

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

September 13, 2005

MEDIA ALERT

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Premiere of 11 Student “Stories of Service” Films

Wednesday, September 14, 2005 · Education Center · 2637 West Burrel, Visalia · 6:00 pm

Student teams from four Tulare County High Schools will show 11 short films on the service of local World War II veterans tomorrow evening in the Education Center of the Tulare County Office of Education. The films are part of the national *Stories of Service* project, which pairs student filmmakers with adult mentors and veterans to create “mini-movies” documenting the personal memories of our nation’s war heroes. Films made by students from Farmersville High School, and Sierra Vista, Tulare Western and Tulare Union High Schools in Tulare will be shown at the event, which begins at 6:00 p.m. The premiere is open to the public and free of charge.

Stories of Service is an intergenerational program that teaches young people valuable 21st century job skills and the importance of service to community, volunteerism and civic engagement. Working with adult mentors, youth producers interview veterans for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, and use computers to combine the veterans’ words with images and music, creating short “*digital stories*” that are shared with schools, libraries and

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Page 2

museums, including the Smithsonian Institute, and with a global audience over the Internet (sample digital stories can be viewed at www.stories-of-service.org). *Stories of Service* brings together the power of technology and youth volunteerism to record, preserve and share our historical legacy, passing on priceless lessons about courage, sacrifice and service to future generations.

“We are proud to support this extraordinary program in Tulare County. Students are able to take part in recording an important part of our nation’s history – documenting stories these veterans rarely share with anyone. They also gain insight into the service and sacrifice of that generation of Americans,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

For more information, contact Robert Herman, Public Information Officer, at 733-6606.

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