Commencement ’89

Editorial Staff

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In one of his last formal acts as president of Howard University, on May 13th, James E. Cheek officiated at the university’s 121st commencement exercises. Under bright sunlight, blue skies and a cool breeze, approximately 2,000 students received degrees, diplomas, certificates and military commissions during those exercises.

The commencement address [see Commentary] was delivered by magazine publisher Earl G. Graves, who also received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws during the ceremony.

In addition, four other individuals received honorary degrees: Allen H. Neuharth, Doctor of Humane Letters; Ernesta G. Procope, Doctor of Laws; Mary Clark Rockefeller and Geraldine Pittman Woods, Doctor of Humanities.

Neuharth, now retired, was formerly chairman of the publishing conglomerate, the Gannett Company, and founder of its general interest national daily newspaper, USA Today.

Procope is the president and chief executive officer of E.G. Bowman, Inc., a New York-based insurance brokerage firm.

Rockefeller, a supporter of the university, served on its Board of Trustees for many years and has served on the boards of numerous other educational institutions, particularly in the field of nursing.

Woods is chairman emeritus of the Howard University Board of Trustees and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. In the early ’70s, she spearheaded the development of two influential National Institutes of Health programs — the Minority Access to Research Careers Program (MARC) and the Minority Biomedical Research Support Program (MBRS).

The welcome message at the ceremony was delivered by Leon Henderson Jr., a graduating senior in the School of Architecture and Planning. Excerpts follow: