



In Loving Memory of
Robert E. Bailey
August 19, 1932 - March 21, 2025

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Robert E. Bailey



Funeral Service

Saturday, April 26, 2025 - 10:30 AM
First Presbyterian Church - Luverne, Minnesota

Officiating

Rev. Dr. Steven Voris

Special Reading

Selections from "The Song of Hiawatha"
by Ben Vander Kooi

Scripture

Psalm 23
II Samuel 23:8-17
Romans 15:1-11

Music

Pianist - Susan Skattum
Soloist - Susan Schneekloth
Accompanist - Chris Nowatzki

Congregational Hymns

"Here I Am, Lord" - Hymn 69
"Shall We Gather At The River" - Hymn 375
"Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound" - Hymn 649

Reflections

by Don Patrick

Inurnment with Military Honors

Ottertail Union Cemetery
Ottertail, Minnesota

*Following the service, friends are invited to join the family
for food and fellowship at the Luverne Country Club -
one of Bob's favorite places to spend time.*



Scan QR code to view Bob's LifeTribute video.
Arrangements under the care of
HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME

Robert Edmund Bailey was born on August 19, 1932 in Canby, Minnesota to Charles and Adele "Della" Bailey. He passed away on March 21, 2025 in Luverne, Minnesota from the effects of pneumonia, influenza, and having lived 92 wonderful years filled with laughter, love, and playful shenanigans. Bob and his family moved to Lake Preston, South Dakota in 1938. After his father's passing in 1940 they moved to Pipestone, where he attended Pipestone Public School and graduated in 1950. Bob enlisted in the Army in 1951, spending time at Camp Rucker in Alabama until serving nine months overseas during the Korean War. In whatever home they lived in (and there were many), a photo was always hanging of Bob and his best Army buddy, Willie, showing their swagger in Korea on the hood of a jeep. He was always humble but spoke with pride of being in a racially integrated troop, one of the first under President Truman's orders to desegregate the military. After Bob came home from the war and needed to make a living as a civilian, he applied for a job at Northwestern Bell Telephone Company based on his mother's advice. Della's instinct was a good one, and Bob found his professional home at Northwestern Bell, working there for more than thirty years. He held a variety of jobs over the course of his career with a common thread of making it easier for people to connect with one another, which was also one of his gifts in life. Bob married Darlene Patrick in Lake Benton, Minnesota and they built a wonderful family together, raising four kids in countless homes across Luverne, Albert Lea, and Mound, Minnesota. When it was time to retire, they upgraded their cabin on Pelican Bay in Ottertail, Minnesota into a full-time home. Though they made their way back home to Luverne in 2011, they cherished their years together in Ottertail and that is the location they chose for their final rest.

Family, community, and church were the foundations of Bob's life. He served as Deacon of Luverne Presbyterian Church, taught Sunday school, and sang in the choir. Bob and Dar were very involved at the Methodist Church in Ottertail. Bob was a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club International, and the Luverne Fire Department. He thoroughly enjoyed (and was very talented at) spontaneous performances of Longfellow's Song of Hiawatha, to the delight of his family and anyone in earshot. Bob also enjoyed golfing, fishing, beating us all at cards - even if it was sometimes because he would peek at ours - and a good Brandy Manhattan. He celebrated big birthdays by water skiing and marked significant family events well into his later years by standing on his head. He was loved by so many, but especially Dar. They went through nearly 70 years of life side-by-side and have been a model for what a loving partnership looks like. We will miss him terribly but are grateful for the wonderful life he lived and the legacy and lessons he leaves behind.

Bob is survived by his wife, Darlene Bailey; children, Barry (Carla) Bailey, Chuck (Cindy) Bailey, Sue (Tom) Brakke, and Mike Bailey; grandchildren, Crystal Brakke, Michael (Sangeeta Rana) Brakke, Alanna (Mike Rosenberger) Bailey, Daniel Brakke, Lily Bailey, Alex Bailey, Victoria Bailey, and Michael ("Buddy") Bailey Jr.; step-grandchildren, Dustin (Amber) Monier, and Ashley (Shane Murphy) Monier; great-granddaughter, Dara Brakke; and several step-great-grandchildren. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Adele Bailey; and sisters, Dorothy Orr, Betty Higley, and Pat Kellogg.