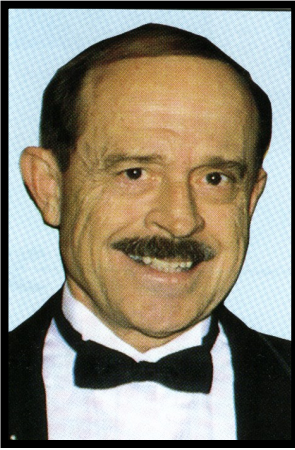


# Richard Beers

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## CHSSA HALL OF FAME 1992



Lt. Col. Beers completed his undergraduate studies at California State University Fresno and graduate work at the Air University. He graduated from the War College in Washington D. C. and served as a speech writer in the Pentagon for the Department of Defense. He retired from the United States Air Force with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1957, Richard “enlisted” in a new program when he began his coaching career at Bullard High School. The school had just received its charter and Beers was excited about the possibilities involved in “pioneering” a new program at a new school. In addition to coaching at the school, Beers diligently worked to develop speech curriculum for the entire Fresno School District.

Bullard High School received their NFL Chapter under his leadership. His pioneering adventure was a grand success as he qualified over fifty students to the national tournament during his twenty-two years at Bullard. Nationally, Beers is best remembered for his students success in national student congress.

At the state level, Beers coached five California State Champions and over fifty finalists. In addition, he coached winners in Optimist International, American Legion, Lions Club International and other contests sponsored by service groups. His students’ success at these service club contests not only brought great recognition to his school and forensics in general, but helped the students to earn scholarship monies towards their future academic endeavors.

Winning was always secondary to Beers who mostly wanted to leave a legacy of service. Despite the fact that he did not begin in the education field, at his retirement, Beers had completed more service to the forensics community at the local, state and national level than most career coaches would complete in a lifetime. For his great work, Beers earned both national and state awards.

At the national level he earned the Distinguished National Forensic League Service Key and was district chair for six years. At the state level Beers was inducted into the CHSSA Hall of Fame. He served as a league officer and was a member of the State Council Curriculum Committee for over five years working on the development of *The Framework*.

Richard Beers is an educator who blended his backgrounds in speech, education, and the military into a superb program at Bullard High School. Only the twelfth coach in National Forensic League history to earn the Fifth Diamond Key Coach award, Richard Beers will long be remembered for his contributions to speech education.

He blended his backgrounds in speech, education, and the military into a superb program.

A salute to a fine coach, Richard Beers.