Good evening,

Zane Derden

Seeing as there (will be/have been) two other addresses tonight, I will present mine with brevity in mind. Over the last four years we have grown and matured together, experienced life's early challenges together. This has birthed in us a unique unity that will forever connect us as the Class of 2013; yet, tonight we all sit in the face of a multitude of pathways that will lead each one of us down our own path. Always remember that we each arrived at these paths with the support of those whom we stand upon: our family, our teachers and administrators, and our friends have all contributed to the opportunities that lie ahead of us, and they will continue to guide us throughout those journeys.

Which brings us here, to a celebration of our individual paths that are no longer down the road. Paths that are here to be taken now, a celebration of the biggest moment of our lives to this point; however that is just at this moment, the biggest parts of our life are still ahead of us, and this gathering is a celebration of the moments we will experience after we have all left the Cabot High School experience. As per tradition to valedictions, I will end with a statement from Dr. Seuss that may equally be as pointed to the crying mothers in the audience (definitely not mine) as to those of you who are sad to part with your friends and begin a life of responsibility: "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." No matter how far down your path you may go, don't forget that we as the class of 2013 will always be connected, traveling together with the support of the same people that have supported us throughout our high school experience.

Thank you. I wish you all the best of luck on your life's journeys, and congratulations Cabot High School class of 2013!