The Class of 2017: ‘It’s been great, but time to move on’

ASHBORO — Less than an hour before commencement on Friday, June 9, a small group of seniors gathered off the lawn at Asheboro High School (AHS) to take a couple of last-minute silliness.

‘My senior quote was ‘We don’t know how we were making memories, we were just having fun,’” said Hannah Mae Williams as she was preparing for commencement. ‘It’s the big summary of all of high school, because you don’t really think you’re going to be here until this day.

And while it was an emotional event, Williams noted she was looking forward to making more memories as she continues her education at Randolph Community College.

‘It’s been a great experience so far at AHS, but I’m ready to move on and start my new life,’” Hannah Michelle Thompson said. She will be attending Western Carolina University to study music with the ambition of becoming a high school band director.

Students were ushered into Lee J. Stone Stadium by junior marshals and class associate Carter Lee Dillon and Amy Isabella Ayme.

AHS Student Body President Mary Franklin Wells followed the presentation of colors by the AHS Air Force JROTC Color Guard to lead faculty, students, family and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance before welcoming the crowd to the 2017 commencement ceremony. Nearly 600 students graduated, making one of the largest graduating classes for the school.

Superintendent Dr. Tony Worrell presented the C.G. Crummett Citizen Award, which was donated by

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C.C. Cranford in 1890. Each year, one senior is nominated by faculty and then elected by the graduating class as the most outstanding citizen based on industry, character, obedience, service, courtesy and loyalty. This year’s C.C. Cranford Citizen Award recipient was Justin Kyle Jones. The Edward L. Hendrick, III Most Valuable Student Award, which was established as a memorial to its namesake in the 1960s, was presented to Carter Lynn Hurley by David Kirkland, AHS assistant principal.

“Understand what it is to have power,” Justin Kyle Jones, who gave the senior class address, said. “And then understand that that power is held in the uniqueness and individuality of you.”

“Class of 2017, do not let your story define you,” AHS Principal Brian Saunders said in his remarks prior to the presentation of diplomas. “Be a vehicle for positive change in our world, and do not be afraid to reach for what you want.”

The AHS graduation event was among 10 area graduation events held Friday evening. Randolph County School System, Montgomery County Schools and North Moore High School also held graduation exercises June 9. Graduates will be listed along with class photos and more in the 2017 high school graduation keepsake section of the Sunday, June 11 edition of The Courier-Tribune.

ONE LAST WALK — Providence Grove High School graduates head for the homestretch at top. Above, many faces contemplate many things in the final moments of the high school careers of this class of Randleman High School seniors.