COLUMBIA COUNTY
Board of Commissioners Office

Commissioners
Margaret Magruder
Kellie Jo Smith
Casey Garrett

Administration
Jacyn Normine
Kathy Coddington

Communications
Mark Pacheco

ST. HELENS, OR 97051
230 Strand St., Room 338
Direct (503) 397–4322
Fax (503) 366–7243
columbiacountyor.gov

PROCLAMATION

In Support of Columbia County Veterans and
Operation Green Light
for Columbia County, Oregon

WHEREAS, the residents of Columbia County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Elks and Moose Lodges, religious organizations, civil service, and as County Veterans Service Officers, helping fellow former service members.

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and an estimated 20% increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72% of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes, and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County recognizes that an estimated 11% of our population consists of Veterans and is grateful for the sacrifices of our United States military personnel; and believes that specific recognition should be granted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County,

Columbia County hereby declares November 4-11, 2025, as a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of those transitioning from active service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Columbia County, Oregon, will light up in support of our Veterans and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Columbia County Board of Commissioners encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights at their place of business or residence from November 4-11, 2025, throughout Columbia County, Oregon Dated this 5th day of November 2025, in St. Helens, Oregon.

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Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

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Casey Garrett, Commissioner

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Margaret Magruder, Commissioner