

Julie Bobbitt Brakefield

Julie Bobbitt Brakefield is a 1977 Graduate of Northwest High School who grew up in High Ridge with her parents William and Mary and Dixie Bobbitt, and three sisters and one brother. She gives credit for her strong work ethic to her parents with whom she worked diligently from the age of ten building, operating, and maintaining High Ridge's infamous Poco Loco Town! The iconic (real live) old western town in High Ridge was a treasure of an attraction complete with houses, stores, and buildings built as replicas of the old west including mock gunfights. Poco Loco was a fun, family-oriented place for all to enjoy.

As a Northwest High School student, she was a cheerleader and co-captain for 3 years, a poms co-captain 1 year, vice-president of her Junior class and president of her Senior class (a job that many do not know, follows you the rest of your life). She was also a member of Student Council for 3 years.

After graduation, Julie came back to Northwest and started as an unpaid volunteer for six weeks as a secretary sub. School officials were so impressed with her performance and cheerful disposition that they offered her the job full time. She loved every minute of her 26 years as the front office FACE of Northwest High School, greeting all who enter. Julie always felt that her second family was the entire NHS staff and every single person that walked through the front doors of the school.

Julie's willingness to help earned her the Staff Member of the Month Award, and over the years, she was nominated 20 times for the award. Julie recognized leadership in others and every year she made sure to name one (sometimes two) students for the coveted Teachers Choice Award. She was always encouraging students and took time to recognize students effort. Julie also received two district-level Golden Bell Awards for being a distinguished staff member.

Julie helped keep the fun alive in the building; she was an integral part of the Renaissance Assembly faculty dance and created the Faculty Talent Show that ran for 10 years to help raise money, first for a charity program her older sister headed called Kindness in a Box and then Julie started a Pennies for Peru Charity. Now that she is retired, she still finds ways to help students with scholarship money through the Nashville Gives Back event she hosts. By inviting celebrity alumni musicians and song-writers Gary Nance and Will Nance back every year to perform at NHS, proceeds go to scholarships for NHS seniors.

Julie has 3 children: Jason, Zachary, and Ashley; 7 grandchildren and one great grandson. She is married to Billy Brakefield (class of 1976).

Julie wrote this poem summarizing her NHS experience at Northwest:

Hey, this is my house, Its more like a home.

I have found family here, I chose for my own.

If you walk through these halls, I'm sure you would see

The difference you made here, the difference in me.

It's crazy, chaotic but oh, how I loved it

There's no place I'd rather be, so thank you all, from ME !!

Julie has refused the nomination for this award in the past citing that she has done nothing so 'outstanding' in any one particular field that would deserve this great honor. She has not been published as an author, nor has she received a patent for any great invention, but what she has done is always put others needs before her own. She has led from her chair. There are hundreds of teachers and staff, thousands of students who have passed through the hallowed halls of Northwest that will attest; she epitomizes the phrase 'Once a Lion, Always a Lion'!!