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Salve Regina Graduates First Male Students

Salve Regina College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Salve Regina College will graduate its first male students—thirteen Rhode Island policemen—in ceremonies Thursday (Sept. 10) on the school's Ochre Point Ave. campus, Newport.

The exercises, scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. on Ochre Court Terrace overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, (or, in case of inclement weather, at DeLa Salle Academy, 356 Bellevue Ave., Newport) will also mark the awarding of the College's first associate degrees.

Three of the policemen will receive bachelor of science degrees in law enforcement, and the other ten graduates, associate in science degrees, also in law enforcement.

The ceremony will recall the theme of "Building Peace," set by Salve Regina's class of 1970 at their Commencement last May. As the main speaker, the Hon. William E. Powers, an associate justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, will address himself to the topic of "Building Peace in the Community."

Judge Powers himself, like the policeman graduates he will address, was the recipient of a delayed degree.

The oldest of seven children when their father died, he was required to leave school at the age of 15 to help support his family. After five years in the textile mills and machine shops of the state's Blackstone Valley, Judge Powers sustained an eye injury which, within two years, resulted in his total blindness. He completed his high school studies at Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, Mass., and later, at Boston University's School of Law—where he was an honor student, class orator, and a Law Review editor—he earned his law degree.

A former probate judge, five-term state legislator, and five-term attorney general of Rhode Island, Judge Powers holds honorary degrees from Boston University, Bryant College, and Suffolk University.
One of Thursday's graduates, Sgt. Thornton B. Drummond, Jr., Newport, will also address the Commencement gathering. Sergeant Drummond, who is the first director of the Newport Police Department's new community relations unit, will receive his bachelor of science degree in law enforcement.

Salve Regina President Sister Mary Christopher, R.S.M., will preside at the ceremony and confer both the baccalaureate and associate degrees. The candidates for degrees will be presented by Dr. Lester E. Carr, Jamestown, the College's vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Carr, along with Cdr. Walter A. McQueeney, executive director of the Governor's committee on crime, delinquency, and criminal administration, was instrumental in developing the Salve Regina Law Enforcement Degree Program. The ceremony's invocation and benediction will be given by the Rev. Joseph B. Coleman, of St. Augustin's Church, Newport, chaplain of the Newport Police Dept. and former chaplain of the Providence Police Dept.

The awarding of degrees will follow an academic procession led by the College's marshal, Robert J. McKenna, a member of the political science department and a Rhode Island Representative (D-Newport). The line of march, accompanied by the U.S. Naval Station Band and a color guard from the Newport Artillery, will proceed from the O'Hare Academic Center down Ochre Point Ave., through the main gates at Ochre Court, around the main administration building, to the Terrace.

Among those attending the exercises will be many of the 300 Rhode Island police officers and correctional personnel now enrolled in one or more of the College's law enforcement and general education courses. Many of the state's judiciary, police chiefs, and fire chiefs are also expected to attend.

Salve Regina's Law Enforcement Degree Program is an adult-oriented endeavor, which is closely allied with Rhode Island's law enforcement needs and objectives. On the baccalaureate degree level, there are subspecialties in such areas as youth services, delinquency, police administration, and community relations.

The program's classes, workshops, and seminars are scheduled on the Newport campus as well as at other "branch" campus locations during the morning, afternoon, and evening, thereby accommodating the varied work schedules of the students.
The candidates for the bachelor of science degree in law enforcement are the following:

Ptlmn. John C. Beebe III, 10 Kerins Terrace, Newport; Sgt. Thornton B. Drummond, Jr., 84 Evart Street, Newport; Lt. John B. Tilley, 3 Brooks Avenue, Newport.

The candidates for the associate in science degree in law enforcement are the following:


Ptlmn. Norman S. Mather, 28 Cypress Street, Portsmouth; Sgt. John J. McKenna, 18 Webster Street, Newport; Capt. William Nimmo, Jr., 99 Third Street, Newport; and Ptlmn. Michael F. Sheridan, Jr., 142 Wunnegin Circle, Warwick.