

Dr. Randal Louis Becker

Written by Karen Ventrone
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Dr. Randal L. Becker, son of Lois and the late Melvin Becker of Pekin, Illinois, died on Monday, October 21, 2013, at his mountain home in Blowing Rock, North Carolina.

He is survived by his mother, Lois; his wife of nine years, Margaret Taylor Derrick-Becker; a brother, Donald and his wife Linda; a daughter, Margaret Becker Arnett of Decatur, Georgia; a son, David and his wife Staci of Cedar Falls, Iowa; three grandchildren, Christian, Anna, and Carson Becker, and a stepson, James Reed Derrick of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Randal was a 1962 graduate of PCHS in Pekin. He completed bachelor and master's degrees at Illinois State University and an Educational Doctorate at Loyola of Chicago. He dedicated his life to education handicapped children, first as a teacher, and then as a university professor for eighteen years. He was named Faculty of the Year at two universities, Outstanding Special Educator from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), and as authority in Who's Who in Special Education. He served as Illinois State President for the CEC Chapter for Specific Learning Disabilities; Vice President of the Iowa CEC; Vice President and President of the South Carolina Teacher Education Division; and member of the Higher Education Advisory Committee advising Illinois and South Carolina State Boards of Education. Randal was also a consultant to the writing committee during the preparation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He was a frequent keynote speaker or presenter at state and national conferences, and published various papers.

Any memorials you wish to make could be made to Randal's favorite charities (Special Olympics or the Humane Society) or the charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be made to the Becker family at www.hamptonfuneralinc.com.

Hampton Funeral and Cremation Service, in Boone, North Carolina, is in charge of the arrangements.