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Two World War II veterans to receive high school diplomas at the State Board meeting June 15 in Juneau

Richard Mauer, chairman of the State Board of Education & Early Development, is scheduled to present Alaska high school diplomas to two World War II veterans at 8 a.m. June 15 in Juneau.

The presentations will occur at the beginning of the State Board's upcoming regular meeting, which runs June 15 and 16, at the state boardroom on the ground floor of Goldbelt Plaza, at 801 West 10th Street.

Scheduled to receive their World War II veterans high school diplomas in person are Juneau residents Leo Jones Jr. and Harold Wheaton.

Five other Alaska veterans will be mailed their diplomas this month. They are: George Gordaoff of Anchorage, Nicholai Lekanoff of Unalaska, N. Derrall McBirney of Fairbanks, Louis Cohn of Margate, N.J., and Sigurd Edwards of Yakutat.

The Alaska Legislature created the World War II veterans high school diploma in 2001 to honor the soldiers who answered their nation's call to serve and did not have an opportunity to return to high school.

The law allows the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development to award diplomas to World War II veterans, including Alaska Territorial Guard members, who served in the military during the period of August 7, 1940, to July 5, 1947. One hundred and sixty-three such diplomas have been issued to date, including the seven mentioned above.

To be eligible, the former service member must have died in active service, or have been honorably discharged, or have been released from active duty because of a service-related disability. Family members may apply on behalf of deceased or incapacitated veterans.

In passing the law, Alaska joined many other states in what was called Operation Recognition to show gratitude toward World War II veterans.

Information and application forms are available at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/wwll/>

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