COLUMBIA COUNTY

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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 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent 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, 2026, 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, 2026, throughout Columbia County, Oregon.

Dated this 4th day of November 2026, in St. Helens, Oregon.

Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

Casey Garrett, Commissioner

Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

