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## **E. Providence graduates WWII veterans**

**Joining the 399 seniors at yesterday's commencement are two veterans whose service prevented them from getting diplomas 60 years ago.**

**01:00 AM EDT on Sunday, June 20, 2004**

**BY RICHARD C. DUJARDIN**  
**Journal Staff Writer**

EAST PROVIDENCE -- Six decades after interrupting their education to serve their country, two of East Providence High School's World War II veterans received belated, honorary diplomas yesterday.

Anio A. Granata, 78, who left in his junior year in 1943 and served with the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific, and Raymond A. Paquin, 79, who left early and joined the Seabees, in December 1942, received their awards at the school's commencement exercises at Pierce Field.

They came just moments before 399 graduating seniors, wearing red and white, received their own diplomas before more than 1,000 onlookers.

"I'm so proud of this. I swear to God, it makes me feel good," said Paquin, now of Longmeadow, Mass., whose tour with the Seabees included getting torpedoed by an enemy submarine and building roads and airfields in the Philippines.

After the war, Paquin went into the cold-storage business and founded his own nationwide, multimillion-dollar corporation, Thermal Structures Inc. "The only thing missing from my trophy room," he said, "was a high school diploma."

Granata, now of North Kingstown, founded his own company as well, Grand Transportation. Yesterday, he credited his daughter for carrying on the pursuit of his diploma.

"I was always proud of the education I received in East Providence," he said. "I learned a lot here."

Welcoming the graduates, Schools Supt. Manuel F. Vinhateiro said congratulations were in order to "our chief meteorologist," school principal Edward M. Daft, who had to make the "difficult decision at 6 this morning" whether to move the ceremony "into a hot steamy field house or to come here."

"Mr. Daft, you made the right call."

Vinhateiro said the graduates' achievements were due in large part to their work, commitment and self-discipline, but it was also due to the efforts of their parents and teachers.

The parents, he said, know the individual stories. "They are the ones who on the night before that big term paper was due and the printer ran out of ink, ran out and got it for you, or kept reminding you, when you were watching The Simpsons, 'have you done your homework yet?' "

East Providence High is the largest public high school in the state, and according to school officials, 45 percent of its graduates will be going to four-year colleges this fall. Some 28 percent will attend other post-secondary schools.

Offering a poetic trip down memory land, senior class president Sheri Mancinho recalled part of the last year:

"Our long-awaited senior year, we really ruled the school. We teased little freshmen who thought they were so cool. 'It's almost over,' we all thought. 'This is our final year.' We didn't know whether to celebrate or sometimes shed a tear. . . .

"Four years have come and gone, and what happy times we've had. To share these experiences with all of you, I am much more than glad."

The graduates are:

Nicole L. Abatiello

Sona L. Adamjan

Desmond A. Adewusi

Lucia M. Aguiar

Bruno P. Albuquerque

Everett Alecrim Jr.

Josh O. Alexander

Shakirudeen O. Alli-Owe

Timothy B. Allienello

Asia J. Allison

Damian O. Almada\*

Sally R. Alves\*

Mario R. Amaral

Melissa P. Amaral\*\*

Derek R. Anderson

Bryan T. Andreozzi

Erin L. Anthony\*

Jason D. Arico

Sean K. Arlan

Aren J. T. Ash

Corey J. Bailey

Christina M. Bairos

Jason R. Ballou

Daniel L. Barbosa

Jennifer Barbosa\*\*

Saundra J. Barbosa\*

Ryan W. Barboza

Amy J. Barros

Matthew J. Belcastro\*\*

Beverly A. Benevides\*

Dillon A. Benros

John E. Bentley

Anthony M. Berouty

Glenn T. Blackledge Jr.

Timothy S. Blair Jr.

Priscilla Boahene

Rudy L. Bonilla-Rodrigues

Nichole M. Bossi

Cirocco L. Botelho

Daniel C. Boulanger\*

Benjamin J. Boyd\*

Joshua A. Brasil\*

Nuno A. Bravo

Julie K. Breese

Ellsworth E. Briggs III

David J. Brites\*\*

Chantal A. Brown\*\*

Jessica D. Brown

Jessica B. Buckley

Jessica L. Bullock

Dominic Cabral

Kimberly A. Cabral

Melanie L. Cabral\*\*

Michael J. Cabral

Stacie M. Cabral

Kevin J. Callanan

Corey J. Calouro

Tiffany L. Camara

Scott P. Campbell

Paulo V. Canabarro

Louis N. Cangiano\*

Meghan L. Capuano

Nicole J. Cardosi

Stephanie L. Carpenter

Daniel P. Carvalho\*

Ryan P. Carvalho

Kori J. Chace\*

Rebecca A. Chamberlin\*

Daniel R. Charest

Peter J. Charron

Jolie A. Cicerone\*\*

Jason M. Clancy

Steven C. Claudina

Joseph M. Cloutier

Rachel J. Cole

Bradley S. Connors\*

Shane C. Conti

Jasizley M. Cooley\*

James C. Cordeiro\*\*

Kellyn C. Cordeiro\*

Stephanie M. Cordeiro

Amanda J. Corey

Jesse-Ann M. Corey

Harley C. Correia

Richard A. Correia

Timothy A. Corriveau

Andreia R. Costa

Antonio J. Costa

Brian M. Costa

Christy L. Costa\*\*

Kaitlin R. Costa\*\*

Olivia B. Costa

Anthony J. Couitt

Dianne E. Cournoyer

Laura E. Crevier

Leah F. Crowell\*

Jessica L. Daley\*\*

Sandrine Daluz

Elizabeth M. DaSilva

Joseph A. DaSilva

Veronica B. DaSilva\*

Elizabeth L. DaSilveira

Elizabeth K. Davenport

Samantha L. Davidson

Joshua A. Davis

Suzanne L. Dawson\*

Ajah L. DeLande\*

Geoffrey M. Dellefratte

Brittany C. Depin\*\*

Cassandra N. DeSousa



Joshua I. DeSousa-Rosa

Kevin Dexter

Christopher M. Dias

Krystal M. Dias

Nicholas A. Dias

Donald F. DiBenedetto

Erik M. DiLucchio

Alicia L. DiMatteo\*

Cory D. DiPietro\*\*

Tonya P. Dorego\*\*

Andrey S. Drogobetski

Ashley L. Dumont\*\*

Ryan P. Dwyer

Margaret J. Eastwood\*\*

Ryan T. Elmasian

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Julia M. Fantacone\*\*

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Christopher L. Ferris

Michael J. Ferro

Amadeu J. Filho

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Jill M. Fogarty

Katie L. Fontaine\*

Thomas J. Ford

Juvenia C. Fortes\*

Simonna G. S. Fortes

Alison L. Fournier

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Zeferino X. Gonsalves Jr.

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Zachariah J. Marshall

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