

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Stanislaus County Office of Education to Award Diplomas to Qualifying U.S. Veterans through Operation Recognition**

The Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) will again award high school diplomas to qualifying U.S. Veterans through the “**Operation Recognition**” program. Stanislaus County residents whose high school education was interrupted during the World War II, Korean or Vietnam Wars due to military service and/or internment **are eligible to apply and receive a belated high school diploma.** Operation Recognition high school diplomas are authorized by California Education code section 51440 and 51430 (Senate Bill No. 1517).

High school diplomas will be presented during the Office of Education’s County Board meeting on **November 10, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.** in SCOE’s Board room (1100 H Street, Modesto).

Residents of Stanislaus County are encouraged to request diplomas on behalf of themselves or qualifying family members, including persons who are now deceased. **October 5 is the deadline to submit applications.**

Operation Recognition applications for high school diplomas are available at the Stanislaus County Office of Education and on-line at: <http://www.stancoe.org>, or by calling Judy Leitz, (209) 238-1709. Applications are also available from the Stanislaus County Veterans Service Office at 121 Downey Avenue, Suite 102, Modesto.

Qualifications for an Operation Recognition diploma include:

1. Applicant or recipient is a Stanislaus County resident;
2. Veterans-show proof of Honorable discharge (Form DD214) from U.S. military service
3. Military service (U.S. Armed Forces) must have been during the following periods:  
  
WWII, September 16, 1940- December 31, 1946  
  
Korean War, June 25, 1950 – January 31, 1955  
  
Vietnam War, February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975
4. Provide name of high school the applicant was attending at the time of induction into military service

An application may be submitted by a family member of a qualifying individual, living or deceased. Persons who meet the qualifications, but earned a GED, are eligible.

Since 2002, SCOE has awarded 126 diplomas to U.S. veterans in Stanislaus County as part of **Operation Recognition**. “I’m looking forward to the graduation ceremony and honoring individuals who served in the World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars,” said Tom Changnon, Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools. “This is a great opportunity to recognize and thank the men and women who where drafted or volunteered to serve our country.”