



## Clifford H. Becker

December 2, 1925 - June 2, 2017

Clifford H. Becker, age 91, North Fond du Lac, passed away peacefully Friday, June 2, 2017, at The Woodlands Senior Living Center in Fond du Lac, with his family by his side.

Cliff was born December 2, 1925, in Fond du Lac, the second son of Irving and Anna (nee Bastian) Becker. He spent his boyhood in Fond du Lac and graduated from Goodrich High School in 1943. Cliff sought to enlist in the U.S. Navy, but was nearly turned down for two health issues: damaged vision in one eye from an errant rock, and a dark spot on one lung from a bout with tuberculosis as a boy. During his physical, he pleaded with the doctor, who said, if Cliff could catch up to his buddies who were boarding the train, that was good enough for him. Cliff took off running with clothes in hand and chased down his friends who were boarding the train to Great Lakes Naval Station in Waukegan, Illinois.

Cliff served in the Pacific Theater during World War II as a seaplane mechanic on Catalina Flying Boats, stationed in Guam and Saipan. He helped search for downed B29 airmen in the vast ocean. Unaware to him, and his squad, they were only a few miles from the takeoff site when the Enola Gay secretly left for Hiroshima. After the war, Cliff became a member of the North Fond du Lac American Legion Post 156. Recently, he was honored for 70 continuous years in the American Legion, many of those years as post commander. During a leave of service, Cliff met the love of his life, Joyce Beaster, at Skateland Roller rink in North Fond du Lac. He knew immediately, "That's the

one for me.” They married May 15, 1948, and spent 60 years together before Joyce passed away in 2008. During their marriage, they welcomed four children, Greg, Gary, Barbara, and Beverly at their home in North Fond du Lac.

Cliff worked for many years at Giddings & Lewis as a milling machine operator, retiring in 1988. During a labor strike in the 1970's, Cliff made extra cash working as a tractor model for John Deere. In 1996, during a trip to the Packers' NFC Championship game in Dallas, he suffered a heart attack and enjoyed a special visit from Coach Mike Holmgren in the hospital room, an event that made statewide television news.

Cliff remained sharp into his 90s – helping to count money at church, reading the newspaper, working daily crossword puzzles, and telling tall tales of an infamous character named “Big Al.” He loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a longtime member of the Eagles Club. But most days, Cliff lived a simple life and watched the world go by from his front porch at the North Fond du Lac house he enjoyed for 57 years. Every evening at dusk, he would step outside the front door and retrieve his American flag for the night.

Cliff is preceded in death by his wife; his parents; his brother Don and his wife Sis; his brother Eugene; his sister Carol and her husbands Marvin “Sonny” Streeter and Marvin DeNell; his sister Joyce; his brothers-in-law: Oscar and his wife Nina Beaster; Ervin and his wife Virgil Beaster; Earl and his wife Violet Beaster; Lindor Beaster; Melvin Beaster and his wife Hazel; and two sisters-in-law: Della Wischnefski and her husband Herbert; and Alma Woodruff and her husband Clark.

Cliff is survived by his four children: Gregory Becker (Barbara), Gary Becker (Julie), Barbara Miller, and Beverly Putz (Richard); 11 grandchildren: Emily Thompson (Benjamin), Nathan Becker (Nicole), Aaron Becker (Amanda), MacGarret Becker (Leslie), Robert Miller, Steven Miller, Tyler Miller, Callie Ann Miller, David Putz (Courtney), Anna Gilgenbach (Chip), and Kara Raddant (Nicholas); 11 great-grandchildren (with two more on the way): George

Thompson, Jack and Max Becker, Dale Becker, Macy, Cora, and Edie Becker, Drennan and Hadley Putz, Natalie Bartelt, and Milena Gilgenbach; one brother, Kenneth "Butch" Becker and his wife, Ellie; a sister-in-law, Mae Becker; a sister-in-law, Margaret Beaster; and nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A funeral service will be held at St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, 1010 Adams Avenue, North Fond du Lac on Friday, June 9, 2017 at 12:30 p.m. The family will welcome visitors in the church at 11:00 a.m. until the time of service. Burial will follow in Estabrooks Cemetery. The Trier Puddy American Legion Post #75 will conduct Military Graveside Services.

The family would like to thank the staff at St. Agnes Hospital, The Woodlands Senior Living Center, and Agnesian Hospice for the wonderful care given to Cliff in his final months.

Memorials may be given to the North Fond du Lac Veterans Memorial, or St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church.

# Tribute Wall

KM

“ My deepest sympathies to all of the Becker Family. What a wonderful obituary! The Urban Family and Becker Family grew up a block apart on Michigan Ave. We knew most of all of the families on that quaint tree lined street. The memories we all shared are priceless! "The Good Old Days" and so they were! It would be nice to go back in time and relive some of those years, where Life was so less stressful and Happy go Lucky, and not tied to our cell phones. The 12:00 whistle was all we worried about so we could get back home in time for Lunch! Keep those precious memories of your mom and dad close to your hearts. So glad we were able to attend that great party last year for Cliff's 90th Birthday Party. Thanks for the Memories! Karen Martin and Jim Konen

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**Karen Martin** - June 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Very sorry for your loss. Patty and Pat Vogds

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June 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Was shocked to hear of Cliff's passing, my sister Jane called to let us know, we are so sorry for your loss, I do have vivid memories of Cliff at all of the family gatherings at the Becker's and the last time I seen Cliff was at Bob Morgan's wake. Please note that Cliff will be remembered in our prayers.

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**David Schaub** - June 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *Very sorry to hear of Cliff's passing. God bless him as a member of America's greatest generation and the entire family as you celebrate his life today and in the months & years to come.*

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**Brian Donovan** - June 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SY

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you!*

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**Susie Yakaites** - June 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *My sincere condolences to the family. He was a good man to everyone in his life. Know he is at peace and with all those who went before us. I must compliment the beautiful obituary. It describes him so well. Know you are in my thoughts and prayers at this sad time.*

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**Claudia Beaster** - June 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SY

“ *So sorry for your loss Greg & Barb and the rest of the Becker family. Cliff sounds like quite a man, after reading the informative Obituary - many attributes that I see in the younger "Becker lineage!" My thoughts are with you during this time of celebrating Cliff's life.*

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**Steve Yeomans** - June 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *So very sorry for your loss.*

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**Barb Hinn** - June 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ *May the love of friends and family carry you through your grief.*

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**Dennis Graf** - June 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM