

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

In 2009, the Legislature passed legislation authorizing the Commissioner of Education to award a high school diploma to honorably discharged Vietnam veterans. Section 1003.43(14), Florida Statutes, provides for the award of a high school diploma to eligible Vietnam veterans.

Veterans who meet the following criteria will be eligible:

- Must have served in the Vietnam Era, February 28, 1961, through May 7, 1975;
- Inducted into military service before completing the necessary high school graduation requirements;
- Received an honorable discharge; and
- Resident of the state of Florida

The diplomas are for any veteran who currently resides in Florida, regardless of whether they were living in Florida at the time they went to high school. The Florida Department of Education will send a standard Florida high school diploma upon receiving a completed and notarized application along with your DD Form 214 or honorable discharge. Also, family members who would like to apply for a diploma posthumously may do so.

The Florida Departments of Education and Veterans' Affairs will work together to assist veterans with the application process for their diplomas. Interested veterans should contact Ed Ortiz at the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs at ortize@fdva.state.fl.us or by calling (727) 319-7400.

Additional information may also be obtained by contacting Gayle Manley at Gayle.Manley@fldoe.org at the Division of Career and Adult Education, Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Room 714, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400, or by calling (850) 245-9057.

Applications and other relevant information can be found at:

<http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/veteran-diploma.asp>