

Walter Becker, age 86, of Storm Lake, Iowa died Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at Buena Vista Regional Medical Center in Storm Lake.

Walter Becker was born on May 9, 1922 to Casper and Susie (Lutgen) Becker on a farm south of Downs, Kansas. He was baptized in St. Boniface Catholic Church in Tipton, Kansas. Walter went to school in a one-room country school through the eighth grade and later attended high school in Downs.

He left Kansas to come to Storm Lake, where he lived with Don and Ruth Ford on their farm, helping with the farm work and doing odd jobs until November 1942, when he was inducted into the United States Army. Walter served as a Surgical Technician Instructor at Surgical Technician School at Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado. He was sent to India to become a noncommissioned officer Sergeant 3rd grade in charge of surgery. He was honorably discharged in April 1946.

Walter returned to Iowa in July of 1946. He worked for Inman Electric, Jennings Super Valu and Don Merry Contracting until November 1947. He then began doing carpenter work on his own. At first he built kitchen cabinets, then homes and farm buildings. In 1952 he started doing bank work, which became his entire operation by 1956.

On May 6, 1947, Walter was united in marriage to Dorothy Faye Johnson. Three children were born to this union: Linda Kay in January 1949, Robert Walter on February 13, 1950, and Gary Raymond on June 10, 1951. Linda and Gary died in infancy. Robert and his family now live in Washington state, near Seattle.

Walter and Dorothy made their home in Storm Lake until 1955, when they moved to Alta, Iowa, where Walter headquartered his business, Becker Manufacturing and Bank Design Consulting Services. His business covered six states in the mid-western United States.

In 1962, Walter received his pilot's license. He flew over 7,000 hours in 19 years, mostly for business purposes. He received his instrument rating and multi-engine rating. He owned six different airplanes: four single engines and two turbo-charged twin engine planes.

On June 26, 1976, Walter lost his wife, Dorothy, to cancer. He closed his business in October 1986. He sold the building in 1989 to the city of Alta, and it is now serves as the city's community center.

Walter kept busy during his retirement years in his home workshop. He also did some traveling, but mostly just enjoyed being in his home.

He served on the board of directors of Security Trust and Savings Bank in Storm Lake, was a trustee on the Buena Vista County Hospital Board, and on the hospital foundation board. He served on the board of directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield for western Iowa and South Dakota, as well as on various other Blue Cross advisory boards. Walter served on the Alta City Council, Alta Hospital board of directors, and was president of the Alta Industrial Development board. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake, American Legion, Disabled Americans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents, Casper and Susie; his children, Linda and Gary; his wife, Dorothy; his sister, Josie; and his brother, Francis.

He is survived by his son, Robert and wife, Karen; three grandchildren: Jeffery, Jason and Justin; six great-grandchildren: Grady, Lydia, Aimee, Kendall, Henry and Garrett; his brothers, Charles, Julius and Leo; his sister, Helen; extended family and many friends.



In Loving Memory



Walter Becker

1922  2008

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the LORD,
which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is thy keeper:
the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
nor the moon by night.
The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil:
he shall preserve thy soul.
The LORD shall preserve thy going out
and thy coming in from this time forth,
and even for evermore.

— Psalm 121

We wish to express our sincere
gratitude for the many kindnesses
evidenced in thought and deed, and for your
attendance at this service. You are invited to
join us for lunch and a time of fellowship at
the Storm Lake Elks Club following the burial.

 Robert & Karen Becker
Jeff, Jason & Justin Becker



IN MEMORY OF Walter Becker

May 9, 1922  June 18, 2008

Funeral Mass

Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Storm Lake, Iowa

Clergy

Reverend Bruce Lawler

Organist

Barb Pytel

Music

St. Mary's Caritas Choir

Casket Bearers

Jeff Becker, Jason Becker, Justin Becker
Ken Putzier, Dale Wordekemper
Glen Huntington

Interment

Full Military Honors by V.F.W. Post 6172
St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery —Storm Lake, Iowa



Arrangements by

FRATZKE & JENSEN FUNERAL HOMES

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