

Phillip Bailey: well-loved husband, teacher and friend

A pilot and highly successful career man, he served as director of public works for the town of Penfield for nine years.

By **AMY CAVALIER**

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When charged with turning around the struggling LexisNexis, a Charlottesville, N.C. company that published law materials, Phillip Bailey refused to lay off workers.

Beyond retirement age, Mr. Bailey came in and helped turn the company around, said his son Mark Bailey.

"He had 700 people working for him and he kept all 700 ...," he said. "He turned it around to generate 146 percent for the company and everybody got raises too."

Friends and family said Mr. Bailey made friends easily, was very intelligent, was a leader and a teacher. Mr. Bailey passed away on July 4, 2007 at age 72.

Born June 13, 1935, Mr. Bailey grew up in Norwich, N.Y. As a youth, he played football and tennis, according to his wife, Anne.

Mr. Bailey graduated from Alfred University with a bachelor's degree in business and opened a gas station in Syracuse, which he closed when he enrolled in the Army. Mr. Bailey served three months active duty in the Korean War, and 10 years in the reserves, retiring from the Army as a captain.

He came to Rochester in 1959, landing a job with the Arty French company, where he met his wife. He was employed in the scheduling department, she was in quality assurance. The couple married in 1960 and moved to Penfield in 1961.

A pilot since he was 14, Mr.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured here with his wife Anne, Phillip Bailey was a licensed pilot and member of the Williamson Flying Club. A Penfield resident for many years, he passed away July 4, 2007.

Bailey owned his own private plane and worked out of state. He would use it to fly on weekends to see his family. He rebuilt the once-crashed Cessna 210 himself, friends said.

He held many jobs over the years, including building inspector for the town of Penfield and director of public works from 1963 to 1972. He retired from LexisNexis in 2000 at age 65, according to his wife, after which he taught printing production at Rochester Institute of Technology. He was also on the board of directors for the Williamson Flying Club.

His nearby neighbor and good friend John DelGaudio said Mr. Bailey never liked being idle, and would keep himself busy fixing everything from neighbors' lawn mowers to his own plane and motorcycle. Anne Bailey said her husband built the family home with help from other family

members.

He was meticulous in whatever he did, said friend Tony Fretto. "He's make sure if he did something, he did it beyond reproach," he said.

Michael Bailey said his father was a good listener.

"He would try to help a person figure out how to solve their problem rather than telling the how to do it," he said.

Neighbor Terry Rothfuss said Mr. Bailey was an all-around good guy who was always interested in what everyone else was doing.

A state trooper, DelGaudio said he met Mr. Bailey pulling over speeders on Salt Road.

"He pulled up behind me and offered his driveway as a place to sit," he said.

It ended up being a good spot, DelGaudio said, but not just for catching speeders. "When I was out there, he (Mr. Bailey) would bring out ice tea

and ask about my job, the radar and how it worked," he said.

That evolved into a friendship. DelGaudio said Mr. Bailey would watch his house for him when he was away for work.

"When I'd come back, he'd have the lawn mowed, the trees trimmed, and the mower fixed and cleaned," he said. "He had the house looking better when I returned than when I left."

DelGaudio said Mr. Bailey was always curious about how things worked, and always learning new things. He also enjoyed sharing his wisdom.

Mr. Bailey attended DelGaudio's softball games in Wayne County. He wound up helping coach the team. He devised an apparatus to help the pitchers master their throw and came up with a catching game to help the infielders practice catches, said DelGaudio.

"He'd have someone throw balls to the infielders but he'd number the balls a head of time," DelGaudio said. "He'd want us to call out the numbers on the balls before fielding them. It's almost impossible to call out the number, but we found ourselves catching more balls."

DelGaudio said Mr. Bailey was a fascinating guy.

"I wish I had the energy he did ...," he said. "He was never boring. He taught me a lot about a lot of things."

Mr. Bailey is predeceased by his three brothers and one sister. He is survived by his loving wife, Anne, sons Michael and Mark Bailey; many nieces, nephews and friends. He is interred at Oakwood Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 855 S. Goodman St., Rochester, NY 14620.

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