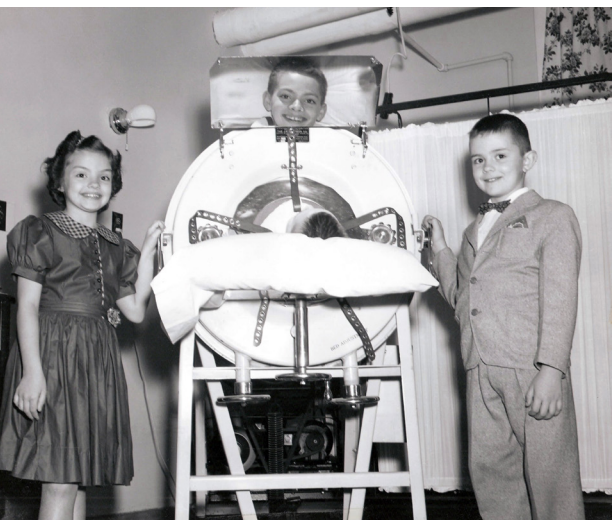


## Lawrence C. Becker (1939-2018)

Lawrence C. Becker, who served on the Board of PHI from 2000 to 2011, died on November 22, 2018 in Roanoke, Virginia. He was 79. Charlotte, Larry's wife of 51 years, predeceased him on September 18, 2018. Larry served as president of the Board from 2006 to 2009. He was instrumental in encouraging the Board to think about the future of PHI given the decreasing number of polio survivors in the United States. As a final gift to PHI, Larry included a bequest to the organization in his will.

A native of Nebraska, Larry developed polio when he was thirteen. He spent several months in an iron lung. Polio also left him without the use of his arms.



November 1952, Larry Becker with siblings Sharyn and Michael.

Larry received a BA in history (1961) from Midland College in Fremont, Nebraska, and then a MA (1963) and PhD (1965) in philosophy from the University of Chicago. Following graduation, Larry had a distinguished career as a college professor and philosopher. From 1965 to 1989, he taught at Hollins College in Roanoke, rising to the rank of Professor.

In 1989, he became The William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Philosophy at the College of William and Mary. He retired in 2001 and became a Fellow at Hollins College until his death. I recently met a former student of Larry's who spoke very highly of his teaching. In addition to his philosophical interests, Larry was a great fan of jazz.

Larry was a distinguished philosopher working primarily in the areas of ethics, including disability ethics. He wrote five books on ethics, justice and stoicism.



Lawrence C. Becker

With his wife Charlotte, he co-edited *The Encyclopedia of Ethics*. Larry wrote numerous scholarly articles in philosophy and ethics and frequently presented papers at philosophy conferences.

Larry believed that five strategies were essential to living well with a disability. First, *agency*. Become and remain an agent not a patient. Learn to become an effective agent for yourself. Second, *focus on abilities, not disabilities*. Focus on what you can do, not what you can't do. Third, *take a whole life perspective*. Construct a plan for your life and revise it as necessary. Fourth, *seek to achieve internal harmony*. Try to harmonize the various components of your life. Fifth, *recognize brick walls*. Learn to distinguish real walls from illusionary ones. Learn your limits. Larry discusses these strategies in "Developing a Personal Philosophy About Disability" that is available for viewing on PHI's Polio Place ([www.polioplace.org/personal-philosophy-disability](http://www.polioplace.org/personal-philosophy-disability)).

Larry was a bright, warm, and humane colleague. He was a fine teacher and excellent philosopher who helped PHI move forward. He will be missed by all who had the opportunity to know and work with him.

Daniel J. Wilson  
Vice President, PHI Board