

Harold Beasley

June 8, 1917 – July 4, 1999

(From - Miami Herald - July 7, 1999)

Harold E. Beasley, former history teacher

By **OLIVIER STEPHENSON**
Herald Staff Writer

Harold E. Beasley, a history teacher and high school coach in Fort Lauderdale for more than three decades, died Sunday at home after a long bout with emphysema. He was 82.

Beasley began his teaching career at his alma mater, Hinton High School in West Virginia, after serving in the air force during World War II.

Beasley was born June 8, 1917, in Hinton, W. Va., into a family with roots dating back to the Civil

War.

He was the only child in a family of 13 children to attend college, his family said.

In December 1941, Beasley secretly married his girlfriend, Marguerite Martin, and then enlisted in the service. He was in Texas undergoing training for the invasion of Japan when Japan surrendered and he went back to West Virginia to complete his college education.

He retired from the Army Reserve as a colonel in 1977, said

his second son, Phillip Beasley of Plantation.

Harold Beasley came to Fort Lauderdale in 1956, and taught history for 21 years at Stranahan High School, where he was also the school's first baseball coach, according to his son.

During the height of the polio epidemic in the 1950s, Beasley was head of Broward's March of Dimes polio campaign. He always tried to educate the public and dispel rumors about polio, his son said.

Beasley taught Sunday School at

the First Christian Church of Fort Lauderdale.

He is survived by his son Phillip; his wife of 58 years, Marguerite; another son, Jerry Beasley of West Virginia; and five grandchildren.

A funeral service is scheduled for 10 a.m. today at the T.M. Ralph Plantation Funeral Home, 7001 NW Fourth St., Plantation.

Donations may be sent to the Harold E. Beasley Scholarship Fund, Concord College, P.O. Box 902, Athens, W. Va. 24712.