

Marching Forward

Webster's dictionary defines graduation as "the ceremony or exercise marking the completion by a student of a course of study." This definition clearly expresses the meaning that the Class of '91 felt as the pound of the tympani started the graduation exercises. This was the moment that the graduates had been working toward for the past twelve years.

For the friends and families of the graduates, the ceremony was a time to reflect on the hours spent assisting with homework, worrying about standardized tests and traveling to different areas of the state to see their loved ones participate in athletic events.

Arriving at the school at 7 p.m.

Thursday, the soon-to-be graduates were in line by 7:30, and the processional began promptly at 8:00.

After the National Anthem, Patrice Gerideau, third honor graduate, gave the invocation from the gospel of Matthew. Then Principal Bob Pence presented the salutatorian medallion to Wendy Schellenger, second honor graduate. After the salutatory address, Class President Ty-meeke Generette presented the class gift to the school.

Valedictorian Keisha Pinckney, first honor graduate, received her medallion from Mr. Pence with resounding applause from the 2000 spectators. The valedictory address was said by many to be one of the most in-

spiring speeches in many years. Keisha urged the graduates to seize the opportunities that lie before them. Quoting the poet Tennyson, she challenged the class "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

After the presentation to the long-awaited diplomas, the ceremonial turning to the tassels took place. Following the Alma Mater and the benediction from Student Council President Lawanda Aiken, the graduates recessed from the gym for the last time, but now as graduates. As the last note of music was played, a silence filled the gymnasium in a show of respect for the previous ceremony.



Fredrick Prater places his hat on a younger fan. After the ceremony graduates returned to their homeroom teacher to pick-up their diplomas.



Watching her classmates receive their diplomas is Salutatorian Wendy Schellenger. Wendy attended Governor's School for Academics at the College of Charleston.

Victoria Hiers, Barbara Russell, Stacie Padgett, Wendy Lowery and Christina Nettles celebrate their graduation. Many students travelled to the beach following graduation.