



Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools
5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534-1658
707.399.4400 ★ www.solanocoe.net

NEWS RELEASE-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 17, 2017
Organization: Solano County Office of Education
Contact: Gethsemane Moss, Senior Director of Community Engagement
Telephone: 707-399-4429
E-Mail: gmoss@solanocoe.net

In the 1940s, 50s, 60s, and 70s, thousands of young men and women left high school and the comforts of home to serve in the United States Armed Forces to defend our Country in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Additionally, during World War II many Japanese-American citizens were interned in relocation camps across the United States. After these wars, many of these individuals were not able to finish high school and receive a high school diploma.

California Education Code section 51430 authorizes the retroactive awarding of high school diplomas to eligible Veterans and persons who were detained in internment camps during World War II. The Solano County Office of Education is proud to participate in "Operation Recognition" which honors U.S. Veterans and Japanese-American citizens who were unable to continue high school due to wartime circumstances by awarding them with high school diplomas. "It is an honor to recognize our Veterans for the sacrifices they have made to ensure the freedom and safety of our country," said Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Solano County Superintendent of Schools. "These Veterans and Japanese-American citizens will be granted diplomas as a gesture of our society's gratitude for the sacrifices they have endured."

About Operation Recognition

Who is eligible?

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

How to apply:

Complete the Operation Recognition diploma application and submit it along with the required documentation of military service or internment. Applications are available on the Solano County Office of Education website www.solanocoe.net, by calling 707-399-4429, or at the Solano County Office of Education located at 5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534, during normal business hours. Applications must be submitted by **February 23, 2018**.

Individuals will be honored during a ceremony hosted in collaboration with other cities and Veterans' organizations in Solano County. The event will take place in March.

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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