



## Richard Lee Bailey

July 17, 1947 - April 6, 2021

Bailey, Richard Lee age 73 of Minneapolis. We mourn the loss of a vibrant soul, Richard Lee Bailey, who passed away on April 6th, 2021, after a valiant two year struggle with pulmonary fibrosis. Wilbert and Maybelle Bailey welcomed their only child on July 17, 1947. After spending two years living in Paris, Richie spent what he called his "Wonder Bread years" in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he played baseball, swam daily, delivered newspapers on his Schwinn, sang and traveled with the Lincoln Boys' Choir, practiced piano, and when all that was done, relaxed with cold chocolate milk and pretzels. He later attended Lincoln Northeast High School where he played clarinet in the band and was on the varsity swimming team.

Richie's adventures continued at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, where he majored in and earned his degree in history. His career experiences were wide ranging, from selling Sara Lee baked goods to setting up auctions of heavy equipment to working for the state of Minnesota.

Devastatingly handsome, Richie had thick silver gray hair, bright hazel eyes and a hell of a smile. His capacity for joy was palpable, and his greatest joy of all came from his friends. Everyone whose path crossed his, he considered a pal - from a store clerk to a medical professional to someone seated next to him at his favorite watering hole. Friends were family to him and he was always generous with his time and resources, often making the effort to connect people. He reveled in their company, and liked nothing more than golfing with his buddies or a spirited discussion with the boys on the back

deck on "Thirsty Thursdays."

He had a beautiful baritone voice and never hesitated to break into song. Wrapped in his arms, he could magically transport his partner across a dance floor or a parking lot, depending on the occasion or the music on the radio. Often the best dressed man in the room, he appreciated beautifully crafted clothing and had an enviable collection of attire. He loved to shop. Although yet unconfirmed, rumor has it that he was contacted by the Guinness Book of World Records to compete in the category of "Most Cashmere Sweaters Purchased in a 24 Hour Period."

Richard was an avid collector of too many things, could grill a mean steak, and was a student of sports and the Civil War. He loved to entertain, and his annual Christmas "Men's Smoker" was legendary. He loved cats, good wine, and time at his vacation home in Galena, Illinois.

He was particularly proud of surviving respiratory failure in 2011, after which he went on to make many more incredible memories with his friends and family.

Richie discovered eBay after his illness kept him at home connected to oxygen 24/7. His obsession led to an enormous collection of baseball hats and tee shirts, and would have necessitated a warehouse rental, had he lived longer.

We know he hated to leave the special people in his life - the Eagles: Fuzz, Looper, Cake, Dan, Squire, RV, Snyder, the President, the President's wife; the last two of the Four Winds: Sean and Lee; the medical people who helped so much: Alan, Beth, Katie, Alexandria, Peter and Robbie; wonderful neighbors: Jason and Katie, Kennedy, Bruce, Kim and Cyndi; his ex-wife Nancy; garden guru Melinda; and his dear friend Curt. He loved you all. Richie was preceded in death by his parents and several friends. He is survived by many friends and acquaintances and his partner of more than 30 years, Linnea.

We apologize for mailed condolences that were returned to senders due to an error by the USPS.

Memorials preferred to Feline Rescue, 593 Fairview Avenue North, St. Paul, MN 55104, or if we might suggest, please consider calling someone you know who is ill or alone. Your contact means more than you know. We will forever miss you, dear Richieman. RIP.

A short memorial service will be held at 3pm on Friday, May 21st with visitation one hour prior, all at:

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **21**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436  
(952) 920-3996  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)

## Chapel Service

MAY **21**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436  
(952) 920-3996  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)