



Judge John Ragan Bailey

September 17, 2012

Judge John Ragan Bailey, 97, of Cape Girardeau passed away Monday, September 17, 2012, at Landmark Hospital. He was born Sept. 14, 1915, in Sikeston, Mo., to U.S. Rep. Ralph E. and Agnes Williams Bailey. Bailey spent most of his life in Portageville, Mo. His wife, Virginia Vinyard Bailey, preceded him in death July 8. Survivors include three daughters, Barbara Bailey Bradford of St. Louis, Marcia Bailey Planchon of Germantown, Tenn., Rebecca Bailey Betz of Cape Girardeau; seven grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. Bailey was a graduate of Sikeston High School, attended Southeast Missouri State Teachers College (now Southeast Missouri State University), and graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta. He also graduated from the University of Missouri School of Law. He was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 1940. In 1941 Bailey accepted employment with E.B. Gee and remained associated with Gee farming and E.B. Gee Cotton and Grain Co. Inc. through the 1980s. In 1961 Bailey was appointed probate judge of New Madrid County and retained that position until 1975 when he took the duties of the Magistrate Court and served as probate and ex-officio magistrate judge. He became associate circuit judge of New Madrid County in 1979. He went on to serve as circuit judge for Pemiscot and New Madrid counties until his retirement in 1987. Bailey was a member of the American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, Missouri Bar, Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges and Missouri Association of Municipal and Associate

Circuit Judges. He was a member of the Arkansas-Missouri Cotton Ginners Association and served as its president in 1977. He was the Missouri member of the National Cotton Board from 1974 to 1980, and Missouri alternate member from 1981 to 1983. He was a member of the Advisory Board to the University of Missouri Delta Center 12 years and served as secretary-treasurer of the old Missouri Cotton Producers Association. During his time in Portageville, Bailey served three terms as a member of the Portageville School Board. He was a member of Portageville United Methodist Church and served as chairman of its board of trustees. He was a longtime member of Portageville Rotary Club, serving two terms as president, and a member of the Portageville Chamber of Commerce. Since moving to Cape Girardeau in 2003, the Baileys were members of First Presbyterian Church. Visitation will be from 1:30 p.m. to service time Saturday, September 22, 2012 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home. The funeral will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, September 22, 2012 at the funeral home. Interment will be in Cape County Memorial Park.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ We were saddened to hear of Judge Bailey's passing. He was a delightful person and was wonderful to my dad (Judge Bill Rader). It was a pleasure to have known such a fine gentleman. Your family is in our prayers during such a difficult time.

Jane Rader DeBoe - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy. I did not know Mr. Bailey personally, but I too know the pain of losing someone as important as a dad. May your family find comfort as I have in knowing that our loving heavenly Father promises us that very soon he will 'swallow up death forever, and certainly wipe the tears from all faces.' (Isaiah 25:8) What a wonderful day that will be!

K. Jackson - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ Barbara, Marcia and Rebecca - my deepest sympathy in the passing of your father. May God's Peace and Comfort be with you.
Sincerely, Wilma Jo

Wilma Jo (Noles) Schnare - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ A wonderful friend. A great person. He will truly be missed.

Robert Cook - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“*Marcia, Barbara, and Becky, Your parents had the biggest imprint on my life of anyone in my formative years, and that influence continues still. I never thought love was an abundant commodity, but I sensed it from Mr. and Mrs. Bailey. They had my respect and love. Your Mom was my French teacher. I loved French, but mainly I learned what dignity is. Wow! She was the personification of dignity. One day, she told me to come by her office before school started the next day. In that session, she verbally hugged me. She told me that I was capable and that she wanted me to go to college. I carried that thought around for a long time. Since we rented 40 acres from your Dad, he drove by where we worked regularly. We looked for him. It was a boost for the day to see him cruise by. I came to his office a few times. He allowed me to sit and talk with him. When I was there, he gave me the utmost respect. I would like to tell more about refreshing times with your parents. They were there for my family and me, but they were also available for everyone. They had huge hearts. They were the most respected people I knew. And, I am humbled to think that they took the time to show their interest in an unwashed cotton picker. I feel for you in this time of sadness. God bless you! James*

James McDermott - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM