



# Wayne M. Becker

MAY 29, 1940 - OCT 6, 2025



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AJ   
HOLLY & SONS

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## **Wayne M. Becker**

MAY 29, 1940 - OCT 6, 2025

**W**ayne M. Becker passed away on October 6, 2025. He was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather; a gifted teacher and research scientist; a patient and loving mentor; and a faithful follower of Jesus.

Wayne was born on May 29, 1940, to Marvin and Adela Becker. He grew up on a dairy farm near Merton, Wisconsin. After graduating from Arrowhead HS in 1958, Wayne enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He joined the UW marching band, was a member of Delta Sigma Theta fraternity, and studied a year abroad in Bonn, Germany. His sophomore year, Wayne met Patricia Mickel on a blind date. They were married in Waukesha on June 22, 1963 (just 10 days after their graduation). Wayne and Pat were devoted to one another throughout their 62 years of marriage.

Wayne continued his education at UW-Madison, receiving his MS (1965) and PhD (1967) in biochemistry. Following two years of postdoctoral research in Glasgow, Scotland, Wayne began his career in the Department of Botany at his alma mater, where he was a professor for 33 years. During this time, he directed a research lab and oversaw numerous graduate students. Through his excellence in teaching and his innovation, he helped build the Biology Core Curriculum Program (a four-semester biology course). He was honored to receive the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1998. A significant accomplishment of Wayne's was his textbook, *The World of the Cell*. First published in 1986, it is now in its 10th edition.

Wayne's two daughters, Lisa and Heather, have treasured memories of their dad because he always prioritized time with them. He took a genuine interest in their activities and found teaching moments in everyday life. Favorite memories involve playing music as a family, gardening and traveling across North America and Europe in their VW camper bus. Later, Wayne brought that same excitement and patience to his role as "Grandpa" to his five grandchildren.

Wayne actively lived out his Christian faith in every area of his life. He taught adult Sunday school classes and led a variety of church groups. On the UW-Madison campus, he founded the



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Christian Fellowship of Biology Students and taught a weekly undergrad Bible study for more than 25 years. He was a frequent speaker at campus Christian groups, as well at churches and other Christian groups in Madison and beyond. Wayne also mentored more than 30 young men, taking his role seriously by providing guidance, instruction, and endless encouragement.

Upon his retirement in 2003, Wayne and Pat moved from Madison to their lake home near Waupaca, Wisconsin, and began splitting their year between Spencer Lake and their home in Ft Myers, Florida. The view of the lake and the steady stream of bird life brought Wayne a great deal of joy in his final years.

Wayne will be dearly missed by his wife, Patricia; their two daughters, Lisa (and David) Smit and Heather (and Roderick) Flemming; sisters Cheryl (and Raymond) Wachsmuth and Dorinne (and Michael) Geldon; sister-in-law Candie (and Roy) Peterson; grandchildren Julia (Tyler) Sykes, Megan and Sophie Smit, and Bryce and Christopher Flemming; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin and Adela Becker, and his sister Darlene (Gene) Grucelski.

A Memorial Service will be held for Wayne on Saturday, October 18th, at 2pm at Faith Community Church, N2541 County Road K, Waupaca, WI 54981. Visitation will be held from noon to 1:45pm at the church. Light refreshments will be served afterward. The memorial service will be live streamed at [www.faithwaupaca.org](http://www.faithwaupaca.org)

Memorial contributions may be made to World Vision International at [www.wvi.org/donate](http://www.wvi.org/donate) or to Faith Community Church at [www.faithwaupaca.org/give](http://www.faithwaupaca.org/give).



# Events


**Wayne M. Becker**

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## Visitation

 **Saturday**, October 18, 2025

 12:00 PM - 1:45 PM CT

 **Faith Community Church**  
N2541 County Road K, Waupaca WI 54981


## Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, October 18, 2025

 2:00 PM CT

 **Faith Community Church**  
N2541 County Road K, Waupaca WI 54981

## Cemetery Details

 **Holly Cremation Service**  
Waupaca WI



# Tribute Wall

**Wayne M. Becker**

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**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Becker family.



November 2 at 7:58 AM



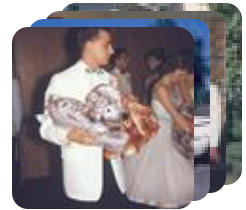
**Tom Overbye** posted:

Wayne had such an impact on my life beginning when I was a student at UW-Madison, and then also with my wife Jo as we started dating.

October 18 at 10:14 AM



**Dick Rundell** shared 7 photos to the **UW Madison 1960's - (Dick Rundell)** album.



October 8 at 11:38 AM



**From The Sykes Family** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Becker family.



October 17 at 3:52 AM



**Tom And Mary Beth Haunty** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Becker family.



October 15 at 12:06 PM



**Tom And Mary Beth Haunty** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Wayne.



October 15 at 12:06 PM



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**Steve** posted:

It was so sad to hear of Wayne's passing. I knew him well as a colleague at UW-Madison. We co-taught an honors seminar course, Biology, Society and Human Values, for several years. It was a high honor when he asked me to co-lead the class with him. I also very much enjoyed the annual hymn sings at Wayne and Pat's house. In fact, those events motivated me to develop and lead a hymn-based bible study at Blackhawk Church and to consider publishing a book on it for other bible study groups to use. So, it is clear that Wayne had a large influence on my life and faith. His was a life very well lived and the world is a lesser place without Wayne in it. I pray that Pat and the rest of the family, including all the students he influenced over the years, are well. Remember how blessed all of you were to know Wayne. Steve Clark.

October 15 at 7:31 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Becker family.



October 14 at 7:34 AM



**Don** lit a candle in honor of Wayne.

Wayne was a significant part of my young adult years. I treasure the times at CFBS in the late 70's and early 80s. And I appreciated the wise counsel, advice and support he provided during some challenging times in my life. Rest in Peace Wayne, rejoicing in the presence of our Lord with the full company of heaven.



October 13 at 11:34 AM



**Don & Deb Morrow** lit a candle in honor of Wayne.

Don & Deb Morrow lit a candle in memory of Wayne Becker



October 13 at 11:33 AM



**Donald M.** planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Wayne.



October 13 at 11:31 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Winfried Balke** posted:

It is for more than 65 years that I got to know Wayne, when we shared a room in a student's home in Bonn, Germany (my country of birth). In those early times I was not yet a born-again Christian. When I gave my life to Jesus Christ, I was all the more glad to realize that Wayne and I had the same source of joy. Our relation got specially close when Wayne took upon himself translating my German 350- page book "Woche um Woche" ("Week by Week, Insights into the Riches of the Old Testament" ) Wayne did a marvellous job. Unfortunately we could not meet often: Once in 1969 in Bonn, shortly after the birth of Heather, together with Pat and the baby, and then only in June 2015 in the city of Graz/Austria. I hoped to see him some time in Israel (where my wife and me moved in 2003), the country where our Saviour was born and where our common spiritual source is -but unfortunately Wayne passed away before taking this opportunity. I thank the LORD for the privilege to get to know Wayne as brother in JESHUA. Dr. Winfried Balke

October 11 at 7:17 AM



**Shirley Daniel** posted:

we rejoice that our dear Wayne is now with our/his Jesus and send our love and hugs to all who love and miss him, be blessed always. shirley and dave daniel now in Midland TX

October 9 at 11:32 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Becker family.



October 9 at 8:15 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Becker family.



October 9 at 8:07 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Wayne.



October 9 at 8:07 AM



## Tribute Wall

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SH

**Sheena Hardie** posted:

We thank our Lord Jesus for every memory we have of Wayne. First met Pat, he and the girls in Edinburgh in the seventies and their friendship was an encouragement to us. He it was who advised us to start a church Prayer Meeting as soon as we went to serve in Harthill St Andrews and Blackridge churches in 1979. How we have appreciated his annual Christmas Hymn over many years ! Now he is with His Lord Jesus and we look forward to seeing him again one day. Sending our love and the assurance of our prayers for you dear friends, his beloved family, as you grieve his death. May you know the comfort promised to those who mourn Matthew 5v4 as a reality in these days of sad loss. Every blessing, Warner and Sheena Hardie

October 9 at 5:48 AM

PK

**Paul Klas** posted:

Wayne Becker was one of the most amazing men I have ever known. He was a superb husband to his life long partner Pat. An amazing example of marriage done right. I was fortunate to be one of the thirty young men that Wayne (and Pat) disciplined in their Christian faith. He encouraged me to make faith an integral part of daily life. Amazing! Karen and I had the great fortune to see Wayne and Pat just two weeks ago. To see that Wayne smile was awesome. Much love to the family, Pat, Heather and Lisa. We will think of you in your present time as you remember one of the titans of Christianity.

October 8 at 9:20 PM

PR

**Pastor Ron Rand** posted:

Wayne possessed many admirable characteristics: a heart for Jesus and others, an open and creative mind, a teachable spirit to God's Word, hands willing to help and serve others, and feet willing to follow Jesus as Savior and Lord, wherever He would lead Wayne. 1 Peter 5:6 defines Wayne's life and success in life. He "humbled himself under the Mighty hand of God and because of his humility, God indeed exalted him!" 2 Timothy 2:2 also describes his long-term disciple making of 30 young men. "What Wayne had heard from the Lord through his study of God's Word, he entrusted to faithful men who will be able to teach others, also!" As a pastor, I know of no other layman who has accomplished this! To God The Heavenly Father be All the Glory and Honor for His Gracious Creation of Saint Wayne M (mentor) Becker Ron Rand Fort Myers, FL

October 8 at 2:38 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Small Garden Dish to the Becker family.



October 8 at 1:49 PM



**Bill Shook** posted:

Wayne & Pat were Agape classmates at Fort Myers E Free Church which Wayne regularly led in exciting explorations of Scripture. Wayne's creativity, humor and friendliness are missed. Pat, may you feel Jesus' loving arms around you. You two made a fantastic couple. We will also miss your faithful greetings on our birthdays and anniversaries. Entrusting you to His care, Bill & Miriam Shook

October 8 at 11:38 AM



Dick Rundell shared 7 photos to the **UW Madison 1960's - (Dick Rundell)** album.

October 17 at 9:31 AM



Pat & Wayne Wedding



Spring Formal



Spring picnic



# Media

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September 1961



DTS Spring Formal



Spring Formal



Spring Formal



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Wayne by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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