KY Teacher Hall of Fame

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Three of the state’s most outstanding teachers have been added to the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame which is housed at Western Kentucky University.

Amy Bingham has more on the induction ceremony in this week’s View from the Hill.

There was no shortage of family and friends on hand in Frankfort this week for the induction of three more teachers to the Kentucky Hall of Fame. Two of which were given posthumously.

“Her spirit is here with us.”

Susan Barnard and her brother Phillip Smith accepted the teacher hall of fame award on behalf of their 99 year old mother, Mattie Jo Smith who passed away less than a month ago.

“She was very proud after while after she realized about it. She was very proud and we’re very proud of her.”

Mrs. Smith began her teaching career in 1938 in a one room school house in Marshall County. She had both of her children in class.

“She was overly careful to be sure she didn’t show any special preference to me and Phil was in her classes also.”

Also honored posthumously, WKU graduate Ronald Montgomery who passed away in 2009. Montgomery taught history and broadcasting at Thomas Jefferson Middle and High schools in Jefferson County.

“He had us in our most pivotal moments, sixth, seventh and eighth grade where we’re going from children to young adults.”

His former student Michael Richmond is the one who nominated him for the award.

“He shaped a generation of kids basically.”

And Gloria Compton of Lexington was inducted for her 30 year career at Bryan Station where she had a huge impact on women in sports.

“Mom was really, I feel like, a pioneer and advocate for females and starting sports and integrating females into every aspect of high school sports.”

Compton was unable to attend the ceremony because her husband is ill but her daughter says she was stunned to even be nominated.

“She doesn’t think she’s worthy. She thought it was crazy when Kathy said she was gonna nominate her. She said, for what, what have I done.”

The Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame was established in 2000 through a generous gift from former governor, Louie B. Nunn. The inaugural class was inducted in 2008 and 33 teachers have been recognized.

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

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