



## Leon McClung Bailey Jr.

July 31, 1947 - April 25, 2022

The communities of Ripley and Meridian, Miss. lost a beloved member on April 25, 2022, when Leon Bailey, Jr. passed from this Earth at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oxford, Miss. surrounded by his family at the age of 74.

People never wondered what Leon's opinion was about anything. He was known for his extreme candor wrapped in Southern charm. He kept a room laughing and never met a stranger. To know him was to love him and it could mean you were given a nickname. He cared deeply about his community and loved his family fiercely. Before his retirement from the cable company in 2017, Leon could often be found in their office on Main Street helping customers and troubleshooting television and Internet connections. One of Leon's favorite work activities was meeting with "sales" people but truth be told, he gave them more than they ever sold him in the way of wisdom and entertainment. After his and Diane's retirement, full time babysitting occupied their time giving them many memories with their two adored grandsons, Bailey and Sam.

Leon was born in Meridian, Miss. to Prue and Leon Bailey. He graduated from Meridian High School where he lettered in football and baseball and was elected class favorite, a title that would follow him throughout life. He excelled on and off the field, earning the Ben F. Cameron Award, an annual award given to an athlete whose characteristics most closely exemplify the "fighting

Wildcat Spirit" of hard work, good sportsmanship and desire. Leon attended Mississippi State University his freshman year and played baseball. He transferred and graduated from Millsaps College where he played both football and baseball.

After college, Leon moved back home to Bailey, Miss., outside of Meridian, where he worked for the family business and would later open Bailey Realty. But his move back home would also introduce him to his future wife, Diane Elliott. Leon moved to Ripley in 1987 to take over his father-in-law's business, Ripley Video Cable where he served as President and CEO. He served for many years on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Cable Telecommunications Association where he mentored many cable operators bringing humor and honesty to the quarterly meetings and countless meetings with legislators.

Leon served as a Deacon, Elder and Trustee of Ripley Presbyterian Church and was a faithful member and served as President of the Seekers Sunday School class.

Leon is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Diane Elliott Bailey of Ripley; son Leon "Elliott" Bailey of Atlanta, Georgia; daughter Lauren Bailey Steverson (Jody) of Ripley and two grandchildren, Bailey and Sam Steverson; and his mother Prue Bailey of Meridian. Leon is preceded in death by his father, Leon Bailey and brothers, David Alison and Robert Preston Bailey.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 28 from 5 pm until 7 pm at Ripley Presbyterian Church and from 11 am until 1 pm on Friday, April 29. A Celebration of Life will follow at 1 pm also at Ripley Presbyterian Church. Fond memories and funny stories may be shared at: <https://www.mcbridefuneralhome.com/obituaries/Leon-Bailey-3/#!/TributeWall>

Honorary pallbearers are Judge Robert Elliott, Dr. Charles Elliott, Dr. Norris Howell, Steven Parr, John Pollman, Richard Todd, Hollis Wigington and the Elders of Ripley Presbyterian Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to:

Ripley Presbyterian Church

PO Box 556

Ripley, MS 38663

and

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

PO Box 41817

Memphis, TN 38174

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ripley Presbyterian Church  
302 West Cooper St.  
Ripley, MS 38663

## Visitation

APR **29**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ripley Presbyterian Church  
302 West Cooper St.  
Ripley, MS 38663

## Memorial Service

APR **29**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Ripley Presbyterian Church  
302 West Cooper St.  
Ripley, MS 38663

# Tribute Wall



“ *Leon McClung Bailey Jr.*

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October 05, 2023 at 12:14 PM



“ *The hi-lite of many summers was coming from Michigan to "play with" our Bailey cousins, Leon, David and Bobby. Leon took great delight in trying to imitate our "Yankee twang". We tried to respond in kind with imitation of his "southern drawl", but he won the prize for getting the most laughs with his hilarious renditions of "Yankee talk",*

*Rest in peace, dear cousin, until we meet again with you and all our family where language won't be necessary.*

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**Carol Sadowski Palombit** - May 04, 2022 at 12:51 AM



“ *All of us at Bennett Plumbing were saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Leon. He was always friendly and a pleasure to do business with. May the Lord give you comfort in your loss.*

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**Mac Bennett** - April 28, 2022 at 02:03 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Leon McClung Bailey Jr..*



April 28, 2022 at 12:31 PM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Leon McClung Bailey Jr..*



April 28, 2022 at 09:55 AM



“ *Leon and I started 1st grade together and finished high-school the same way as friends. During our college days we became family through marriage of my father and his aunt. Rest in peace Good and Faithful Servant and peace to his family.*

**Van A Duncan Jr** - April 27, 2022 at 11:24 PM



“ *Colleen Graves Dunnam lit a candle in memory of Leon McClung Bailey Jr.*



**Colleen Graves Dunnam** - April 27, 2022 at 11:07 PM

BR

“ Leon an and I were not close friends but friends just the same. I always got to visit with him at an Ole Miss event he and his wife usually attended with Bobby and Anne Elliot. We always shared memories and the latest news about our hometown of Meridian. After 60 years he still called me Billy from our days in elementary school. I will miss those annual visits.

Bill Renovich - April 27, 2022 at 12:17 PM

TG

“ Terrye Grisham lit a candle in memory of Leon McClung Bailey Jr.



Terrye Grisham - April 26, 2022 at 03:46 PM



“ Stephanie McClintock lit a candle in memory of Leon McClung Bailey Jr.



Stephanie McClintock - April 26, 2022 at 11:46 AM

JC

“ Leon, along with Joe Pat Quinn, and I were fast friends, back in the high school days. Leon always liked to come by the house on Wednesday e cause that was the day my mother cooked fried chicken. He always told her that it was the best that he had ever had, even though most likely, it was not, but that was Leon, thoughtful, gregarious and full of love and life. Prayers offered for Leon and his family.

John Cook - April 26, 2022 at 09:54 AM



“ Lois Watson lit a candle in memory of Leon McClung Bailey Jr.



Lois Watson - April 26, 2022 at 08:51 AM

LB

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Leon's family. I always enjoyed seeing and talking to him anytime our paths happened to cross. May God comfort you all in your loss.

Linda Barkley - April 26, 2022 at 08:28 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leon McClung Bailey Jr..



April 26, 2022 at 08:17 AM