



**Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools**  
5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534-1658  
707.399.4400 ★ [www.solanocoe.net](http://www.solanocoe.net)

## NEWS RELEASE-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Organization:** Solano County Office of Education  
**Contact:** Victor Romualdi, Ph.D., Associate Superintendent, Educational Student Programs and Services  
**Telephone:** 707-399-4432  
**E-Mail:** [vromualdi@solanocoe.net](mailto:vromualdi@solanocoe.net)

### Solano County Office of Education Operation Recognition Graduation Ceremony

Clarence Cleaver, Manuel Concepcion, Cicilio Lopez, Joe McKnight, and Carl Worsham, five veterans whose high school education was interrupted due to military service, received their high school diploma at the Operation Recognition Graduation Ceremony that took place March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) in Fairfield. "SCOE is thrilled to be a part of Operation Recognition, to honor Veterans who could not complete their education because they were serving our Country. On behalf of our entire community, we thank them for their sacrifice," says Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

During its November 14, 2018 meeting, the Solano County Board of Education approved Resolution B18-19-15 in support of Operation Recognition and awarding diplomas to Veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, as well as Japanese-Americans interned during World War II, who were unable to complete high school due to their military service.

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 the wars, many of these individuals were not able to finish high school and receive their diploma.

California Education Code sections 51430 and 51440 authorize 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 by awarding them with their high school diploma. SCOE worked closely with the California Department of Veterans Affairs to plan this special celebration.

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