



Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools
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NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release

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Deadline Approaching for Retroactive Diplomas for Local Veterans

SCOE To Honor Veterans with Diplomas at Operation Recognition

Fairfield, CA- The Solano County Office of Education, located at 5100 Business Center Drive in Fairfield, is participating in "Operation Recognition" which honors U.S. Veterans and Japanese-American citizens who were unable to finish high school due to wartime circumstances with retroactive high school diplomas. Posthumous diplomas may also be granted to family members of deceased veterans.

During the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, thousands of young men and women left high school to serve in the United States Armed Forces. During World War II many Japanese-American citizens were interned in relocation camps in various locations across the United States. After these wars, many of these individuals were not able to finish high school and receive high school diplomas. Veterans and Japanese-American citizens now have the opportunity to be granted diplomas as a gesture of gratitude for the sacrifices they made.

"We are privileged and honored to recognize local Veterans, living or deceased, with retroactive diplomas. Our veterans made sacrifices for the freedom and the safety of our country, and this is one way that we can recognize them for all they have done for of us." remarked Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Solano Superintendent of Schools.

Operation Recognition Event

Individuals will be honored during a ceremony hosted at Solano County Office of Education on **Thursday, March 5, 2020**.

Application Deadline:

Applications should be submitted to Solano County Office of Education by **Friday, January 31, 2020**.

Applications are available for on the Solano County Office of Education website www.solanocoe.net or by calling (707) 399-4409. Forms are also available at Solano County Office of Education located at 5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534.

Who is eligible?

- Individuals who served in World War II, the Korean War or Vietnam War and were honorably discharged from their military service.
- Japanese-American citizens who left high school due to internment in World War II relocation camps.
- Families may apply for Operation Recognition diplomas on behalf of eligible persons who are deceased.

Specifics for eligibility:



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- All recipients must have been enrolled in a high school prior to enlistment in military service or internment in a World War II relocation camp.
- Military service must have been during the following periods:
 - WWII – December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946
 - Korean War – June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955
 - Vietnam War – February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975
- Japanese-American citizens must show proof of having been interned in a relocation camp during the period of September 16, 1940 to December 31, 1946.

Additional Information:

California law (Education Code §51440) authorizes the granting of retroactive high school diplomas to eligible Veterans. Effective January 1, 2004, California Assembly Bill 781 was enacted as law (Education Code §51430), specifically authorizing the retroactive granting of diplomas to persons whose internment by federal order in World War II prevented them from graduating from their hometown high school.

Similar programs have been implemented in other regions of California, as well as across the nation.

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 64,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.