KY Teacher Hall of Fame

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VFTH

The newest inductee into the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame is a beloved educator from Muhlenberg County.

Amy Bingham introduces us to her in this week’s View from the Hill.

Mary Katherine Armstrong \ 2015 KY Teacher Hall of Fame

Debbie Mitchell \ Retired Teacher

 “We’re proud of you Mary. Congratulations. Thank you.”

It was a special day at the state capitol for 95-year-old Mary Katherine Armstrong.

 “I didn’t expect all this. It’s too glamorous for me because I’m just a country girl.”

The McLean County native, who began her teaching career in 1940, says her career path was set early.

 “When I was a small child with my siblings at home with me, I was a teacher in the home and they had to be my students.”

During her teaching career, Armstrong was a social studies teacher who loved to travel so she used that to her advantage.

 “When I went to Europe, I took pictures and brought them back to show them on slides, when I went to Brazil, same thing.”

 “That’s better than reading out of a book, they won’t remember what they read but what they see and hear they’ll remember.”

Fellow retired teacher Debbie Mitchell helped nominate Armstrong.

 “I met her when she began subbing for me and she took on my classroom as it it were her own.”

But Mitchell says she had heard of Armstrong long before they met.

 “She was just someone you would talk about, she was a good teacher and she touched a lot of lives.”

Armstrong retired from the Muhlenberg County School system in 1999 and continued subbing until 2011.

Mitchell says she would still love to be in the classroom.

 “She would if they called her today. She would figure out a way to get there.”

The Governor Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame was created in 2000 through a gift by former governor Nunn. The first class was inducted in 2008.

WKU was selected as the home of the Hall of Fame because of it’s more than 100 year history in teacher education.

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