



George W. Becker

George Becker achieved the rank of Electrician's Mate Second Class in the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Becker enlisted in the Navy on November 23, 1942 at the age of 17. Mr. Becker is a World War II Veteran and member of The Greatest Generation.

Mr. Becker attended boot camp and Navy Class A school at Sampson Naval Training Station in Romulus, New York, training as an Electrician's Mate from March 1943-July 1943.

In August 1943, he shipped out to Treasure Island in California and was assigned to the commissioning crew of the USS Emery, a destroyer escort. The USS Emery departed for the South Pacific in October 1943. One month later, the Emery joined a 200-ship task force involved in the invasion of the Gilbert Islands.

After returning to Pearl Harbor in December 1943, the USS Emery again departed as part of the task force that invaded the Marshall Islands in January 1944.

Mr. Becker was part of several subsequent protection and escort missions during World War II. He was reassigned on December 1, 1944, which led him to Camp Perry where he attended and completed Class B Advanced Electrician's Mate school in July 1945. He was then assigned to the crew of the USS Admiral W.S. Sims, a troop transport ship commissioned after the end of World War II.

When the Japanese formally surrendered on V-J Day, September 2, 1945, the USS Admiral Sims was designated to bring American troops home. Mr. Becker and his shipmates made two trips to Manila and one trip to Okinawa, bringing back almost 5,000 troops on each voyage.

Mr. Becker was honorably discharged from his military duties on April 3, 1946. For his service, he received the World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal.

Mr. Becker returned to Rochester, New York on April 4, 1946 and one week later, was hired by Rochester Gas & Electric, where he worked until 1987, retiring with 41 years of service.

A resident of Riga, New York, Mr. Becker continued to serve his community when his military service ended. He made significant contributions to the Town of Riga's development and growth as a member of the Board of Assessment Review, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Monroe County Planning Council. He was a 27-year member of the Town Planning Board and served as chairman for eight years.

George met his wife, Florence in the summer of 1940. They dated during his time in service and married on October 25, 1947. George and Florence were together for nearly 61 years when Florence passed away on October 11, 2008.

George and Florence had four sons, David, Douglas, Daniel, and Bruce. Bruce passed away on April 2, 2016. George has five grandchildren, Douglas Becker Jr., Kathy Rudd, Suzie Bird, Jessica Wallace, and Andrew Becker; and eight great-grandchildren, James Becker, Nicholas Becker, Cierra Becker, Isaac Rudd, Abby Rudd, Hannah Bird, Carter Bird, and Harper Wallace.

Mr. Becker said his time in the military taught him to respect authority, to get along with people, to be patient, and to appreciate what you have. What he loves most about America is our freedom.

Mr. Becker is 99 years young. He lives independently and enjoys taking care of his house and his large lawn, which he mows himself.