



Why We Advocate for You and Your Family

Let me introduce you to the Becker family. Cody, a Kenosha native was only 19 when he was catastrophically injured at Fort Carson, Colorado. Please read the below narrative of Cody's Soldier's Medal:

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Private First Class Cody R. Becker, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy, while a member on Battery B, 3d Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, on 25 February 2008, while riding in a convoy en route to Fort Carson, Colorado. After his M992 Field Artillery Ammunition Supply Vehicle lost control and began to rollover, Private First Class Becker noticed that a fellow Soldier was trapped in the hatch above the crew compartment. Acting with complete disregard for his own safety, he leapt from his seat to pull the Soldier back into the vehicle, freeing him from the hatch with only moments to spare. Both Soldiers suffered devastating injuries as a result of the vehicle rollover, however Private First Class Becker continued to put the welfare of his teammates above his own until it was his turn to be medically evacuated. His truly inspirational self-sacrifice on that day undoubtedly saved the life of his fellow Soldier. Private First Class Becker's courageous actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 3d Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, and the United States Army.

Cody went through intensive rehab at Inglewood, Colorado before returning back home to Wisconsin. In July 2007, Cody married Jackie, his high school sweetheart. Cody and Jackie both desired to start a family together but due to Cody's injuries natural procreation was not an option. They started exploring in-vitro-fertilization (IVF). The VA program at the time would only cover the IVF expenses for Cody but not Jackie. The costs associated with IVF for Jackie were very expensive. PVA advocated for the expansion of the VA IVF program and achieved a temporary expansion that benefitted the Becker family. In October 2017, the Beckers started the IVF process.

In October 2018, the Becker's were informed that their IVF treatment was successful and that they were pregnant! On 3 July, 2019, Jackie gave birth to their son, Damian Ray Becker. A healthy 6 lb. 7 oz and 19 inches long baby boy!

Public Law 114-223, section 260, authorized VA to provide fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to veterans who have a service-connected disability that results in their inability to procreate without the use of fertility treatment. Currently, In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) is available through a temporary program that must be reauthorized periodically, complicating efforts by

eligible veterans to begin or extend their families. There are many limitations with the present program as well. PVA calls on Congress to pass legislation making IVF a permanent part of VA's medical care package. Additionally, Congress must allow for further services to address the needs of women veterans whose injuries prevent a full-term pregnancy, as well as the needs of veterans whose injuries destroyed their ability to provide genetic material for IVF. PVA strongly supports the Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of 2019 (H.R. 955/S. 319) which would address many of these issues.