

Ulrich Becker Memorial Service

Prelude *Wachet auf, uns ruft die Stimme* ('Sleepers Awake')
 & more selections of Bach

Welcome Rev. Michael Dean

Music Katharina Becker - daughter
Bach's Adagio Organ Sonata 3 & Sarabande Violin Solo Partita 2

Words of Remembrance

Family: Robert Becker, son

MIT Physics Department: Peter Fisher, Professor of Physics

*Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress* Martin Luther-1529

Grace Chapel Science Club: Bill Sharp & Sarah Woolinski

Officiant: The Reverend Michael Dean, MIT Chaplain

There may be some readings of tributes written by some unable to attend and others shared in print at the Physics Department gathering to follow.

Benediction Rev. Michael Dean

Postlude: *Sibelius' Finlandia* Joshua Lawton, organist

* if able, all stand

Words from Gerda Becker shared with Rev. Dean

“When I met Ulrich 62 years ago, in the Schlossgarten at the castle in Marburg— an old, wonderful university town, we had no idea this meeting was for life. We had a wonderful life— forever. In Loving Memory, Gerda”

“Ulrich looked forward to noon on Thursdays. He had to eat there near the MIT chapel... he wanted to be with you and the students... he liked to come. He would enjoy contributing to the discussion with students.”

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul. Psalm 23:1-3a

A Mighty Fortress

EIN FESTE BURG

Martin Luther, 1529

Martin Luther, 1529

1. A might-y For-ress is our God, A Bul-wark nev-er fail-ing; Our
 2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los-ing; Were
 3. And though this world, with dev-ils filled, Should threat-en to un-do us, We
 4. That Word a-bove all earth-ly powers, No thanks to them a-bid-eth, The

Help-er he a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing. For
 not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos-ing. Dost
 will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri-umph through us. The
 Spir-it and the gifts are ours Through him who with us sid-eth; Let

still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and pow'r are
 ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus it is he, Lord Sab-a-oth his
 prince of dark-ness grim, We trem-ble not for him; His rage we can en-
 goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al-so; The bod-y they may

great; And, armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his equal.
 Name, From age to age the same, And he must win the bat-tle.
 dure, For lo! his doom is sure; One lit-tle word shall fell him.
 kill: God's truth a-bid-eth still; His king-dom is for-ev-er.

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Gerda, Katharina, Peter, & Robert Becker offer their thanks for coming today & sharing your own colorful interactions with Ulrich throughout his life.

Ulrich J. Becker of Lexington, Massachusetts passed away March 10, 2020. Husband of Gerda K. Becker (Barthel). Father of Katharina Becker of Germany, Peter R. Becker of Lexington, and Robert Becker and his wife Franziska Wenk, of Switzerland. Brother of the late Peter Becker. He is also survived by two grandchildren, Jarin and Hannah.

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Becker was born in Dortmund, Germany in 1938, fled to Rauschenberg as a consequence of events in WW2. He studied physics at University of Marburg and obtained his Ph.D. in Hamburg during which time he met his loving wife Gerda. He enjoyed an exciting and illustrious career in experimental high energy physics that began with him making instrumental contributions to a small team that shared the Nobel prize in physics in 1976. As professor of physics at MIT he loved teaching and interacting with students while his passion and expertise was in building detectors contributing or leading construction of experiments at DESY, Brookhaven NL, MIT, CERN, and the AMS project on the International Space Station. His diverse projects offered a challenging yet colorful life in Europe and the US, with adventures in the Soviet Union, China, Egypt and the Caribbean. Not just adept with physical concepts and calculations, he enjoyed hands-on construction, always building experimental prototypes and devices in the laboratory, or building gadgets, renovating his house, or repairing the old family cars at home.

As a child during WW2, and raised in post-war Germany, Ulrich was strongly affected by the horrors and aftermath of the war. He found solace in the Christian faith with a high standard of integrity and charity. In 1974 he survived Burger's Disease which left him with deep gratitude. His varied interests included archeology, contemporary culture and cultural change, and later reconciling science with religion. Above all, he was a great husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed inviting colleagues and friends for good conversations, Sunday walks, and playing with his grandchildren. We will miss him dearly.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 38 Chauncey St. Suite 700 Boston, MA 02111 or at www.donate3.cancer.org.



A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of
Professor Ulrich Becker



December 17, 1938 | March 10, 2020

October 8, 2022

MIT Chapel