

Despite challenges, the members of the Class of 2021 has been blessed

Good evening everyone. I would like to start out by thanking all of you for being here tonight. You all have had a great impact on this graduating class.

Tonight, as we, the graduating class of 2021, find ourselves entering into a new period of our lives, I invite each of you to first look back on our years we have spent here at Greene County High School. In the past four years, we've been through a lot, and have made so many memories that we will fondly look back on in the future. We have faced whatever obstacles life has thrown at us and perse-

vered. We've worked together and grown together, and on our journey, we have met amazing friends, inspirational teachers, and people who will influence our lives forever. As the years passed, we were shaped into the people we are today, our own unique personalities who are now moving on with our lives to bigger and better things.

The fact that we are here today is proof that all of our hard work and stress has paid off. It is finally time to welcome this next chapter of our lives and make our mark on the world. We are all so incredibly blessed to be able to

be here in our graduation robes, about to receive that piece of paper that we eagerly longed for. I know that sometimes, it seemed like this day would never come. The day we say goodbye to the halls of our school and go our separate ways. But now, that day has sneaked up on us, and a new journey soon begins. Some of us are headed to college, others will go straight into the workforce, and some are off to bravely serve for our country.

As we move forward with our lives, I ask that each of you remember the lessons you learned here at our school. I

By **Brandon Joseph Ladner**

GCHS Class of 2021
Valedictorian



firmly believe that anything is possible with hard work, and I encourage you to put your trust in God, because nothing is impossible for Him.

And now, I want my graduating class to look past me, look in the stands, find your family and friends and teachers. These are the people who've supported you, helped you, and loved you and they only want the best for you. So,

when you leave here tonight to begin the next chapter in your life and you somehow get lost along the way, remember them. Remember what it felt like to be here right now in this moment. Remember what it felt like to have your family and friends look down at you from the stands and how happy they were for you. This is where it all begins. Right here, right now.

I would like to thank God above all, for always providing for me with his strength, guidance, and unfailing love. I thank Him for the wonderful parents he has given me. Their

endless encouragement and support has shaped me into the person I am today, and I am immensely grateful. Thank you, mom and dad, for instilling in me the values of hard work, honesty, and kindness.

Thank you to my closest friends to being the real reason why going to school was so enjoyable. I'd like to thank the faculty of our school for challenging us, helping us see our potential, and preparing us for the future. And finally, to my fellow classmates, the class of 2021: thank you for the laughs and the memories, and congratulations.

► Graduation from Page 2-B

leaning on all the good things we have been taught by our family, our friends, our teachers and our administrators.”

“We are to have hope for the good days that are ahead of us and be patient in our tribulations until the time has come for our goals to be realized.”

Walters said that now, more than ever before, our world needs goodness, kindness and charity.

“Maya Angelou once said, ‘I’ve learned that people will forget what you did, but will never forget how you made them feel,’” Walters said. “Let it be our challenge to spread love and good deeds in a world that so badly needs it.”

After the devotion, Wood led her classmates and guests in the invocation.

Class Historian Caleb Stanford was next to make his way to the podium. Stanford said as Historian, it was his duty to remind his classmates of all the things they have done over the past four years. He said the Bible tells us not to dwell in the past but to move forward into the future.

“But just one last time, let’s reminisce about all the things we have done together before we move into our bright, new futures,” Stanford said.

Stanford shared many achievements they have made, from being an A or B rated school the last four years to the many sports accomplishments their class has

seen, and the many academic successes of his group.

“Despite all of these achievements, we know that we didn’t get quite the normal high school experience,” Stanford said.

Stanford spoke of being robbed of the end of their junior year and then retuning to something different that didn’t allow for a normal school year. They rose above their challenges and made the best of what they had, he said.

As Stanford was concluding his speech, raindrops could be heard approaching the stadium. When Stanford was finished, Principal Scott Bray asked guests to be patient while the ceremony paused for the rain. Seniors quickly made their way to the field-house and waited a few moments for the rain to pass. Although Bray paused the events, it was obvious this group of seniors would have continued despite the rain.

Most guests came prepared for rain, and as the quick shower moved away, a bright rainbow could be seen across the sky. Many of the seniors took note of the sight and saw it as a sign of hope and good luck for their futures, and it made the occasion even more memorable. When students returned to their seats on the field, they simply poured the water from their chairs and proudly moved on with the ceremony.

Salutatorian Ali Eubanks gracefully shook the water from her tassel before she began her speech.

“We have achieved a major milestone in our lives,” Eubanks said. “Today is a day that we have all been looking forward to for many years. I am truly honored to be a part of such an amazing group of people.”

Eubanks spoke of how many of her classmates had known each other since their very first days of school. She said she had formed some of her greatest friendships and she will always be grateful for the memories.

“Since that first day, I have grown so much as a person,” Eubanks said. “I have learned so much, and I have also overcome challenges and faced many of my fears.”

Eubanks challenged classmates to believe in themselves and seek passion in all they do. She told them to make the most of every moment and to not let those moments slip away. She thanked family, friends and those throughout the school that made an impact in their lives and helped them to get to where they are today. Eubanks told classmates it was time for them to move forward but to never forget their roots.

Valedictorian Brandon Ladner moved to the podium next to address his fellow graduates, telling them he had many fond memories to look back upon.

“We have faced whatever

obstacles life has thrown at us and persevered,” Ladner said. “We’ve worked together and grown together, and on our journey, we have met amazing friends, inspirational teachers and people who will influence our lives forever.”

Ladner reminded classmates all their hard work has gotten them to where they are, and it’s time to move into the next chapter of their lives. He said some will begin that chapter in college, others in the workforce, and a few will do so by serving their country in the military. He told classmates to look in the stands around the stadium and see all those there in support of them.

“These are the people who’ve supported you, helped you and loved you, and they only want the best for you,” Ladner said. “So, when you leave here tonight to begin the next chapter in your life and you somehow get lost along the way, remember them.”

Ladner concluded his speech by thanking God for providing him with what he needed to get to this place. He thanked his parents, his classmates and the faculty and staff of the school for being part of his journey, then he congratulated his classmates for their accomplishment of making it to where they are.

As Ladner left the stage, GCHS Assistant Principal Richard Dickson approached the podium to announce the graduates. Seniors, still wet from the rain, proudly made their way one by one to receive their diplomas.

Afterward, Rylie Turner offered a benediction followed by Zayne Robertson who led the class in the traditional moving of the tassel and tossing of caps.

Celebration followed as family and friends moved to the field to congratulate their graduates, and after a little rain was a beautiful sunset on another graduating class of Greene County High School.

CONGRATULATIONS

There are far better things ahead than anything we leave behind.
- C.S. Lewis

We are so proud of you!

*Love You,
Mom, Dad & Jarret*

Congratulations

Pizza Inn®

We are so proud of our **GRADUATES!**

CLASS OF 2021

Mason BREWER

Willow BROWN

Makaila VALENTINE