Lee Robertson turns 90

VFTH

6/14/12

With over a half century of service to the university, Lee Robertson has certainly earned the title of “Mr. Western”….so why not celebrate his 90th birthday with five hundred of his closest friends?

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham talks with the former Alumni Director and golf coach who, in spite of his age, is still out working hard for his school.

Age is just a number. That’s what Lee Robertson says as he approaches his 90th birthday. The champion of all things WKU says no matter what he does for the university, it never feels like a job.

 “I go and come as I please, they don’t check the clock on me, but I don’t believe I’d be around if I’d gone home, twiddled my thumbs and retired.”

Lee Robertson has earned the right to come and go as he pleases in his job assisting WKU’s offices of development and alumni relations.

 “In joining our development office he’s brought an aspect of knowledge and friend base that no one else has access to.”

That data base of WKU knowledge dates back to the late 40’s when Lee Robertson came to Western on the GI Bill after serving in World War II. Then, in 1960, WKU President Kelly Thompson hired Robertson to be director of Alumni Affairs and Placement services.

 “I guess he kind of liked that I could visit with people and enjoy people.”

He stayed in that role until 1985 before entering the private sector. But eventually President Gary Ransdall came calling.

 “He knew I knew alumni because I’d been here for 25 years, he said you can come on a part time basis and help us out and I’m still here.”

A golf enthusiast, Robertson also had a stint helping out Athletic Director Jimmy Feix by filling in as golf coach.

 “I said I’ll help you out this year it was six years later when I told them “ya’ll ever found that golf coach?”

So after more than sixty years of being associated with WKU, Robertson is often asked what is the most important era?

 “It may be right now, what’s going on it’s unbelievable. The campus and the beauty of it and buildings…

 “There’s been many highlights of individuals and things, it’s hard for me to rank them but it’s all been fun.”

And as for the milestone birthday, well he doesn’t get too caught up in it.

By the way, Lee Robertson played baseball for coach Ed Diddle when he was a student at WKU. Robertson’s birthday party will be held Saturday night on campus. With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

###