

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:
Past War Veterans and WWII Internees to Receive
High School Diplomas as Part of *Operation Diploma*
Wednesday, December 7, 2005 • 3:00 p.m., Education Center, 2337 W. Burrel, Visalia**

Approximately 15 veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and citizens – interned in relocation camps during World War II – will receive their high school diplomas from Jim Vidak, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools, at a Tulare County Board of Education ceremony on December 7, 2005. California Education Code 51430 permits county superintendents to grant former internees and veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War diplomas if their involvement in these conflicts interrupted their high school education. The veterans and former internees were invited to apply for their diploma last month. Some of the diplomas will be granted posthumously to family members as the veteran or former internee has passed away.

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“We have been delighted by the applicant’s stories and their sincere interest in receiving a diploma sometimes 60 years after they left high school,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “It’s an honor to recognize these men and women for the tremendous sacrifice they made for our country.”

The Operation Diploma ceremony will take place at the 3:00 p.m. meeting of the Tulare County Board of Education, Wednesday, December 7, 2005. A short reception will follow. Veterans and former internees who miss the diploma ceremony may make application for future diploma ceremonies to be held in 2006. Applications can be obtained by calling (559) 733-6606, or by visiting www.tcoe.org/OperationDiploma.

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