



LTC (Ret.) Robert Hayes Bailey

April 6, 1932 - May 6, 2022

LTC (Ret.) ROBERT HAYES BAILEY (90) died peacefully on May 6, 2022. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary—a woman to whom he was hopelessly devoted for more than sixty years. Theirs was an unlikely romance. He was a Southern farm boy and she was a first-generation Italian from New Jersey. Together they travelled the world with the Army, and then later as tourists. They retired to McKinney, Texas, and had an idyllic retirement—a wide circle of friends and countless hours of canasta and bridge. Bob loved being a late-in-life ROMEO: Retired Old Man Eating Out.

Their love for each other was rivaled only by their love of their family: Bob, Jr., (Debbie), Mark, (Tanna), and Cynthia, (Richard), and their grand-children: Gina (Stephen), Ryan (Sarah), Kristen (Paul), Jenna, Meghan, Richard, and Anna. Bob's advanced age allowed him the rare gift of great-grandchildren: Darby, William, Miles, Caelum, and Keegan. He met and held all but one, Aidan, who will be born in August. All of his grandchildren, and the older great-children will always remember Grandad's ability to magically retrieve a coin or piece of candy from behind their ear. His children—and he counted their spouses among them—will remember his endless patience, his ability to fix just about anything, and his grace and determination dealing with old age. He lived independently almost to the end of his life, and his constant refrain was that “Old age is not for sissies.”

Besides his family, his other great love was the US Army. It is likely no coincidence that he enlisted on Valentine's Day in 1950; he was 17. He served his country for the next twenty-five years, and retired as a lieutenant colonel. He had multiple positions. He served in combat in Korea, managed a nuclear arsenal in Europe, and commanded an ammunition plant. He received multiple medals, including a Bronze Star Medal for valor with Oak Leaf Cluster. Medals—particularly those for valor—are earned, and those experiences seared him forever. He frequently reminded his children and grandchildren that he fought “so that they would not have to.” He was a proud of his service and proud to be a member of the Seventh Infantry Division, but he hoped that one day militaries would not be necessary.

Following his retirement from the Army, he had a variety of positions in the private sector that drew on his exceptional organizational and logistical skills. He managed a hospital in Aransas Pass, Texas; was a project manager for an Air Force contract with the Saudi Arabian government; and helped clean up a Superfund site on Long Island, New York. He was known for his willingness to pitch in and assume the work of anyone who reported to him—including donning a hazmat suit and moving barrels of toxic sludge. In all things, he was a leader.

They say that old soldiers never die, they simply fade away. His family genuinely hopes that nothing about Robert Bailey—his goodness; his honesty; his love of family and country—ever fades away.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Code of Support, which supports veterans and their families. [click here \(https://www.codeofsupport.org/\)](https://www.codeofsupport.org/)

Services will be held Thursday, September 29th, 2022.

Memorial Service at the Jefferson Memorial Chapel, 12:30 p.m.

Interment at Arlington National Cemetery, 3:00 p.m.

Reception to follow at the home of Cynthia Bailey and Richard Gibbons, Jr.

11914 Latigo Lane, Oakton, Virginia 22124

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP **29**. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Burial

SEP **29**. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery
1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Tribute Wall



“ LTC (Ret.) Robert Hayes Bailey

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ Bob, a friendly neighbor introduced himself to us upon our arrival in Mckinney. That intro also included invitation to ROMEOS and Newcomers and Mary. Our meeting grew into a friendship that grew with many evenings of bridge and euchre with ladies groups, mens bridge group and couples' s groups. We enjoyed many hours of fellowship and sharing rides with Bob and Mary. Never forget the evening Darrell stopped quickly and spilled Mary's crockpot of meatballs in the trunk. Mary and Bob shared the attribute of making everyone feel welcome and important. Bob was always "the gentleman". They will be forever missed and remembered.

Darrell and Dorothy Gosnell - May 29, 2022 at 03:13 PM