



2014 SCDC/BRCI GRADUATION CEREMONY  
JULY 10, 2014



"Exemplar Edification"

Graduation was ceremoniously conducted  
this week, in pride, with family in  
tow--a troupe of lost souls, now ready to try.

Warden, and crew, present to see  
I the valedictorian, and others  
to be given our veritable verification.

Vindictive tongues of the prosecutorial,  
not invited; castigation & denigration silenced,  
veiled by the verity of such a day.

Speeches by Warden & staff,  
all tried and proven true,  
each a supplement to each cap, and each gown.

The heart of one woman, stepped up  
as the graduates adoptive mother,  
monumentally deep, especially to me.

On days like that  
prisoners are like people, as Warden & staff,  
help lift the depressed and dejected lost souls.

--J.E. Mahaffey



"A better safeguard of liberty than a standing army."

--Edward Everett

Education, is as Joseph Addison best put it, "A companion which no misfortune can depress." In prison, a mind can be easily wasted--card tables and TVs are set up like singularities ready to suck up valued thought into an infinite density and infinitesimal volume, just to spit it down a drain. The improprieties of prison keep firm grips upon most of its victims--but there are those few to break the mold. Usually in cases of individuals that simply don't belong behind bars, perhaps never did, and their truth shines by their actions and decisions; their accomplishments stacking each year. While others, may go years--decades even--doing absolutely nothing! Or, worse, those that go years doing nothing--then, suddenly, in want of forgiveness and impunity, start signing up for programs & classes that last year or so of their sentence (or a job of merit). Character is a thing that may dim at times, but it shines continually (usually), throughout a person's life; not just in a last year, or right before a court, or parole, hearing. Those with true knowledge, can exist above circumstance, no matter how dire.