

**Kevin Russell**  
**Commander Nominee for**  
**Department of Washington**  
**The American Legion**

P.O. Box 98  
Carson, WA, 98610  
503-440-1433  
Aldistrict5kevin@gmail.com

Dear Legionnaires,


I submit this letter to accompany the Nominating Resolution of Carson Post 137. I am humbled by the many Legionnaires who have asked for this nomination. As I have always served where and when the Legionnaires have requested. I will serve in this position with the same diligence and determination demonstrated when serving as Area II Vice Commander, District 5 Commander, District 5 Vice Commander, and Post 137 Commander, the Adjutant & the Finance Officer. When the Department of Washington's proposed Constitution and By Laws are ratified by the Legionnaires and a Department Executive Committee (DEC) elected, I trust that it is your vote which allows me to be part of that team.

As listed in the Carson 137 Resolution, I bring the skills, training and tools needed by our DEC, Programs and Posts to:

- 1) Regain confidence in Veterans that we are here to help in their claims and provide support by strengthening our Veteran and Post Service Officer programs.
- 2) Re-ignite the Spirit in Post membership through Veteran outreach as demonstrated this year by Post 137 membership surpassing 140%. In previous years, successful revitalization efforts of Posts and membership throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> District.
- 3) Reinvigorate our Children and Youth programs as recognized by the Washington Association of School Administration's 2024 Community Leadership Award for the Columbia Region to Post 137.

Yes, it is time to move forward with the Department of Washington. Although leaving the past behind, we will use the lessons learned to regain our Veteran's confidence, renew the Spirit of our membership and bolster our programs.

Ready to serve,



Kevin Russell  
Legionnaire #200891803  
Coy-Catlin Post 137



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



Coy-Catlin Post 137

P.O. Box 98, Carson, WA, 98610

509-427-8989

08 May 2024

## **Resolution No. 24-01: Nomination for The American Legion, Dept. of WA, Commander.**

The Department of Washington will be conducting an election to fill the vacancy of the Dept. Commander position; and

WHEREAS, Coy-Catlin Post 137 has a member, in good standing, that meets the qualifications for that office; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Russell earned his eligibility for membership in The American Legion by serving Honorably in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1978 to 1999, retiring from active duty as a Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Russell, retiring in 2020 from the Dept of Energy(DOE), Bonneville Power Administration (another federal corporation created by an act of congress), brings the following additional skills needed by the Department of Washington: a federal compliance auditor of contracted services for DOE and the General Service Administration; contract management as a contracting officer's representative for \$10,000-\$7,500,000 contracts; University of Idaho certified Human Performance Practitioner working with unions and federal personnel teams in establishing job standards, work practices and personnel evaluations; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Russell has been a member of The American Legion for 31 years, establishing his membership in 1993 with Post 12, Astoria, OR. and transferring to Carson Post 137 in 2006, to currently serve as Post 137's Adjutant/Finance Officer; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Russell has served as Post 137's: Commander, 2007-2015, establishing the Skamania County Veterans Advisory Board; Post Service Officer, after 2010 Dept. training; aided in the creation of Washington RCW 73.08.070, county burial of deceased Veterans, including costs and designation of proper authority; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Russell has served the Dept. of Washington as: 5<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander, 2018, 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander, 2019; Area II Vice Commander 2020/21, during that time completed Legion Basic and Legion College Washington training; member of Legion Rider Advisory, Public Relations Audit Committees and Post revitalizations throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Russell, establishing the Department Final Salute/Patriot Guard Mission, was the first Final Salute Captain coordinating a multi-state mission for a recovered WWII Aircrewman, May 2021, and recently the Unclaimed Remains of 99 Veterans, November, 2022, continues supporting the recovery of the Unclaimed; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Russell, this past year, initiated Post 137's community outreach program which culminated in Post 137 attaining a membership goal of over 140%, representing 20% of the available Veterans in the area, surpassing the Department of Washington's 4% goal of the available Veterans in the state; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Russell, following the direction of the Legion to localize "Rolling Thunder" has established "Thunder in The Columbia Gorge" and "Thunder on The Columbia" which utilize the Legion Riders as a conduit to bring Remembrance, Americanism and outreach to Posts and communities along the routes which aids in driving membership to attain Department goals; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, by Coy-Catlin Post 137, The American Legion Department of Washington, in regular meeting assembled in Carson, WA, on May 8th, 2024, determined that Kevin Russell has the will, desire and determination to uphold the principles and policies of The American Legion and is hereby endorsed and nominated for the high office of Commander for the Department of Washington.

Commander Post 137

  
Dave Duron

Vice Cdr 137

  
Monty Buettner