

WATSONVILLE
HISTORY - 1990-2000

Watsonville High School — Class of 1992



Mike McCollun

Hugs and kisses all around were the order of the day after the diplomas had been passed out to Watsonville High graduates.

WATSONVILLE
REGISTRATION
June

REF

It's 100th graduating class at WHS

By EMILIO ALVARADO
STAFF WRITER

When members of Watsonville High School's class of 1992 stepped out onto Geiser Field yesterday to get their diplomas, they made history. Their's was the 100th class to graduate from the school.

This is also the year that 13 Japanese-Americans from the class of 1942 received their diplomas in a formal ceremony (See related story). They are 13 of the 47 Japanese-American seniors at Watsonville High who were pulled from school before they received their diplomas. They and their families were put in internment camps after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States and Japan went to war.

Yesterday, about 400 students clad in black and gold graduation gowns walked to the stage to be handed their diplomas. In the bleachers, proud parents, relatives, and friends cheered as each student's name was called.

The experience was bittersweet for many students. They will say farewell to the past and greet tomorrow, said class valedictorian Courtney Jofuku. The future, she said, may be uncertain but her fellow graduates will succeed in whatever endeavor they pursue.

"I don't know if we will become senators, movies stars, or presidents, but I know we at least have the courage to try," Jofuku said.

Before Jofuku addressed the crowd, fellow student Lucy Azevedo, student body president, gave the welcoming speech at the ceremony. She started her speech in a clear and controlled voice, but near the end, she faltered when the emotion of the occasion got to her.

"Deep in my heart lives a deep love for every parent, teacher, and student," she said, choking back tears.

State Sen. Henry Mello, D-Watsonville, a Watsonville High alumnus, also addressed the crowd, saying America has to give education a high priority. Even though California faces an \$11 billion deficit, he said more money should be directed at schools.

After all, he said, "It's the best investment we can make."

After the initial speeches, school officials had to rearrange things on stage. It took only a few minutes, but it was enough time for the students to start up a little game.

The students were divided into two groups on either side of the stage on the field. While microphones and boxes were being

moved around on stage, one group of students started a wave.

The other side, not wanting to be shown up, started their own wave. This went back and forth for a few minutes until the stage was ready. The game, according to audience response, was a draw.

Superintendent Merrill Grant, Pajaro Valley school district trustees Janet Mayou and Willie Yahiro were in attendance. Mayou and Yahiro assisted in handing out diplomas.

The graduates:

Monica Aguirre, Jaeran Ahn, Lyndi L. Alamillo, Veronica M. Alamillo, Georgina Alcantar, Luis Angel Alejo, Francisco J. Alfaro, Arnaldo Alvarez, Belen Alvarez, Jesus Alvarez, George Alves, Sandy P. Amorim, Steven Douglas Anderson, Watakame Aranda, Ana Alicia Arce, Sandra A. Arias, Rosalba Arjon, Alberto Arteaga, Stephanie D. Ash, Miriam C. Atilano, Connie Ausmus, Sandra M. Ayon, Laurie Marie Azevedo, Lucy M. Azevedo;

Gilberto Balderas, Armando Baltazar, Richard D. Banuelos, Martha G. Barajas, Brian Christopher Barber, Ana L. Barcelo, Michael W. Barnes, Dana Ann Barnett, Yadira Cruz Barrera, Katherine J. Batoon, Melissa M. Baxter, Nelida Becerra-Andrade, Sergio Bejar, Petra Bocci, Annette C. Bodemar, Kimberly A. Boston, Deanna C. Bradley, Juan J. Briano, Matthew J. Brown, Rahel Zia Butah, Erik Brian Caballero;

Eduardo Nieves Camacho, Andres Cano, Victor Cano, Jose Carlos Carrasco, Sergio Lujan Carrera, Denise L. Carter, Esteban Casillas, Marco A. Casillas, Brenda Castaneda, Kimberly A. Castellanos, Jacovo Juan Castillo, Luz Maria Castillo, Noe R. Castillo, Anthony J. Castro, Jon M. Cavanaugh, Beverly P. Celestino, Alicia Cervantes, Leonel Cervantes, Marlene Cervantes, Miguel Cervantes, Yesenia Chavez;

Corina Cisneros, Miguel Angel Cisneros, Brandon Cole Bonifacio S. Coma, Jose Contreras, Jose Jesus Contreras, Alicia M. Cornejo, Deborah Anne Cornelius, Elaine Crandon, David Cruz, Hector L. Cruz, Idalia M. Cruz, Rosa Maria Cruz, Heather E. Cunha, Francisco Delgado, Juan Carlos Deluna, Franchezca Vanegas Diaz, Maria G. Diaz, Olga Diaz, Stephanie Lynn Diaz, Jeanette Leigh Dolly, Anthony Ducusin, Evan William Dumas;

Carlos Duque, Marci Lyn Duren, Rui

M. Dutra, Amber R. Edsall, Laura Edsall, Kimberly R. Edsberg, Ella Elaine Empson, Brian Erbe, Maria E. Escareno, Fernando Esparza, Jessica Faith, Jesus Farias, Antonio Mendonca Fernandes, Cecilia Fernandez, Claudia Fernandez, Herlindo R. Fernandez, Hilda Del Carmen Fernandez, Jaime Z. Fernandez, Jorge Magana Fernandez, Leticia C. Fernandez, Margarita Fernandez, Mario Luis Fernandez, Raul M. Fernandez, Sylvia Fernandez, Yolanda Fernandez;

Leah Fesmire, Connery Flores, Francisco Ibarra Flores, Ignacio Flores, Javier Flores, Kevin H. Flores, Marjorie Joy Flores, Zobeida Flores, Darlene Fraga, Theresa Gagne, Brenda Irene Gallardo, Gabriela Gallegos, Palmira Gallo, Jill R. Gammons, Armando Garcia, David Lobato Garcia, Ernesto Hernandez Garcia, Gabriel Z. Garcia Guadalupe Garcia, Herbie Garcia, Johnny Garcia, Maria Elena Garcia, Maria Guadalupe Garcia, Marisol Garcia, Tony Michael Garcia;

Adrian Garza, Elena Gomez, Ignacio Gomez, James Gomez, Maribel Gomez, Ramiro Gomez, Sergio Padilla Gomez, Kina Marie Gonzales, Laura Gonzales, Otilia Maria Gonzales, Antonio Gonzalez, Florentino Gonzalez, Gregorio J. Gonzalez, Gricelda Gonzalez, Jose De Jesus Gonzalez, Maria Lucina Gonzalez, Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Salvador Granados, Brian S. Green, Jose D. Gregorio, Tracy J. Gualano, Juan M. Guerrero, Issac A. Gutierrez, Judy Halton, Nicole G. Hanke-meier, Amy Adrienne Harper;

Claire Elizabeth Henderson, Jason Jim Henri, Elsa D. Henriquez, Alma D. Hernandez, Armando G. Hernandez, Bernardo Hernandez, Cesar Hernandez, Griselda Hernandez, Gustavo B. Hernandez, Ignacio Rodriguez Hernandez, Sandra Luz Hernandez, Emma Elizabeth Herrera, Christine J. Howe, Ismael Ibarra, Bernard M. Jabbour, Maida Jacobo, Ramon J. Jacobo, Sulin James, Stephen Jaquez, Martin Jesus Jara, Donna J. Jensen, Gerardo Jimenez;

Isaias Domingo Job, Courtney Jofuku, Shannon L. Johnson, Christopher Jordan, Joseph A. Keldsen, Jennifer Lee Kobow, Michael Anthony Robert Kreiberg, Sylvia Karen Kresse, John S. Leatherman, Ramon LeFrancois, Lorena D. Lelo, Erik Lew, Alfonso Lobato, Maria Lobato, Mariela Lomeli, Cecilia Lopez, Diana Dolores Lopez, Florinda Lopez, Israel S. Lopez, Silvia Espinoza Lopez, Vicente Lopez, Matthew Jon Love, Hilderberto Luevano, Cynthia Macias, Carlos Madrigal, Catalina Madrigal, Manuel J. Madrigal;

Juan Jose Magana, Ofelia Mancilla, Amy Elise Manfre, Amalia Abrego Mar-