



Bernard A. Bailey

MAY 28, 1923 - OCT 12, 2015



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Bernard Bailey Obituary

Bernard A. Bailey, 92, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, died October 12, 2015 at the home of his daughter in Lorain, Ohio. He was born May 28, 1923 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Claude and Maude (nee: Duffy) Bailey. He was a graduate and star athlete at Creston High School. Soon after he signed up for WWII and served as a Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps under General Claire Chennault as a P51 pilot. He flew over fifty missions from his base in China. After his discharge he returned to college and graduated from The University of Michigan, Business School. He and his wife Ruth were married prior to his senior year and enjoyed attending every football game of the 1948 Championship Season. Go Blue! After graduation he returned to Grand Rapids to pursue his career in retail sales and traveled throughout Michigan until the age of 91. He and his wife were founding members of Faith Lutheran Church, where he served on the church council and they were active for many years. Bernie enjoyed gardening and always had a beautiful garden in his backyard. He continued to enjoy sporting events, especially the Detroit Tiger and U of M football. As his children and grandchildren grew up, he enjoyed attending their various musical and sporting events. He so loved spending time with them. Bernie is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ruth E. (nee: Niehaus); daughters, Lynne (John) Lampert of Lorain, Ohio and Jayne (Edmund) Messina of Haslett, Michigan; grandchildren, Timothy, Laura, Daniel (Jodie), Jill (Kyle) and Marc (Jessica); great grandchildren, Natalie and Nathan; sisters, Mary Momber and Margaret (Doug) Wozniak. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Edward Bailey and brothers in law Charles Badgerow and Lester Momber. Bernie was a member of The Greatest Generation and truly lived the American Dream. His was a life well lived! All services will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Lutheran Church, 2740 Fuller Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49505 or a charity of choice.



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Arrangements were in the care of Dicken Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Elyria, Ohio. For online condolences visit www.dickenfuneralhome.com.

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Bernard A. Bailey, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)



Tribute Wall

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RK

Ron Kruis posted:

I worked with Bernie at Enterprise. He was a man of quiet dignity, and typified the Greatest Generation, of which he was a part. Bernie was born a month after my dad, who passed away in 2010. Bernie flew planes in China in WWII; my dad served aboard an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific. Talking with Bernie was in some respects like talking with my dad, because of their similar experiences. And like so many of their generation, they both downplayed their contributions in WWII, maintaining they simply fulfilled their duty to their country. Bernie will be missed.

October 23 at 8:00 PM

RW

Ruthanne Woodhead posted:

So sorry to hear about Bernie. He was a great man, and will be sorely missed. You are in our prayers and thoughts

October 22 at 8:00 PM

SS

Sheryl And Charlie Smalligan posted:

Dear Ruth and family, We saw Bernie's obituary in today's Grand Press. You and Bernie were such good neighbors to us as a young couple just beginning a family (many years ago--we are grandparents today). He was a good guy, and we are sorry to hear of his passing. Our sympathy to all of you.

October 17 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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