

Diploma Presentation to Mr. William A. Miotke

Board of Education Meeting
January 17, 2008

*comments by Roger Thornton
High School District 211 Superintendent*

Board of Education and Guests, It is now my pleasure to introduce to you to a most extraordinary person. *(Mr. Miotke, please stand and come forward).*

As a Taft High School student, William A. Miotke's desire was to attend a vocational high school to become an airline mechanic. But, like many people living in difficult times, he took a different path. He interrupted his education to join the United States Armed Forces, and from April 1951 to April 1953, he served in the Korean Conflict. Everyone I've spoken to who fought in Korea called it a war. He never did return to high school to earn his diploma.

He is now 73 years old, has grandchildren that attend District 211 schools, and he wants them and other students how important he feels it is to get a high school diploma. Mr. Miotke, you gained an education in the true battlefield of life. The lessons learned enhanced freedom for millions of people in Korea and across the world. With your service, you became our teacher and we are honored to acknowledge your high achievement this evening.

Mr. Miotke, with you having been a District 211 resident for some 50 years and having served our country in its time of need, we are proud to be able to present to you a Chicago Public High Schools Korean Conflict Veteran's High School diploma. Illinois law requires that any diploma awarded to a Veteran be from the high school in which they were last enrolled. We appreciate the cooperation of Taft High School and Chicago Public Schools in making this evening possible. We thank you for your service to our country, your example to our students, and your sacrifice for freedom for people you never knew. May we all learn from your example.

Please step forward to receive your diploma from Mr. LeFevre and the entire Township High School District 211 Board of Education.

We also have a plaque thanking you for your military service. Congratulations, thank you, and may you always know of our deep appreciation for your service.