

Roberta "Bobbie" Brandes
Class of 1948

Career summary: While Bobbie was a senior in high school, she began working after school at Walsman Furniture and Hardware Store as an accountant, secretary, and clerk and continued doing this for 13 years. After the birth of her two sons, she worked part-time at Kile's Motor Express, Metzler's, and Bernie Fields Buick Motors and also at Steward's Dress Shop. She then went to work at BHS as secretary and extra-curricular treasurer, where she worked at the same position for 39-1/2 years!

Family info: Bobbie and her husband, Rodney, have been married for 62 years and have two sons. Randy (BHS '74) graduated from Hanover College and went on to receive his Ph.D. in English at Emory University. He has taught college-level English for the last 28 years. Tim (BHS '78) received his degree from Ball State in Educational Science (Chemistry and Biology) and owns a business, Bed Techs, Inc., with a friend. Both sons are married, and Bobbie and Rodney have one grandchild.

Personal accomplishments: While she was working at BHS, she ran for Batesville City Council and served two terms. The day she retired from BHS, then-Mayor Bill Aplanalp attended a convocation for the entire student body, faculty, and personnel, presenting her with the Proclamation naming Friday, November 1, 2002, as "Bobbie Brandes Appreciation Day." Her thoughts about that day? "It was awesome!" she says.

Bobbie was inducted into the Ripley County Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014, receiving their Meritorious Service Award. She also accomplished the rare feat of obtaining a hole-in-one on #2 at Hillcrest when she was 72 years old.

Best education-related memory: "Miss Nora Wanning was my favorite teacher in high school. She taught U.S. History and World History, which were my two favorite classes. Even today, books, movies, and television series that contain any historical themes are what I like best."

Personal quote about education: "I have always thought that college is not for everyone and that those who want to pursue a different course should be encouraged to do so. Remember: Be the best that you can at what you do and be happy!"