC, comics, and collecting swords and memorabilia were among his favorite hobbies. Martin’s playful spirit and creative energy made him a beloved figure in every community he touched.

On January 18, 2020, Martin married the love of his life, Lisa A. Payne, in Kissimmee, Florida. Their bond was a testament to enduring love and partnership.

Martin is preceded in death by his grandparents John and Mary Payne, Samuel and Bonnie Ruth Johnson, Big Mama Nellie Fedd, his father Laverne Payne and brother Christopher Thomas. He is survived by his devoted wife Lisa Payne; his beloved mother Nellie Payne; godparents Locksley and Dollie Thomas; children Kaiden Payne, Micheal Devine (Leah) and Eric Devine-Coatsworth (Josh); siblings Kim Payne Jackson, Tyesin Payne, Monique Thomas, and Keith Payne; niece Brianna Thomas and Kennedy Jackson; grandchildren Conner Devine, Brixon Devine, Ronan Devine, and Lauren Devine; and many cherished cousins, godchildren, and god-grandchildren.



## Obituary

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A service to celebrate Martin's life will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 11:00 AM in the Hamlin and Hilbish Chapel, with a gathering beginning one hour prior.

Parking is available across the street next to Lake Eustis Christian Church, with cones, signage, and possible police assistance for crossing. For those needing additional support, accessible parking is available behind the building with ramp access.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice in Martin's honor.

Condolences, memories, and photos may be shared on the tribute wall.

Martin's music, laughter, and superhero heart will live on in the memories of all who knew and loved him.



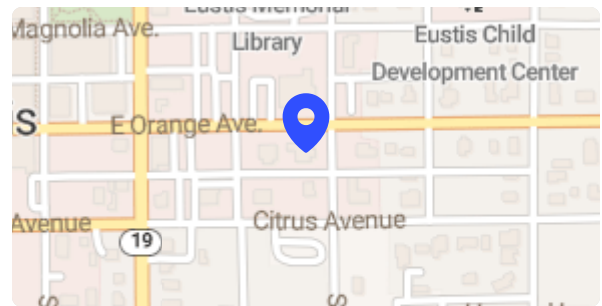
# Events

**Martista Xavier Payne**

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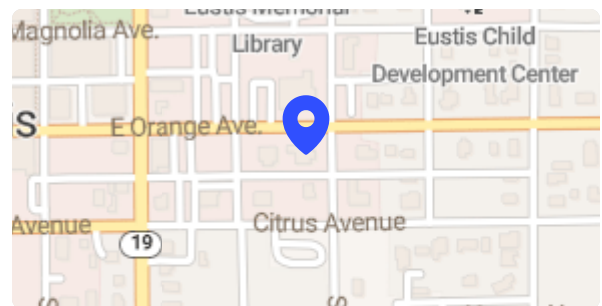
## Memorial Service Gathering

- Saturday**, August 23, 2025
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
- Hamlin & Hilbish Chapel**  
326 E. Orange Avenue, Eustis FL 32726



## Memorial Service

- Saturday**, August 23, 2025
- 11:00 AM ET
- Hamlin & Hilbish Chapel**  
326 E. Orange Avenue, Eustis FL 32726





# Tribute Wall

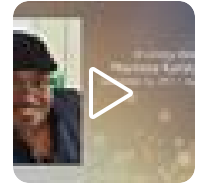
**Martista Xavier Payne**

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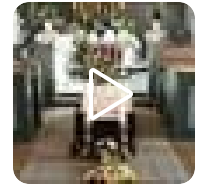
**Hamlin & Hilbish Funeral Directors** shared a **Video**.

August 23 at 6:41 AM



**Hamlin & Hilbish Funeral Directors** shared a **Livestream Payne 11 am**.

August 23 at 6:41 AM



**Derek Carmichael** posted:

I was one of his classmates at Florida High between 1986 and 1988. He was easily one of the nicest classmates I ever had. Very positive and uplifting when he was around us. I will miss him greatly. Thank you Marty for being the kind soul you were.

August 23 at 6:39 PM



**Peter Sewall** lit a candle in honor of Martista.

I'm deeply saddened by the loss of my colleague and friend, Martista. For more than two decades, his music, his spirit, and his laughter filled our community with joy. He had a gift for bringing people together, lifting hearts, and making every event feel special. Beyond his talent, Xavier was kind, genuine, and always willing to share a smile or a word of encouragement. His absence leaves a void that cannot be filled, but his memory will continue to resonate in every song and every story shared about him. My heart goes out to Lisa, his family, and all who loved him. Rest in peace, my friend—you will be missed but never forgotten.

August 23 at 5:43 PM



**Julie Koller** posted:

Lisa, I never had the pleasure of meeting your husband but I heard he was an amazing man. I'm so sorry for your loss and have been thinking about you a lot. Sending love and prayers . Love, Julie

August 23 at 8:28 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Martista Xavier Payne**

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**Deanna S.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Martista.



August 22 at 10:00 PM



**Deanna Santiago** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



You will be missed!

August 22 at 9:22 PM



**Deanna Santiago** lit a candle in honor of Martista.

I will always remember how you had everyone believing we was related to Michael Jackson I literally felt like a superstar. Hands down the greatest DJ. Thank you for loving us like we where yours. Jalisa Alexiya Alex and mom



August 22 at 9:10 PM



**Monique Thomas** lit a candle in honor of Martista.

Monique Thomas lit a candle in memory of Martista Payne



August 22 at 1:35 PM



**Liz** lit a candle in honor of Martista.

To my very special friend. I will cherish those fridays when you were at 4C. Rest in Peace my special one



August 21 at 5:18 PM



**Sue Vander Vossen** posted:

My fondest memory? His smile, his love of all people, his exuberance and his heart. He will be greatly missed. But I bet heaven is celebrating because he is home.

August 20 at 5:29 PM



# Tribute Wall

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**Thomas Towns** posted:

Marty and I grew up together just one street apart and did everything together as kids and young adults. We shared a ton of extremely memorable experiences that will never ever be forgotten - Actually attended a Prince concert and rode bumper cars with "Prince And The Revolution" a few hours before the show started! I'm convinced that it was Marty's magnetic charm and wit that resulted in that happening. Marty was gifted with the ability to make almost any ordinary thing, funny! He was more than a best friend. He was a brother, a mentor, and someone that made life so much FUN. Those good times together will forever make me smile, and I'm incredibly thankful for that. You'll be missed Marty. Love you Brother!

August 20 at 11:13 AM



**Monique Thomas** August 22 at 1:35 PM

Watching you two grow into men has been my pleasure.



**Tanya Jackson** August 21 at 10:28 AM

He did love him some Prince



**Tanya Jackson** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Martista "Marty" will forever be missed by those of us who loved him. We have known each other for 3 decades. And he kept me laughing all 35 years. It would make my day when he would text me to just to see how I was doing. I was looking forward to seeing you in Tally soon. I remember when we first met, I was a shy young lady, but you soon brought me out of being shy. I will miss seeing that smile in the pictures that you would send me. We made some great memories. Love You Always my Friend. Love, Tanya



August 18 at 10:22 AM



**Suzanne Gouin** lit a candle in honor of Martista.

You were a rare human being with a smile that lit up a room. My memories are Saturdays parking in the alley at Cheeks and walking in hand in hand with Chuck and you, DJ Xavier, greeting us with a big smile from ear to ear. You were always accompanied by Lisa, Kaiden, or both of them. More recent sitting with you and Lisa at the engagement party just the week before. We felt so much that we really got to talk and know you. You will be so missed forever here. Fly high our friend and entertain all the angels with your music and your talent. You are a super hero! Chuck and Suzanne GOUIN



August 18 at 4:49 AM



## Tribute Wall

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DB

**Destin Benson** posted:

I remember the BIG things was when E.T. came out in theaters and the saying was, "I saw E.T." Marty came to school with his own version of "I saw E.T." shirt. It was a baseball style shirt with the E.T. saying on the shirt. I remember that till this day. Marty was a kind soul with an excellent sense of humor. He will definitely be missed. Rest in peace my friend.

August 17 at 1:23 AM

AN

**Ann Niles** lit a candle in honor of Martista.

Xavier had a smile that would light up the whole room. Frank and I always looked forward to the pool parties that he DJ'd. We knew that it would be fun, full of laughter and amazing music. He was a great entertainer and a wonderful man. RIP our dear friend until we meet again. ❤️🙏

August 16 at 3:43 PM



MR

**Megan Rivera** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I've worked with Xavier for 9 years. He was my first manager at the non-profit where we worked together and he truly treated us all like family. He had a wonderful spirit and knew how to make us laugh and lift us up during the hardest of times. I was at a crossroads in my life in deciding what I wanted to do professionally. Xavier took a chance on me and I've had the opportunity to serve the community in a meaningful way that brings me joy for almost a decade. He was a blessing to everyone who knew him. We'll miss his laugh, the music at our meetings and retreats because he was the best DJ, his easygoing nature, and his friendship. Thank you for everything, Xavier. ❤️

August 15 at 10:46 AM

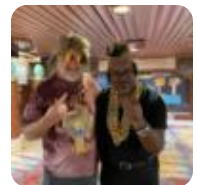


EP

**Elena Pasek** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Pictures? Oh I got the pictures!

August 15 at 9:33 AM





# Tribute Wall

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MR

**Melissa Rodermond** posted:

You are one of the best people I have known. One hell of a DJ and a friend. Thank you for all the advice throughout the years. May your family find peace and comfort during this time. When I see you again play me my song for old times sake.

August 14 at 8:11 PM

SR

**Stephanie Rutherford** lit a candle in honor of Martista.

Had the honor of meeting DJ Xavier when I started with the Cove. What a fixture he was with the community. He will be missed. Lisa... Kaiden... my thoughts and prayers are with you both.

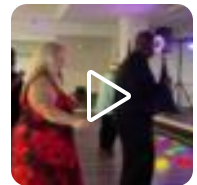


August 14 at 4:40 PM

EP

**Elena Pasek** shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Martin DJ'd our special needs prom this year, his bride took to the dance floor and he immediately got up to join her. ❤️



August 14 at 4:09 PM

PE

**Pauline Ellison** posted:

I will always love this man with all my heart ❤️ and his great, gentle smile that was infectious. One of my favorite memories of him was just this past Easter. He dressed as a bunny with floppy ears, but no bunny tail... I told him he was my favorite black bunny of all time. 🐰 You are truly missed! 😭 Fly high my precious friend... Fly high!!RIP X 🙏🙏🙏

August 14 at 3:00 PM

MT

**Monique Thomas** posted:

Marty, I cannot believe you are gone. I will always remember our younger days- how you, me, and Chris would listen to music and dance in your room, how we would play softball in the street (knocked out teeth lol), and how we would terrorize Tyesin when Michael Jackson's "Thriller" video came on. lol I know you and Chris are having a time. I love you, and will never forget you, lil bro. While my heart breaks, I know God's plan isn't always comprehend-able, and I pray that one day, I'll get to see you again. Until that time, rest well. Love you eternally.xoxoMokie

August 14 at 1:20 PM



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**Loretta Martin** posted:

So sorry to hear of Xavier's passing. God rest his soul. Love and prayers to his family Loretta and Rick Martin

August 13 at 8:36 PM



# Media

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## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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