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Graduation Day, 1998 Senior Rebels True to Their Name

Pomp and circumstance for the Rebels?

No way.

"Sometimes in life, you just have to shout," Salutatorian Alice F. Hill told a crowd during Friday night's high school graduation ceremony. "We resist the pressure to conform."

Indeed. Friday's commencement, held inside the gym because of rain, included a little standup comedy, a sing-a-long, a poetry slam - and only occasionally a tearful goodbye.

Salutatorians Hill and John S. McMahon III set the tone early with their joint speech. They also led the seniors, in shimmering blue and white gowns, in the Rebel cheer.

"We have been taught to speak our own minds," McMahon said. "We have to be SK Rebels, whether the big bad world likes it or not."

It's like tasting the extra crispy version of a fast food for the first time, he added. "You can never go back."

Hill and McMahon were followed by Valedictorian Christopher M. Conley, who was more subdued. Conley reminded those jammed in the school gym that the class of 1998 had produced a bevy of all-star athletes, state championship teams, merit scholars and "clearly the best-looking class in the school."

He also paid tribute to the parents, siblings and mentors in the audience. "We couldn't have done it without you."

School officials handed out 232 diplomas. And Student Council President EvaRose Dwyer gave the school a \$5,000 gift, the result of a year's worth of fundraisers.

Among the items the money will buy: a trophy case, a weeping cherry tree, "and most importantly, a new toaster for our cafeteria," Dwyer said.

Swaying on the bleachers, the senior class sang along with Kool and the Gang's "Celebration," the class song. Parents provided the backbeat by clapping.

Unlike some schools, South Kingstown doesn't invite outside speakers for the annual

event. "We let the kids speak for themselves," School Supt. Jack Harrington said.

This meant that Conley was followed by Valedictorian Gregory S. Datseris, who recited a poem about being free from school. Datseris was followed by Valedictorian Rashid Zia, who quoted Dr. Seuss.

"You have brains in your head and feet in your shoes," and you can steer yourself in any direction you choose, Zia said.

Graduating isn't just about growing up, he added. It's also about keeping your childhood dreams alive, "whether you want to be a doctor or a lawyer or you just want to have an apartment away from South Kingstown."

The graduates are:

Aferdita Abdullovski	Lani M. Flaherty*	Kiersten Paasche
Nicholas S. Alfred	Benjamin J. Flynn	Michael P. Pagel
Desiree M. Allaire	Steven P. Follett Jr.	Danielle Panarello
Melissa L. Allbee*	Patrick J. Forbes	Donald M. Panciera III
Ruth E. Anderson*	Max Forster	Matthew W. Paolino**
Kyle N. Andrews	Richard G. Gardner	Charles E. Patton
Ryan G. Angelo**	Melanie C. Garofalo**	Justin M. Paul*
Edward L. Arnold	Nisanne S. Ghonem**	Peter T. Phlelps**
David A. Arundel*	Malin C. Gibbes	Isak N. Philbrick*
Steven A. Bailey	Wanjiku N. Gitahi**	Dawn M. Platthner
Kimberly A. Balch*	John P. Gorman*	Michelle L. Porter
Kristen L. Balkun*	Catherine M. Gover	Amanda F. Pretto**
Sorboni Banerjee**	Ashley W. Grasso**	Desiree L. Prior
Ian D. Barlow*	Marian A. Grenier	Jonathan D. Quinn**
Christopher K. Beagle	Nicholas A. Grigorian	Ryan T. Rand*
Heidi E. Beckmann	Samuel Grimley	Richard C. Rhodes IV*
Brandon P. Bell	Nicole A. Guglielmetti*	Denison R. Richmond
Rebecca D. Bell	Evan S. Hamel	Travel W. Ringler
Renee R. Bell	Daniel S. Hannegan	Anthony P. Rivard*
Erin B. Bergen	Eric L. Hargraves	Jonathan D. Robadue*
Michelle C. Berker	Timothy M. Hart	Jane K. Robinson
Scott D. Bessette	Joseph S. Hassan**	Stephanie L. Rockwell*
Dianne M. Bianco	Shawn M. Hazard	Christina M. Rojee
Brendon K. Bjorness-Murano	Stephanie A. Hazard	Nancy K. Rolofson
Kimberly M. Boamah	Justin A. Hazlewood	Denise K. Romano**
Emily L. Boenig	Rory D. Henderson*	Jennifer L. Rowinski**

Debralee E. Boisvert	Alice F. Hill**	Adam C. Roy
Tamara L. Borrelli	Kristina J. Hilton	Jay Rudegear**
Erik R. Bougie	Peter N. Hilton	Zachary A. Rudegear*
Sean M. Brady*	Shawna Holdredge*	Jacob C. Schomp**
Tucker A. Brierty	Elizabeth M. Horton*	Kashan A. Shaikh*
Andrew A. Briggs***	Emily Huggins**	Margaret J. Shanley*
Jason E. Briggs	Ryan C. Hughes	Chi Shen**
Melissa R. Busby	Ross E. Humphrey	Carrie A. Sheppard*
Rachael L. Campbell*	Amanda K. Hunt	Amanda J. Siegmund
Daniel F. Carpenter	Paul A. Hutchins	Chasity M. Simon*
Richard H. Carpenter	Shannon M. Jackson	Eamonn O. Sirhal
Erica L. Carr	Joshue J. Jalbert	Michael J. Sisto
Jeremy J. Caswell	Paul R. Jennings**	Bradley M. Smith
Richard A. Cavanagh*	Timothy S. Jennings	Charles M. Smith III
Christian D. Cerrito**	Lindsey L. Johnson*	Deborah M. Smith
Kate E. Chartier*	Philip B. Johnson**	Michael B. Sosnowski Jr.
Amy L. Chernasky**	Adam B. Juda**	Kendra M. Steere*
Genevieve E. Chicoine*	Jennifer M. Juday*	Jennifer L. Stram
John C. Choquette	Christopher J. Keegan**	Alissa L. Strickland**
Elizabeth A. Cinquegrana	Lindsey J. Kroll	Caitlin V. Strom
Melissa A. Cinquegrana	Aleksandr Kushlak	Michelle B. Sweet
Erin S. Collins	Zachary S. Ladin**	John T. Swiney
Christopher M. Conley**	Hillary A. Lamoureux*	Danielle J. Tanguay*
Colin R. Cookson	Evan M. Lapisky**	Daniel R. Tartaglia
Noelle F. Coppa	Justin M. LaPre*	Islay M. Taylor*
Andrea L. Costa	Dina R. Lindia	Erin M. Tedeschi
Michelle L. Cote**	Alexander A. Little**	Audrey J. Thayer
Roxanne L. Cottrell*	Dong M. Liu	Kimberly N. Thibodeau*
Moll6y Coupland	Jonathan P. Logan**	Tudor L. Thomas IV*
Eric Creamer*	Margaret M. Lovesky**	William C. Tickner**
Scott F. Creamer**	Alyssa M. MacLean*	Christopher J. Todd
Melissa K. Crocker	Lindie E. Markdodvich	Lisa C. Towhill**
Margaret Cruser	David J. Matteson	Brant A. Truax
Joseph P. Daley**	Kevin M. Maynard	Brian J. Turcotte*
Gregory S. Datsaris**	Meaghan R. McGrath**	Emily B. Varnum**

Graham C. Dawson*	Tia M. McGraw	Scott J. Velicer**
Jessica A. DeAngelis**	John S. McMahon III*	Christine L. Viele
Pasquale S. DeMatteo**	James H. McNamara	Michael J. Viele*
Liv A. Detrick**	Davide B. Meeker	Jeremy S. Voelker
David R. Dickinson	Jayne L. Merner**	Robert F. Weinreich III
Andrea L. DiMasi**	Camille R. Meyer**	Jessica L. Wepman
Anndria DiSalvo	Caitlin P. Mitchell	Chelsea A. Wetherell*
Jennifer B. Dixon**	Jessica C. Moretti	Jennifer M. Whaley*
Megan K. Donovan**	Justin W. Morris	Rebecca L. White*
Kaley M. Doran	Marie T. Morrissey**	Timothy A. White
Kathleen E. Dougan**	Christopher J. Mulhearn**	Amy M. Whitford*
Amanda R. Downing*	Martina S. Muller*	Juistin D. Wilcox
Rachel B. DuPont*	Patrick F. Mullins	Gladys Y. Williams
Gregory B. Durant	Sarah J. Murray	Jennifer A. Williams*
EvaRose Dwyer**	Bryon A. Nelson*	Keara Wolstencroft
Jennifer P. Dwyer	Elijah R. Nelson	Meredith C. Wyss
Allysoln E. Eno**	Loan T. Nguyen	Daniel W. Yoder
Matthew S. Erni*	Rafael Nightingale*	Dimitri Yogaratnam*
Adam J. Ethier*	Jonathon L. Northup	Rashid Zia**
Tasha B. Evans	Lisa A. Olivet-Gallo	Marc A. Zurcher**
Amy L. Fish	Brian C. Olivier**	

* Rhode Island Honor Society

** Rhode Island and National Honor Society

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