



March 2017

Dear Veteran:

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, in partnership with the County of San Bernardino Department of Veterans Affairs, is pleased to announce the ninth annual San Bernardino County **Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project** - a nationwide effort to recognize men and women whose high school education was interrupted due to military service or internment in a Japanese American camp.

The **Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project** provides veterans and internees, who were unable to complete high school due to military service or internment, the opportunity to receive a high school diploma. Veterans who served in and received an honorable discharge from World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War; or individuals who were interned in a Japanese American relocation camp *and* are San Bernardino County residents are eligible to participate. There is no charge to participate in the **Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project**.

Diplomas will be awarded to qualified applicants on Wednesday, October 18, 2017. Applicants will be notified of their status by September 15, 2017, and qualified applicants will be provided with the date, time, and location of the ceremony.

The **Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project** application and fact sheet are enclosed with this letter. You can also obtain information and download a copy of the application from the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools' website at <http://vdp.sbcss.k12.ca.us/>. For assistance with verification of military service and/or discharge papers, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Veterans Affairs at (866) 472-8387 or (909) 387-5516. **The deadline to submit an application is Friday, Friday, August 25, 2017, 4:00 p.m.**

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Samantha Koker in my office by email at samantha_koker@sbcss.k12.ca.us or by phone at (909) 386-2412.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Alejandre".

Ted Alejandre
County Superintendent

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Guevara".

Frank Guevara
Director of Veterans Affairs



— OPERATION 
RECOGNITION
Veterans Diploma Project
Fact Sheet

WHAT:

Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project honors U.S. veterans and Japanese American citizens who were unable to continue high school due to World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools and the County of San Bernardino Department of Veterans Affairs have partnered together in support of this project.

WHO:

Those eligible to receive an Operation Recognition diploma include:

- Individuals who served in WW II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.
- Japanese American citizens who left high school for purposes of internment in WW II relocation camps.
- Recipients or surviving family members should be residents of San Bernardino County.

*Surviving family members may submit an application to **Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project** on behalf of an eligible individual who is deceased.*

SPECIFICS:

1. Military service must have been during the period of:
 - World War II: December 7, 1941- December 31, 1946
 - Korean War: June 25, 1950- January 31, 1955
 - Vietnam War: February 28, 1961- May 7, 1975OR
 - Japanese American citizens who left high school for purposes of internment in WWII relocation camps during the period of December 7, 1941- December 31, 1946.
2. Recipients must be able to provide verification of military service and honorable discharge or proof of having been interned in a relocation camp.
3. All recipients must have been enrolled in high school prior to enlistment in military service or internment in a WW II relocation camp.
4. Submit an application by the deadline, **Friday, August 25, 2017, 4:00 p.m.**

HOW:

Complete the **Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project** application and submit it along with the required documentation of military service or internment. Obtain an **Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project** application online at <http://vdp.sbcss.k12.ca.us> **or** by calling the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office at (909) 386-2412. *There is no charge to participate.*

WHEN:

For consideration in the **2017 Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project**, applications must be submitted by **Friday, Friday, August 25, 2017, 4:00 p.m.** Applicants will be notified of their status and qualified applicants will be provided with the date, time, and location of the presentation.

CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE:

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 home town high school.

INFORMATION:***San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools -***

Contact Samantha Koker by email at samantha.koker@sbcss.k12.ca.us, by phone at (909) 386-2412 or visit the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools website at <http://vdp.sbcss.k12.ca.us>.

County of San Bernardino Department of Veterans Affairs -

Call (866) 472-8387 or (909) 387-5516 or <http://hss.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/VA/>



OPERATION RECOGNITION

Veterans Diploma Project Application

Are you completing this application on behalf of the applicant? If so, please provide your contact information:

First: Middle: Last:

Mailing address: City: Zip:

Phone: Alternative phone:

Email address: Relationship to recipient:

Is this diploma being awarded to a family member of a deceased veteran or internee?

Yes No If yes, indicate place and date of death:

Name of proposed recipient: (Please print name as it would appear on diploma)

First: Middle: Last:

Address: City: Zip:

Mailing address: City: Zip:

Phone: Alternative Phone:

Email address: Date of birth:

Recipient's education information:

Name of high school: City/State:

Dates of attendance: Date of entry: Date of exit:

Highest grade completed: Received GED: Yes No

Veterans- please check appropriate boxes below:

War: World War II Veteran Korean War Veteran Vietnam War Veteran

Branch of service: Army Air Force Coast Guard Marines Navy

Dates of service: Date of entry: Date of discharge:

Please complete the application back

OFFICE USE ONLY

Application received:

- Military Service Period
Verification of service and honorable discharge
Enrolled in high school prior to enlistment
Currently reside in SB County

Military Background: *(please note: background information is not an eligibility requirement)*

Military occupation(s): _____ Location: _____

Description: _____

Decorations, medals, badges, commendations, and ribbons awarded:

Wounds received in action, if applicable: _____

Grade, rate or rank at time of exit: _____

Total length of service: _____

Japanese American citizens—please check appropriate box below:

Recipient was interned in a relocation camp during the period December 7, 1941-
December 31, 1946: Yes No

If yes, indicate name and location of center: _____

Any additional information you would like to share: *(not an eligibility requirement)*

Feel free to staple additional pages of information, if necessary.

MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION AND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS TO:
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Office of the Superintendent, Attn:
Samantha Koker, 601 North E Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0020. Applications can
also be emailed to samantha.koker@sbcss.k12.ca.us or faxed to: 909.888.5480.

For assistance in locating discharge papers, contact County of San Bernardino Department
of Veterans Affairs at 886.472.8387 or 909.387.5516 or visit <http://hss.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/VA/>

Application Deadline: Friday, August 25, 2017, 4:00 p.m.