

d: 16 Sept 1951

Rites For Pfc. Robert R. Becker To Be Sunday

Final rites for Pfc. Robert R. Becker, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Becker, will be held in the Presbyterian Church here at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, followed by burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Drescher Funeral Home.

Pfc. Becker was a casualty in the Korean fighting on Heart-break Ridge while with the Third Bn., Fifth U. S. Marines, on September 16, 1951.

After graduating from Spencer High School, Robert attended Kemper Military Academy and Purdue. At the time he enlisted, he was with the A & P at Indianapolis.

His outfit left Indianapolis August 28, 1950. He left Camp Pendleton April 14, 1951, arriving in Korea May 5. He was assigned to the Fifth Marines.

The casketed remains arrived here today.

Survivors include the parents, a brother, Stuart, and a grandmother, Mrs. Sallie McNeil.

Pfc. Robert Becker Killed In Korean War, Sept. 16

Pfc. Robert R. Becker, 20 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Becker, was killed in action in Korea, Sunday, Sept. 16th, according to a telegram received here from the War Department.

"Bob" was born in Poplar Bluff, Mo., January 26, 1931. He graduated from Spencer high school in the class of 1948, and attended Purdue University before enlisting in the U. S. Marines in August, 1950.

Pfc. Becker was first with the Sixteenth Battalion when they left Indianapolis. Later he was placed in the Third Battalion, Fifth U. S. Marine Corps. Pfc. Becker went across on April 14th, 1951.

Survivors include the parents, Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Becker of Spencer; one brother, Pvt. Stuart Becker who is now stationed at Fort Scott, San Francisco, Calif., and the maternal grandmother, Mrs. Sallie McNeil, of Sedalia, Missouri.

Richard W. Hayward, Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps, Commanding 5th Marines with other officers issued these following words of praise to Becker and the other men in the 5th Marines, on June 25, 1951:

It is with a deep feeling of humble pride and since gratitude that I convey to the Fifth Marines and supporting units the following:

Please express my appreciation and high commendation to the officers and men of the Fifth Regiment, U. S. Marines, and its supporting units, for their valor, persistency and combat effectiveness in the fighting of the past ten days. Today I made an aerial reconnaissance of the near impossible mountain peaks east of Taem-San captured by the Fifth Regiment. I have nothing but admiration for the dauntless men who scaled those peaks and now remain on their assigned objectives.—Signed: Almond.

I extend sincere congratulations to the Fifth Marines for this recognition of their excellent combat effectiveness.—Signed: Thomas.

I want you, every man, the riflemen, the artillerymen, the tankers and the engineers, to know of the pride I have felt in watching your actions in the past two months of combat. You have done so well, worked so smoothly as a team that at times the most difficult missions have seemed deceptively easy. From the initial attack on 22 April and the capture of Hwacomon, through the repulse of the ferocious enemy attack north of Hongchon and the offensive into North Korea, you have proved your skill and courage. Even when higher commanders were planning your withdrawals, you were aggressively getting set to attack. Not once did the enemy force you from a position; never were they able to deny you an objective.

The operation that we have just finished has not been easy. You have fought a skillful, fanatical enemy, who defended rugged mountain peaks with great determination. They wanted that high ground and meant to stay there. You made sure by effective use of supporting arms, and finally with grenade and bayonet, that the enemy remained—permanently.

Your courage, endurance and devotion to duty have been outstanding. I consider it a distinct honor and privilege to serve with you.—Richard W. Hayward, Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps, Commanding 5th Marines.