



Theodore W. Becker "TED"

OCT 6, 2024



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Theodore W. Becker "TED"

OCT 6, 2024

THE HON. THEODORE W. BECKER

1949-2024

Theodore W. Becker, a former District resident, past Mayor of Lewes, Delaware, and beloved community member, passed away at age 75 at 2:30 pm on Sunday, October 6 at Jefferson Memorial Hospital in Philadelphia, PA.

A native of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Mr. Becker received his bachelor's degree from Ohio State University; following graduation he served as an officer in the medical corps of The U.S. Army for six years; thereafter in the National Guard from 1978-1994. He and his partner, W. Joseph Stewart, made their home on Capitol Hill for more than 30 years during which time Mr. Becker worked for the U.S. Department of Education and, later, as a retail executive, overseeing a national chain of decorator fabric showrooms.

Mr. Becker and Mr. Stewart purchased their home in Lewes in 1974, and proceeded to acquire retail properties along Second Street, as well as a marina on Pilottown Road.

After Stewart-Becker Properties acquired today's Inn at Canal Square on Front Street in 2000 and began renovations there, Mr. Becker became a full-time resident of Lewes, in order to devote his time to property management.

In 2000 he and Mr. Stewart initiated and led a community-wide effort to save Lewes' waterfront from development. Both became founding members of the Greater Lewes Foundation, which organized an \$11 million campaign to purchase the land and create the Lewes Canalfront Park, which opened in 2008.



Obituary

Theodore W. Becker "TED"

Mr. Becker was elected to Lewes City Council in 2004 and served five terms before becoming Mayor in 2014. As a Councilman, he was instrumental in strengthening Lewes'

Historic Preservation Code which established the city's historic district.

Always looking to the future, Becker worked closely with Mayor James Ford to float Lewes' first City Bond Bill, raising \$19 million to upgrade City sidewalks, sewer and water service,

and lighting, City Hall, and Police Department expansion and to construct a new sanitation plant for the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Becker served on the board and finance committee of Beebe Hospital beginning in 2005; remaining ss an emeritus board member thereafter.

In 2021 Mr. Becker was appointed by Governor John Carney as a Delaware Commissioner on the Delaware River and Bay Authority. Earlier, in 2005, Gov. Ruth Ann Minner had also named him to the Delaware Health Commission.

In 2022, after two terms as Mayor, Mr. Becker turned his interests to the threat posed to Lewes and other coastal communities by climate change. He organized Lewes, Bowers Beach,

Slaughter Beach and Kent and Sussex Counties, to join together to create the Bay Beach Association.

In December 2022, Mr. Becker underwent regenerative heart surgery to correct a condition. Before his recent illness, Mr. Becker was working actively with the GLF on an \$8 million project to save the Fourth Street Preserve in Lewes.

A public Celebration of Mr. Becker's Life is being planned for Saturday October 26 at 11:00 am (rain date Sunday October 27) at the Lewes Canalfront Park, 211 Front Street, Lewes DE19958 . His interment in Lewes will be private.

Donations to the Fourth Street Preserve project are encouraged in lieu of flowers, c/o the Greater Lewes Foundation, P.O. Box 110, Lewes, DE 19958, <https://tglf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list> .



Obituary

Theodore W. Becker "TED"

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.





Events

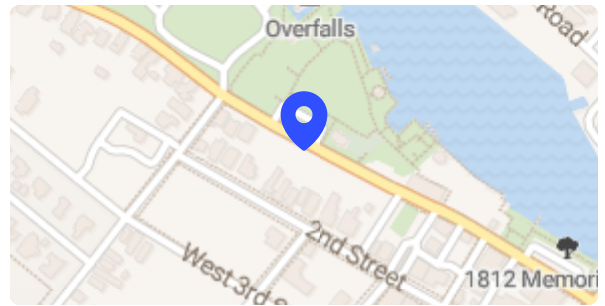
Theodore W. Becker "TED"

Celebration of life

 **Saturday**, October 26, 2024

 11:00 AM ET

 **Lewes Canalfront Park**
211 Front Street, Lewes DE 19958





Tribute Wall

Theodore W. Becker "TED"



Beverly Jerome posted:

As a sales representative Ted always found the time to meet with me and hear what lines I am working with. He was such a warm and accepting person. I will miss seeing him. He was such a gentleman.

August 18 at 1:19 PM



Beverly Jerome posted:

As a sales representative, Ted was always so warm and welcoming to me. He always listened to the lines I represented and would be interested. I enjoyed his company so much and was always so appreciative of his time with me. I will truly miss this gentleman.

August 18 at 1:15 PM



Michael Crenshaw posted:

I had the pleasure of knowing Mr Becker a short time in Washington, where I was honored to work with Mr. Stewart. I offer my sincerest condolences to the family. RIP Ted. Michael Crenshaw Lineville, AL

December 31 at 5:01 PM



The Bay Beach Association sent an Arrive in Style to the Becker "TED" family.



October 22 at 8:26 AM



Thomas Hills Cook posted:

Ted and I were friends for 50 years. We met in Lancaster, PA when he represented Westgate Fabrics to the Interior Design Department for Armstrong World Industries. We formed an instant friendship - and realized quickly that we shared many similarities and a vision for the future. I greatly admired all that he and Joe Stewart did for Lewes. We followed each other's careers closely - and he was a steadfast counsel in my personal life. He was an amazing man - with intelligence and vision, and his accomplishments - in many facets of life stand as his memorial. Thomas Hills Cook Lancaster, PA

October 17 at 1:51 AM



Tribute Wall

Theodore W. Becker "TED"



Thomas Lucks shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Teddy was a great guy. He always carried himself with dignity and respect and treated others the same. Mayor Ted was the epitome of a gentleman. His decades long involvement in the Lewes community will always be cherished. My husband and I always get a chuckle when one of the recent years we went to Radio City Music Hall, and who walks in...yes, Ted and Joe. Ted was a traveler but his heart was always in Lewes. The people he served and befriended are numerous and while he and they may not have always agreed in the local governance of the town, his beliefs were always steadfast- if it's good for the citizenry, then it's the right thing to do. I remember my husband's 75th birthday at the Inn at Canal Square. Ted helped make the arrangements and welcomed us with open arms. He worked the crowd in his usual gentle giant fashion and always put out his hand. There was never a person he met with that couldn't be his friend. He was smart as a cookie, reserved in his reactions, and could carry on an intelligent conversation at the drop of a dime. We'll miss Mayor Ted. We'll miss his presence in the community, we'll miss his wit and charm, and his leadership. But, most of all, we'll miss a good friend. Thomas Lucks.

October 8 at 12:00 PM



Ann Ross posted:

I was honored to call Ted a friend. Our days started with the sound of footsteps and conversation as we met for our daily walks at 6:00 a.m. He was a friend to all, a lover of life, a beacon of kindness. I am grateful for the laughter, the wisdom, and the profound companionship he offered. I will miss you Ted. Ann Ross

October 13 at 6:14 AM



Jack Markell posted:

So sorry to hear. Ted was a great partner in Delaware's civic life and his love for Lewes was obvious. A real loss. My deepest condolences. Jack Markell

October 12 at 12:27 PM



Hugh & Kathleen Leahy posted:

While Kathleen and I have lost a treasured friend, the Lewes and Delaware communities have lost a dedicated and talented public servant and astute businessman. We saw his decades of selfless commitment to better our community. He was able to meet all people as an equal. We will miss him greatly.

October 8 at 12:00 PM



Media

Theodore W. Becker "TED"



Thomas Lucks shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 15 at 3:17 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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