



Pastor James Douglas Bailey

January 10, 1945 - November 3, 2023

The staff at Heishman Funeral Home Inc. sends condolences to the family of Pastor James Douglas Bailey.

Pastor James Douglas Bailey of Edinburg, Virginia, went home to be with the Lord late Friday night, November 3, 2023, at the home of his daughter and son-in-law in Simpsonville, South Carolina. He was 78.

James is preceded in death by his first wife, Judith Carolyn Comer Bailey, his parents, Sam Henry and Mary Emma Keen Bailey, and his brother, Kenneth Sam Bailey. He is survived by his second wife, Patty, and his children, Tami Bailey Nantz (John) of Simpsonville, SC, and Jonathan Paul Bailey of Edinburg, VA. His legacy continues through his beloved grandchildren: Anna Nantz (Greer, SC), and Josiah, Karalynn, and Neveah Bailey of Edinburg, VA; his sisters, Mary McCollum (Mac) and Nan Strickland, both of Reidsville, NC, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Pastor Bailey was a graduate of Reidsville High School in Reidsville, NC, and a valiant combat veteran. He dedicated over five years of his life to serving the United States in the U.S. Marine Corps, earning numerous accolades, including the distinguished Purple Heart, after being wounded by a sniper's bullet on June 27, 1967, in Vietnam. It was during his military service that he responded to God's divine calling for full-time ministry. In 1971, shortly after

the birth of his daughter, he began his training by enrolling at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, where he earned an undergraduate and Master's Degree. Subsequently, he served as the pastor of Interstate Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee for three years and dedicated 36 years to serving Valley Baptist Church in Edinburg, Virginia, before retiring in 2015. Throughout his ministry, he also served as an Executive Board member for World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions for 40 years. Even after his retirement, he and his second wife continued serving, providing invaluable service as temporary replacements for missionaries in South Korea, New Zealand, Canada, Micronesia, and Guam who needed to take furlough.

Pastor Bailey's life was a testament to his unwavering trust in God, his steadfast service to His name, and his tireless efforts to lead others to Christ. He continued to fulfill this divine calling faithfully until his final breath. To God be the glory – great things He has accomplished through this remarkable life.

Visitation with family and friends will take place just before the funeral at Valley Baptist Church (408 Stoney Creek Road, Edinburg, VA) on November 13, 2023, between 1:00 and 2:30pm. The funeral service will begin at 2:30pm, followed by a brief graveside service at Cedarwood Cemetery in Edinburg. The funeral service will be livestreamed at <https://valleybaptistchurch.net>.

In lieu of flowers, we kindly request that you consider contributing to the Worldwide New Testament Baptist Missions (WWNTBM) Jim and Judy Bailey Missions Memorial Fund. You can donate by visiting <http://wwntbm.com/give> and selecting this fund from the dropdown menu. Alternatively, you may support the Valley Baptist Christian School Scholarship Fund by visiting <https://valleybaptistchurch.net/online-giving/>. Both causes held a special place in Pastor Bailey's heart and continue to impact countless lives.

Online condolences may be left at www.valleyfs.com

Arrangements by Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service
Branch, Edinburg.

Cemetery Details

Cedarwood Cemetery

214 S. Main St
Edinburg, VA 22824

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 13. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Valley Baptist Church
408 Stoney Creek Rd
Edinburg, VA 22824
(540) 984-8665

Funeral Service

NOV 13. 2:30 PM (ET)

Valley Baptist Church
408 Stoney Creek Rd
Edinburg, VA 22824
(540) 984-8665

Tribute Wall

BT

“ He was my dad's preacher my dad passed away may 2011 Vernie frye jr. He was usher at edingburg valley Baptist church. I miss my dad and Mr. Bailey did his service at grave site. Im so sorry for your loss I know been couple years since Mr Bailey passed away I just saw this at Heisman web sight . Again so sorry for your loss.....
sincerely Beatrice Frye

Beatrice frye taylor - August 03, 2025 at 08:03 PM

WW

“ I didn't personally know Sgt. Bailey but we both served with "I" 3/26 at Khe Sanh, Vietnam. I am thankful for 'brothers' like him who served both their country and their God. Semper Fi, Wayne Williams 'I' 3/26



Wayne Williams - August 09, 2024 at 09:39 AM

PO

“ *In memory of Sgt. Pastor James Douglas Bailey:
It was only like yesterday that we were together in Vietnam and then managed to find each other after learning that we lived only a few hours apart! Sgt. Bailey was our “I” Company 3/26 Platoon Sgt. and was highly respected by all the Marines in our Platoon. Sgt. Bailey would hold Church services every Sunday that he could while in Vietnam. This was usually while we were on an assigned operation while stationed at Khe Sanh. We would gather around and he would read scriptures from the Bible which he always carried with him. These were special times for all the Marines, but especially for me because of the many close calls we each faced daily. Clara and I will be unable to attend the funeral but will keep the family in our prayers. If you should want to reach out to me for more information about Vietnam, do not hesitate to do so.*

Pat & Clara O'Brien. 540-921-2463

Patrick O'Brien - November 12, 2023 at 05:46 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pastor James Douglas Bailey.*



November 10, 2023 at 02:46 PM

GE

“ *Pastor James Bailey was a soldier in the truest sense, serving both his country and his God with honor, faithfulness, and distinction. I will be forever grateful for the influence and impact that this dear man of God has had on my life and ministry. To the entire family, please accept my sincere condolences. Pastor Bailey will be sorely missed. - Missionary Gabe Eiben*

Gabriel Eiben - November 09, 2023 at 08:45 PM

“ *My dear buddy and dear friend to Samia, and - for a number of years - a wonderful Pastor to both Samia and me, who will be sorely missed until we join him.*

We have so many wonderful memories - too many to count - but I can't help thinking about things we did together, like trading options online, or resting together in the evening before bed and watching the Sharks investment show... or, sometimes, the Nascar races. He taught me so many things...

No words can express our love and admiration of this humble, kind, loving, caring gentleman. He dedicated his life to serve others - quietly and humbly. We were blessed and enriched by his love for us and for His Lord, whom he loved so much. He touched so many lives, especially members of our family, who saw Jesus in him

I still recall that a dear brother in Christ, Vernie Fry ("Junior") who - I was stunned to learn from another brother - lived in a very old and dilapidated motor home way out in the woods. I can't be certain whether or not it was an exaggeration, but I heard that it literally had trees growing up through it. Because of my paralysis, I was unable to get anywhere near it with an electric wheelchair or scooter. Then one day Junior told me that he had moved to a Beautiful Lutheran retirement home where he was just thrilled to be. Finally, I found out how he got there. Dear Pastor Bailey had quietly found a way to get him in there. Just one of numerous examples of how he quietly worked behind the scenes to serve the Lord and to help individuals.

He was truly a man of principle, without a doubt. The Lord had obviously granted him the wisdom that he prayed for. Above all, it was his heart's desire to serve his dear Lord until the end - which he did in the most exemplary ways!

What an incredible testimony this man's life was... What an example, on so many levels.

It hurts to lose a wonderful and kind friend and brother, but knowing Who he's with takes a lot out of the hurt, but, let's be honest, losing a family member - even temporarily - still hurts.

Thank you, dear Lord, for our precious, wonderful Pastor Bailey! 🙏



-Rob & Samia Wilkes

Rob & Samia Wilkes - November 09, 2023 at 05:41 PM

DH

“*Dear Tami and Jonathan and Valley Baptist Church, Thank you for the memories that we have of your Dad and Mom and Pastor of 36 years at VBC. I remember so vividly those times we were guest in the Bailey home there in Edinburg. Your Mom was The Gracious Picture of the ideal Pastor's wife. Norma and I always enjoyed you children, and took notice of your respect and love for your Dad. Keep the legacy going with your children and grand children. Brenda and I would love to be there, but due to previous commitments we will not be able to attend the Celebration. We plan to watch the livestream. God Bless, Dalton & Brenda Heath*

Dalton & Brenda Heath - November 09, 2023 at 04:58 PM

KW

“*We all loved Pastor Bailey and his wonderful family. He truly was a called man of God. I, personally, will greatly miss him.*

Ken Watkins - November 08, 2023 at 08:02 PM

KW

“*Pastor Bailey truly was a called man of God. All of my family loved him and his beautiful family. I, personally, will greatly miss him and his messages. Ken Watkins*

Ken Watkins - November 08, 2023 at 08:01 PM

FW

“ *Pastor Jim Bailey and his wife made had a great impact on my life. It was under Pastor Bailey that I was called to preach. When he preached in lieu of a call to Interstate Baptist Church in Memphis, TN, he preached from a text about loving God more than anything or anyone else. God moved me that day. My dad and I went to Greenville, SC to help him pack and move to Memphis. I miss them both as well as Sister Judy.*

Freeman Weems - November 07, 2023 at 08:56 PM

BH

“ *To the family of Pastor James Douglas Bailey,
My deepest sympathies and condolences!
Sincerely,
Brian Hanger*

Brian Hanger - November 07, 2023 at 02:48 PM