

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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## **For Immediate Release**

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**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **County Superintendent to Award High School Diplomas to Local Senior Citizens**

Eligible citizens in Tulare County who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War, or due to internment in World War II Japanese American relocation camps, may now receive their high school diplomas. Diplomas are being awarded by the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools through the Operation Diploma program. The veteran may apply for the diploma, or family members may submit an application to recognize a qualifying individual posthumously.

“I consider it the highest privilege to grant a diploma to a veteran of past wars, or to a Japanese Americans who may have been interned during the war,” says Tulare County Office of Education. “It’s a way that we – as a community – can recognize these individuals for the great sacrifice they made for our country.”

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The Operation Diploma ceremony will take place at the meeting of the Tulare County Board of Education, Wednesday, December 7, 2005. The deadline to apply to receive a high school diploma is Friday, November 11, 2005. Participation in the ceremony is optional and free of charge.

Eligible applicants must have been interned by order of the Federal Government during World War II, or honorably discharged from military service in World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War. Applicants must also have been enrolled in a Tulare County high school immediately preceding the internment or military service, and not received a diploma because his or her education was interrupted due to the internment or military service. Applicants may obtain Operation Diploma Eligibility Guidelines and High School Diploma Application at the Tulare County Office of Education, by calling (559) 733-6301, or by downloading a copy from our Web site at: <http://www.tcoe.org/operationdiploma>.

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