



William Reed Bailey

November 11, 1937 - June 14, 2021

Bailey, William "Po Bill" of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, passed away on June 14, 2021. A force of nature in life and in death, he lived and died on his own terms and made no apologies for it. He was a natural leader, a beloved son, brother, husband, father, uncle, and friend. He was an icon and patriarch of his family. A descendent of sharecroppers and domestic workers, he was the first in his family to pursue higher education, obtaining his bachelor's degree in Economics and master's degree in Finance. He was a pioneer in the finance industry and champion of the civil rights movement. His career spanned five decades, as investment banker, executive, and business consultant. He was a skilled artist and sports enthusiast. He was a veteran. He was committed to caring for his family until the very end of his life. During his retirement, he had creative pursuits like painting, play writing, and authored his first book. He was well-read, a wonderful conversationalist, and ferocious advocate for his political causes. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, his five children, his beloved sister, as well as many nieces and nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren, cousins, and loyal friends. His absence has caused great grief, but also deep commitment to carry on his legacy of education, the endless pursuit of excellence, and the sanctity of family. A Celebration of Life will take place on July 10, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Cremation and private military burial at Fort Snelling is planned. Washburn-McReavy.com Eden Prairie Chapel 952-975-0400