KY Teacher Hall of Fame 2012

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The newest inductees into the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame have nearly ninety years of combined teaching experience.

Amy Bingham talks to them in this week’s View from the Hill.

One taught Latin, one is still teaching American History and one didn’t completely stop teaching until she was 85 years old. This week marked the induction of the fifth class of the Governor Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame at the state capitol.

“Few students achieve their potential without the influence of a teacher.”

It was a day of well deserved recognition for three Kentucky teachers who will take their place in the Teacher Hall of Fame which is housed at WKU.

“I never thought this would happen, ever.”

Among the recipients is Richmond native Sharon Graves who started her teaching career twenty three years ago.

“I was the kindergarten aid and I said I would never teach that age group again.”

Graves also vowed never to teach eighth grade but that’s exactly where she wound up and has spent her entire career teaching them American History.

She says her students are extremely excited about her award.

“Yesterday was Graves day at my school, the principal declared it in the morning, we had the name on the marquee, I about wrecked when I saw that, we had balloons and a brunch.”

Estelle Park Bayer, also from Richmond, says she too was stunned by the honor.

The long time Latin teacher was encouraged to minor in the language by a former teacher, and the subject has served her well.

“I was hired to teach English and in two years time was allowed to pick up Latin and rejuvenate it, was doing that until the day I left 33 years later.”

Bayer says her advice to teachers today is that you have to love it or you really shouldn’t do it.

“You can like it ok and do a good job but if you don’t like it you won’t have the success you are looking for, I loved it.”

1:01:03 cut to “Yes there were days I thought I can’t go in there and do that but I can count those on both hands.”

Helen Price Raby of Logan County was inducted into the Hall of Fame posthumously. She passed away in 2010 at the age of 94, but her son says she would have been thrilled by the honor.

“She’d be talking your leg off, she never stopped and she had tons of tales to tell.”

Raby began teaching at 18 and didn’t stop substituting until the age of 85.

Her son says it’s hard to find a life in Logan County she didn’t touch.

“If you were in Logan county and didn’t have her for a teacher, you were an exception because she taught everyone and everyone knew her.”

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Helen Price Raby founded Russellville Christian School at Crittenden Drive Church of Christ.

Her plaque, along with those bearing the likeness of Sharon Graves and Estelle Bayer will be displayed with all the other Hall of Fame inductees at Gary Ransdall Hall.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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