
James W. Bailey(1931 - 2017)

WILLIAMSBURG - James William Bailey, 85, of Williamsburg Virginia, left this earth on April 5, 2017. He was born in Kalamazoo Michigan on November 15, 1931 to Robert and Freda (Smith) Bailey. James graduated from Western Michigan University in 1951. During his career at the U.S. Army's Diamond Ordnance Fuse Laboratory (DOFL) in Washington DC, he pioneered development of the Army's first missile ordinance delivery system. At NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt Maryland, he managed the development of automated systems used to test and flight-certify spacecraft and their onboard scientific instruments. On August 1, 1955, he married Lucile Wilbourn, of Scobey Mississippi, in Kalamazoo. He gave of his talents to the community in several ways. By developing electronic systems for Freeway Airport in Bowie Maryland, he designed and installed weather and communications equipment. This enabled Freeway to become a state of the art facility. In 1987, as an amateur radio operator, KB4ZIN, "Jim" built and installed a repeater system in Williamsburg. During local and state emergencies, the repeater is used by other ham radio operators to give local weather reports to the National Weather Service's Skywarn. His beloved wife Lou predeceased him in January 1990, and his sister, Julia Jane Jansen in February 1999. His mother, Freda was nearly 101 years of age when she passed away in 2005. Surviving him are: his three daughters Lori Bailey Goldstein (husband Andy Goldstein), Terrill Bailey, and Christina Bailey, all of Williamsburg; his two sons Steven Bailey (wife Kathy Bailey) of Denton, Texas and William Bailey of Williamsburg; four grandchildren, Mark Voitein of St. Mary's, Georgia, Victoria Adams, and Robert and Aaron Goldstein, also of Williamsburg. He was deeply loved by his many nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at the Williamsburg Jamestown Airport at 100 Marclay Road, Williamsburg on April 23, 2017 at 5:00 pm. The family would like to thank the staff of the ICU and ED at Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center for their care and compassion during his recent illness and subsequent passing. In lieu of flowers, monetary donations may be made to the American Red Cross. The donation of blood would also be very much appreciated. Burial will be at the Riverside Cemetery in Kalamazoo, Michigan alongside his parents.

Published in Virginia Gazette on Apr. 15, 2017
