

Major Malcom Keith Beckner
AEHC featured person for the week of June 27, 2021

Major Malcom Keith Beckner
July 2, 1945 – May 1, 1980

Born this week in 1945, Major Malcom Keith Beckner is buried in our cemetery's Section 6, Lot 128, Space 1.

Summary of our research: Malcom Keith Beckner was born in Shelby County on July 2, 1945, to William Henry (1917-1990) and Willetta Ruth (Winkler) (1917-1985) Beckner.

Malcom's father, William H. Beckner was the son of Ora Martin Beckner (1892-1979) and Goldie (Shaffer) Beckner (1892-1938). The Beckner family were farmers. Goldie Beckner is buried in Arlington East Hill Cemetery. Ora married Lavonne (Haywood) Davis Beckner (1898-1967) in 1948. Lavonne is buried next to her previous husband Carl Davis in Arlington East Hill Cemetery. In 1974, Ora married Esther (Waggoner) Newhouse Beckner (1902-1998). Esther is buried next to her previous husband, Herschel Newhouse, in Rushville East Hill Cemetery. Ora is buried next to his first wife, Goldie, in Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

Malcom's paternal grandfather Ora M. Beckner was born in Rush County and was the son of Henry Wesley Beckner (1863-1957) and Ida May (Keaton) Beckner (1867-1896). Ida May is buried in Arlington East Hill Cemetery. Henry W. married Charlotte O'Dell Carr Beckner (1870-1940) after Ida May's death. Charlotte is buried at Arlington East Hill Cemetery. Henry married Viola Gray Scott Beckner (1882-1961) after Charlotte's death. Viola is buried by previous husband in Hendricks County. Henry W. Beckner is buried by his first wife, Ida May, in Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

Malcom's paternal great-grandfather Henry Wesley Beckner was born in Rush County and was the son of George Beckner (1836-1923) and Mahala (Patterson) Beckner (1840-1871). Mahala Beckner is buried in Shelby County. George married Emily Jane (Gordon) (1845-1914) after Mahala's death. George and Emily Jane Beckner are buried in Blue River Wesleyan Cemetery.

Malcom's paternal great-great-grandfather George Beckner was born in Rush County and was the son of George William Beckner (1804-1877) and Catherine Rebecca (Six) Beckner (1805-1866). George W. and Catherine were both born in Kentucky. They were married in Kentucky in 1823. They moved to Rush County around 1835. George William Beckner is buried in Mull Cemetery in Rush County. Catherine Beckner's grave location was not found.

Malcom's mother Willetta Ruth (Winkler) Beckner was born in Rush County to Delbert Winkler (1890-1967) and Letha (Marshall) Winkler (1893-1922). Delbert owned a gravel pit operation. After Letha died, Delbert married Leatha (Rumph) Kennedy. Letha and Leatha are buried on opposite sides of Delbert in Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

Malcom's maternal grandfather Delbert Winkler was born in Henry County and was the son of George Anderson Winkler (1850-1934) and Lurinda (Jamison) Winkler (1852-1934). George and Lurinda were born in Kentucky. They were married in 1869. They also lived in Johnson and Henry Counties. They came to Rush County in 1900. George and Lurinda are buried in Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

Malcom's parents, William H. and Willetta R. (Winkler) Beckner were married in Rush County in 1940. William's occupation on the 1940 Census was a retail salesman. He farmed and worked in the automobile industry for several years. William and Willetta are buried in Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

Malcom was born on July 2, 1945. He graduated from Arlington High School in 1963 and then attended Indiana University. He briefly worked for an Indianapolis accounting firm. He joined the US Air Force and became a pilot. He also served as an instructor pilot. In 1969, Lt. Malcom K. Beckner married Katherine (Dickson), daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Lou R. Dickson of Colorado Springs. Malcom and Katherine had two daughters, Ann and Malissa. His last duty assignment was with the 347th Tactical Fighter Wing at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia.

On May 1, 1980, Major Malcom K. Beckner was participating in training maneuvers in Canada as a part of Operation Maple Leaf along with nearly 700 Americans, British, and Canadian armed forces personnel. Major Beckner was piloting an F4-E fighter jet along with Captain John William Thomas from Springfield, Massachusetts. Their aircraft unfortunately crashed, neither survived.

Major Malcom K. Beckner was survived by his wife; two daughters; an unborn child; his parents; two brothers, Kenneth and Bill; a sister, Goldie; two nieces; and four nephews.

Major Malcom K. Beckner is honored on the "All Gave Some, Some Gave All" podium in our Veterans and First Responders Honor Park. We will continue to remember and honor all those who have served our Country and Community. We thank the Beckner family for Malcom's service and ultimate sacrifice.

Learn more about Malcom Beckner from an article written by Larry Martin on the "History and Families of Arlington" tab on the dropdown menu of our website.

(Sources: Ancestry, Find-a-Grave, Newspaper archives, and Arlington East Hill Cemetery records)

More information about our cemetery and its history can be found at www.arlingtoneasthillcemetery.com



MAJOR MALCOLM K. BECKNER

Major Malcolm K. Beckner, 34, Valdosta, Georgia, died May 1 in a plane crash while on a training mission in Canada. He was born July 2, 1945, the son of William Henry and Willetta Winkler Beckner. He was married August, 1969 to Katherine Dickson.

Major Beckner was a member of the Hannegan Christian Church and a major in the United States Air Force, stationed at the Moody Air Force Base close to Valdosta, Georgia.

Survivors include the wife of Valdosta; two daughters, Ann and Malissa, both at home; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Beckner, R.R. 3, Rushville; two brothers, William E. Beckner, Arlington, Kenneth A. Beckner, R.R. 1, Arlington; one sister, Goldie E. Beckner, Rushville, and two nieces and four nephews.

The funeral will be at the Wyatt-Moore Mortuary at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10 with Rev. Ron Creque and Ted Williams officiating. Burial will follow in the Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

A fly-over will be conducted by the U.S. Air Force at approximately 2:55 p.m. at the cemetery. Friends may call at the Mortuary between 2 and 9 p.m. Friday. Contributions may be made to the Rush County Library in his memory.

