

Despite setbacks and challenges, GCHS gives Class of 2020 somewhat ‘traditional’ Commencement sendoff

From Staff Reports

While the final weeks of the Class of 2020’s tenure at Greene County High School were not traditional and certainly not what the seniors and their families expected, they were certainly memorable.

A global pandemic brought the GCHS graduates’ final year of school to a screeching halt just as the classmates were preparing for what should have been some of the best days of their young lives. Spring sports, prom, senior trip and other highly-anticipated moments became victims of the health crisis.

But, for a couple of hours on June 5, weeks after their original graduation date had passed, 94 of the school’s total graduates gathered at Wildcat Stadium to put all of those problems on hold and concentrate on celebrating their accomplishment and hopefully jumpstart a new phase in their lives.

With friends and family scattered and separated in the stands to witness the important moment, school officials called the names of the graduates as each took their turn walking to the podium at Wildcat Stadium during the Commencement ceremony on Friday.

Assistant Principal Ricky Dickson called the names and Principal Scott Bray and Supt. of Education Charles L. Breland awarded diplomas and congratulated the graduates on their big moment.

Family and friends spread out across the bleachers of the stadium, withstanding hot temperature, but glad that the forecasted rain and thunderstorms stayed away.

After everyone was in position, Class Secretary Jacob Mitchell and classmate Abigail Smith stepped to the podium to lead the graduates and attendees in the *Pledge of Allegiance* and *The National Anthem*.

“Let us remember our duty, our honor, and our country, by never forgetting the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world,” Mitchell



Photo by Photo 'Dell' Studios

Greene County High School graduates are shown tossing their caps into the air in celebration at the end of last Friday’s Class of 2020 Commencement at the school. School officials worked around Covid-19 restrictions in an effort to hold a ‘traditional’ ceremony for the graduates.

said while giving a brief history of the *Pledge*.

Smith then provided a nice rendition of *The National Anthem*.

Next, Class President Olivia Eubanks approached the podium to welcome those in attendance.

“This evening proves to be a very emotional time for all of us for so many reasons this year,” Eubanks said. “We are very appreciative for the opportunity and efforts by the faculty, principal, Board of Education, and our superintendent in making this cere-

mony possible. To you we say welcome and a sincere and heartfelt thank you for all of your efforts.”

“Tonight marks completion, for us, the Class of 2020, of

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CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2020

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!
Go out and make your mark on the world and make it a more kind and gentle place than when you found it.

*"Thou wilt show me the path of life;
in thy presence is fulness of joy, at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."*
Psalms 16:11

Hugh Elisha Paul Tice
With Love Always, Mom & Dad



CONGRATULATIONS
Kayleigh

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

Richton High School

We love you!
Deddy, Becca, Reese, Connor, Keaton, Poppy & Day and Nana & PawPaw Pierce

CLASS OF 2020