John Marshall Payne III

- John Marshall Payne III is a 70-year-old man who was convicted of second-degree murder in 1986. He has always maintained his innocence of the crime, and the prosecution's only evidence against him came from two jailhouse informants who received significant breaks on their sentences in their cases in exchange for their testimony, and one woman who admitted she frequently used LSD at the time she implicated Mr. Payne and could not really remember whether he made any inculpatory statements to her. The Pennsylvania Superior Court has described these witnesses' credibility as "suspect."
- Mr. Payne is a U.S. Navy Veteran who was honorably discharged from the service in 1977.
- Mr. Payne has spent his four decades of incarceration committed to self-improvement, and has volunteered his time for the Vietnam Veterans Association, the Huntingdon Literary Council, and Veterans Behind the Wall. He is committed to his faith and is active in his church community.

View Mr. Payne's King's Bench petition, filed Sep. 10, 2026