

Introduction

To provide special recognition for the service of military veterans of WWII and the Korean Conflict, Public Act 181 of 2001, as amended, authorizes the board of a Michigan school district to award high school diplomas to WWII and Korean veterans. The State of Michigan recognizes the important contribution and sacrifice these generations of men and women made in our nation's defense. On behalf of the State of Michigan, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs encourages school districts to present these diplomas to WWII and Korean veterans or their families.

Procedure

The veteran must meet all the following requirements:

1. the veteran must be at least 65 years of age or, if deceased, have reached the age of 65 by the date of death.
2. before graduation from high school, the veteran enlisted in or was drafted into the armed forces of the United States between December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 (WWII) or between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 (Korean conflict).
3. and January 31, 1955 (Korean conflict).
4. at the time of enlistment or draft, the veteran was enrolled in a high school of the district to which this application is made.
5. the veteran did not subsequently graduate from high school.
6. the veteran served under honorable conditions during WWII or the Korean conflict.

The application form may be completed by the veteran or on his behalf by a spouse, brother or sister, child or grandchild.

The application requires a copy of the veteran's discharge from military service indicating honorable service between the dates of December 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946 (WWII) or between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 (Korean conflict). The applicant's signature certifies the remaining information.

The school district may verify the dates of the veteran's school enrollment from their own records.

Replacement of a Discharge from Military Service

A veteran or next of kin may request a copy of the veteran's discharge from military service from the National Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. The National Records Center recommends submitting an electronic request at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>. A written request may be submitted using Standard Form 180 "Request Pertaining to Military Records." You may print the form at <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf>.

Requests require the signature of the veteran or next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Please include the veteran's full name, date of birth, branch of military service, service number and approximate dates of military service.

A veteran who received Michigan's WWII bonus (Public Act 12 of 1947, MCL 35.921) or Korean bonus (Public Act 8 of 1955, MCL 35.972) may request by letter a copy of the discharge from military service from the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, 3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing, MI 48906. Please note, delayed applications for the WWII and/or Korean bonuses cannot be accepted. Requests require the signature of the veteran or next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. The next of kin must include a copy of the veteran's death certificate. Please include the veteran's full name, date of birth, branch of military service, service number and approximate dates of military service.

Authority & Additional Information

Public Act 181 of 2001, as amended, authorizes individual school boards to award these diplomas. A school board will satisfy itself the intent of the law has been met.

You may review Public Act 181 of 2001 on the internet at <http://www.legislature.mi.gov> by clicking Public Acts in the left hand margin.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Veterans Affairs Directorate, 3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing, MI 48906 (517-335-6523) is the agency of the State of Michigan responsible for publicity and information concerning the program.