



**Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools**  
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707.399.4400 ★ [www.solanocoe.net](http://www.solanocoe.net)

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## **NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release**

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**Organization:** Solano County Office of Education

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### **Applications Being Accepted for Operation Recognition Veteran Diplomas**

**Solano County, CA-** The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), located at 5100 Business Center Drive in Fairfield, is participating in "Operation Recognition" which honors United States Veterans and Japanese-American citizens who were unable to finish high school due to wartime circumstances with retroactive high school diplomas. SCOE is now accepting applications for the 2021 Operation Recognition celebration on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Throughout the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, thousands of young men and women left high school and the comforts of home 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. Some veterans who served were not able to finish high school and receive their diplomas due to military service or Jim Crow laws in effect at the time. These individuals now have the opportunity to be granted diplomas as a gesture of gratitude for the sacrifices they made.

"We have been privileged to honor local veterans with retroactive and posthumous diplomas for more than a decade now. We look forward to this special day each year because these diplomas mean so much to the veterans and families who receive them. Being able to say thank you from the Solano County community means so much to SCOE," remarked Solano Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

#### **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:**

- 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.



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**How to apply:**

Complete the Operation Recognition diploma application and submit it along with the required documentation of military service or internment. Applications must be submitted by Friday, May 14, 2021.

Individuals will be honored in a celebration hosted in collaboration with Veterans' organizations in Solano County. The recognition will take place on Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

Obtain an application on the Solano County Office of Education website [www.solanocoe.net/oprec](http://www.solanocoe.net/oprec) or by calling (707) 399-4455.

**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 charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 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.