

John Beall, 87, honored for work in Army, academia

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Retired Maj. Gen. John Beall of Carrollton had a fearsome nickname: Tiger. But he was known for his gentle nature and fondness of being a

mentor, which he was able to do in his first career in the military and his second career in academia.



Beall

"There were times we'd entertain 500 young men in our home at a time, and somehow he'd make every one feel as if he knew all about them," said his wife, Ruth L. Beall.

The funeral for John Allen Beall Jr., 87, who died Wednesday of complications from Alzheimer's disease at Tanner Medical Center, is 2 p.m. today at Carrollton Presbyterian Church. Almon Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Beall, a native of Gilmer County, Texas, earned his nickname from sportswriters who

chronicled his career as a football player for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. After graduating in 1935, he decided to make the military his career and was stationed in Seattle, Panama and, finally, Fort Benning, where he met his wife. They married in 1941.

"When he asked me to marry him, he said, 'I have to tell you that, after the Army, you come first. The Army comes first.' What can you say to that? I said OK," Mrs. Beall said.

Mr. Beall fought throughout the European theater during World War II and remained in Germany after the war ended, commanding prisoners of war at the Dachau concentration camp. He also served in Korea. He retired from the Army in 1966 as chief of staff of the 3rd Army at Fort McPherson. He received several medals in his career, including the Silver Star and Bronze Star — both for bravery — and the Distinguished Service Medal.

In the hospital after suffering two heart attacks just before his retirement from the Army, Mr. Beall again had a talk with his wife.

"He told me he promised God that if he got through the heart attacks, he'd spend the rest of his life helping young people," said Mrs. Beall.

"I told him I thought that would be wonderful."

So, at age 56, Mr. Beall went back to school, getting his master's degree and, in 1972, his doctorate degree in management from Georgia State University. The State University of West Georgia hired him to head its management and marketing department in the School of Business. He retired from there in 1983.

"He was a great teacher and not just 'n the academic sense," said his son, John Beall IV of Peachtree City. "He taught by example."

In addition to his wife and son, survivors include another son, James Kennon Beall of Carrollton; two sisters, Virginia Ball of Muncie, Ind., and Louise Golightly of Jacksonville, Texas; and five grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Carrollton Presbyterian Church, 14 Maple St., Carrollton, GA 30117.