

Subject: Candidate for NEC member

5 June 2024

Dear Legion Family,

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all Legionnaires for their outstanding work in supporting veterans, their families, and our communities. Your unwavering service and dedication to our core values are why I am seeking the position of your National Executive Committee representative.

My tenure with the American Legion may be brief, but I am confident that my leadership experience in both the military and corporate realms equips me with the necessary perspective to champion the support our Posts require.

The exemplary assistance our American Legion Posts render to our communities is a constant inspiration for me to prioritize our veterans, their families, and the communities we serve. I acknowledge that we have faced challenges in the past, but I am committed to moving forward with a team that upholds our "Four Pillars" values.

In conclusion, I pledge to maintain transparency, honor due process, and ensure the inclusion of all members.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to excellence.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James J. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jim Cook

Attachment: Post 265 NEC Resolution



# American Legion

## Ralph L. Barsanti Memorial Post 265

**WHEREAS**, There is to be elected National Executive Committee member, at the Department Convention to be held at Kennewick, WA on July 12 - 14 2024 and;

**WHERE AS**, Ralph L. Barsanti Post 265 has within its membership, a Legionnaire who has served the Legion with exceptional dedication & distinction, and is truly qualified to perform the duties of that office, and;

**WHERE AS**, This Legionnaire is currently serving as Post Judge Advocate supporting the Post on contracts, agreements, and parliamentary issues, and assisted the Commander in the development and ratification of the first Post Constitution and Bylaws which resulted in approval from National American Legion; furthermore, leading the Commander's initiative of a monthly "Buddy Check" program; in addition, as a certified Veteran Service Officer, providing guidance to veterans both on and off island to self-file with the VA, and;

**WHERE AS**, This member serving as Department Commander (2022 – 2023), Washington State American Legion guiding twelve Districts of 154 Posts covering 39 counties comprising of 25,000 members, and managing the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs contract with oversight of eight full time veteran service officers supporting veterans in Seattle, American Lake VA, Yakima and Spokane. Concurrently, as acting Department Adjutant for seven months improved the original budget from a starting \$45,000 deficit (July 2022) to an over \$200,000 in the black enhancement (June 2023); moreover, working with National Sons of the American Legion was able to get two new squadron charters approved for Sons of the American Legion. Testified and helped pass State Senate Bill 5358, which expands veteran services and doubles the number of VSOs and peer to peer programs, and;

**WHERE AS**, This candidate presently is on the American Legion National Security Committee for National Guard and Reserve Forces, and has served as Area Vice Commander, District Commander, District Vice Commander, Post Commander, Post Finance Officer, Post Communications Officer and;

**WHERE AS**, He continues to serve as the American Legion representative on the Board of Anderson Island Citizens' Advisory Board (established by County Ordinance) to assist the County Executive and District Councilmember on all issues of ferry system, infrastructure, land use, environmental regulations, public safety, schools and other items within the jurisdiction of Anderson Island; furthermore, he was selected and served to represent District six on the Equity Review Committee, and Law and Justice Committee for Pierce County.

**RESOLVED**, That Ralph L. Barsanti Post 265, Department of Washington, in a general meeting held on May 11, 2024, does hereby nominate, endorse & support

**James T. Cook**

As a Candidate for the Office of National Executive Committee member, Department of Washington, The American Legion for the year 2024.

**CERTIFICATION:** This is to certify that this resolution was approved at the general meeting of Ralph L. Barsanti, Post 265, held on the 11th day of May 2024 in Anderson Island, Washington in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws

Doug Richardson, Commander

Kim Kowalski, Adjutant

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Anderson Island, WA 98303

www.post265.org