



San José Unified School District
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Media Advisory

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San José High Academy grants diplomas to Japanese-Americans who were interned during World War II

San Jose, Ca. (June 13, 2006) – The Rose Garden Park on Naglee Ave. will be the venue Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 3:00 for the formal granting of diplomas for 7 former Japanese- American San José High School students who were in internment camps at the time of their high school graduations.

Trisha Yamaichi, a 10th grade student at San Jose High Academy, completed her 10th grade International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program Personal Project by locating former Japanese-Americans who attended San Jose High School but were unable to graduate with their perspective classes because they were in the Interment Camps. The seven students would have graduated between 1942 and 1945. They will graduate tomorrow, June 14, 2006 at the Rose Garden at 3:00 p.m. with the current class of 2006 and receive their diplomas. Jerry Erich, a former graduate from the class of 1947 who greeted the returning and now well-known SJHS graduate Norman Mineta in the fall of 1945 will be part of the ceremony.

The ability to grant these diplomas is due to Assembly member Sally Lieber's bill AB 871, introduced in 2003 and subsequently signed into law. This piece of legislation formally grants a high school district, unified school district or county office of education to retroactively grant a high school diploma to a person whose high school education was interrupted due to his or her incarceration or forced removal from the State of California during World War II. This law has been codified in Section 51430 of the California Education Code.

Congratulations will be sent from Norman Mineta and Congressman Mike Honda.

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