

Decorated Vietnam Veteran to receive honorary High School Diploma

Tuesday June 11 2024 5:45 pm The Liacouras Center 1776 Broad St Philadelphia 19121

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In 1965 Robert quit high school and joined the Army wanting to be in the Special Forces. His recruiter said, "No Problem"

However he forgot to tell Robert that he would need a high school diploma and learn how to jump out of air planes

Problem #! Robert had never been in an airplane. His first five airplane rides he parachuted out and became an infantry Paratrooper. By May of 1965 he joined the Weapons Squad; company B, 2nd Battalion 503 infantry 173rd Airborne Brigade Separate in Vietnam.

During the first tour of duty over half of his squad were either killed or wounded. On March 16th five days after his 19th birthday his unit was locked into one of the more intense battles at that time. He got a piece of shrapnel in his back and received a Purple Herat. He was also awarded the Bronze Star with V for Valor for his heroic actions that day.

For the first time in combat history everyone in Robert's company that had not finished high school was given their GED test. Robert passed the test and for over 50 years he thought he had a GED. But the paper work said this is not your Ged you will have to get your certificate from your State Dept. of Education.

Robert met Joseph Page from Commonwealth Charter Academy at a PA National Guard meeting and Joseph helped Robert get the ball rolling.

With help from two wonderful Women in the SC Dept. of Education Robert Received his GED certificate 59 years later.

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March 21, 2024

Mr. Robert Toporek

1017 W 9th Avenue, Suite B

King of Prussia, PA, 19406

Dear Mr. Toporek,

On behalf of the Commonwealth Charter Academy, it is our distinct honor to extend this formal invitation to attend a momentous occasion; a Graduation Ceremony where you will be awarded an Honorary Diploma.

Date: June 11, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Liacouras Center, Temple University, 1776 North Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19121

Arrival Time: 4:45 PM

Your dedication and service as a Vietnam Veteran have not gone unnoticed. In recognition of your sacrifice and commitment to our nation, we are delighted to present you with this honorary diploma. Your bravery and selflessness inspire us all, and it is with great pride that we bestow this honor upon you.

The ceremony will be a momentous occasion, filled with esteemed guests, dignitaries, and other 2024 high school graduates. We hope you can join us as we celebrate your achievements and express our gratitude for your service.

Please confirm your attendance by April 1, 2024 and if you have any special requirements or needs, do not hesitate to inform us so that we may accommodate you accordingly.

Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved honor. We eagerly anticipate your presence at the ceremony.

Warm regards,

Joseph Page

Director of Special Projects

Commonwealth Charter Academy

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