

FEB 4 2000  
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2159  
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O'BRIEN, HORBACH, DOTZLER, BOAL, DODERER,  
HANSEN, MURPHY, TYRRELL, BUKTA, ALONS,  
SCHERRMAN, HUSEMAN, GREIMANN, BAUDLER,  
REYNOLDS, BRADLEY, FALCK, DOLECHECK,  
KREIMAN, T. TAYLOR, THOMAS, and MYERS

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the director of the department of education to  
2 develop and administer an operation recognition program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2159

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code Supplement 1999, is amended  
2 by adding the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 49. Develop and administer, with the  
4 cooperation of the commission of veterans affairs, a program  
5 which shall be known as "operation recognition". The purpose  
6 of the program is to award high school diplomas to World War  
7 II veterans who left high school prior to graduation to enter  
8 United States military service. The department and the  
9 commission shall jointly develop an application procedure and  
10 shall seek the assistance of school districts, accredited  
11 nonpublic schools, county commissions of veterans affairs,  
12 veterans organizations, and local media persons in publicizing  
13 the program and for assistance in collecting applications  
14 completed by or on behalf of veterans. All honorably  
15 discharged World War II veterans who are residents or former  
16 residents of the state, who served between September 16, 1940,  
17 and December 31, 1946, and who did not return to school and  
18 complete their education after the war shall be eligible to  
19 receive a diploma. Diplomas may be issued posthumously. The  
20 department shall issue an honorary high school diploma for an  
21 eligible veteran if the veteran's school of attendance no  
22 longer exists or does not agree to issue a regular diploma for  
23 the veteran. The department and the commission jointly shall  
24 work with school districts, schools, communities, and county  
25 commissions of veterans affairs that agree to honor World War  
26 II veterans with diploma ceremonies on or about Veterans Day.  
27 Upon departmental approval of an application, a diploma shall  
28 be mailed to the veteran if the veteran is living but unable  
29 to attend an award ceremony or to the family of a deceased  
30 veteran if the family is unable to attend an award ceremony.

31 EXPLANATION

32 This bill requires the director of the department of  
33 education to develop and administer, with the cooperation of  
34 the commission of veterans affairs, an "operation recognition"  
35 program to award high school diplomas to World War II veterans

1 who left high school prior to graduation to enter United  
2 States military service.

3 The department and the commission shall jointly develop an  
4 application procedure and shall seek the assistance of school  
5 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, county commissions of  
6 veterans affairs, veterans organizations, and local media  
7 persons in publicizing the program and for assistance in  
8 collecting applications completed by or on behalf of veterans.

9 All honorably discharged World War II veterans who are  
10 residents or former residents of the state, who served between  
11 September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946, and who did not  
12 return to school and complete their education after the war  
13 are eligible to receive a diploma. Diplomas may be issued  
14 posthumously to the family of the deceased veteran. The  
15 department shall issue an honorary high school diploma to an  
16 eligible veteran if the veteran's school of attendance no  
17 longer exists or does not agree to issue a regular diploma to  
18 the veteran.

19 The department and the commission jointly shall work with  
20 school districts, schools, towns, cities, and counties that  
21 volunteer to award World War II veterans honorary or regular  
22 diplomas in ceremonies on or about Veterans Day.

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