



10/23/2024

Hello Post Commander and Post officers, my name is Jeffrey Freeman from Ripon Post 190 in the eleventh district, and I am running for Department Commander for 2025/26. Many of you probably know me or have heard my name over the years, mostly last year when I was the Department membership chair putting out emails every other Friday and running all over the State working membership. I am running on the battle call of **Back to Our Roots/Every Veteran Matters.**

My back story is as follows. I am an Air Force Security Police/ Law Enforcement Veteran who also attended Ranger school and was on a rapid response team while in the Air Force. I have been married for 41 years and have a 29-year-old son living in LA. After the Air Force I opened my own residential roofing company, generating 1.2 million in sales annually. I also owned a custom furniture company making custom sewing room furniture selling from Phoenix Arizona to Puyallup Washington in trade shows. I was also the CFO of my wife's computer technologies corporation till she sold it in 2016.

In 2011 I attempted Suicide due to health and other medical conditions. During the treatment I received an invitation to join the American Legion, and I have been running to do all I can for the organization since. I put my story on paper giving the American Legion credit for saving for life--a story you may have read in the Legion magazine. In 2022 I collaborated with Past Department Commander James in the creation of [the Mental Health/Suicide Intervention Committee](#) now working in the Department. I brought the first Be the One campaign into the Department with help from District twelve and the Media and Communications division and the Membership Division at National Organization and attend speaking events telling my story to help veterans in the state.

What am I going to do for the Department and for your Post you are asking yourself. I wish to work with the **Ways and Means Committee** and the newly formed **Ad Hoc Committee for Grants** that I collaborated with Commander Rosa to start. We need to fund the Department the same way my **Helmets for Heroes Sub-Committee** did when we changed to the public sector increasing the program from making \$40,000 to \$120,000 per year in only 24 months making the program the most profitable program in the Department for two years.

Only we need to use Corporate American and the State of California to fund the Department by submitting for grants. With grant funding we can fund the Department for as long as we are here.

I also wish to work with our Commissions and Committees. We have over forty in the Department, and I can say we do not know what most of them do. I request that they meet every quarter either in person or virtual and submit a report to the Department to be posted on the Calegion web site for all to see. I want to work with the **Housing Committee** and find funding for them to help our brethren on the streets. We need to find ways to help them get off the street and in housing or treatment centers for their addictions. For those who will not leave the streets, we need to find ways to help make their lives more comfortable and help feed them. I want to work with our **Employment Committee** and start the Department of California job fairs and collaborate with companies like **Wells Fargo, Amazon, Google, and others**. They all have veteran quotas for employment. I also would like to get corporate HR to offer classes giving our transitioning brothers and sisters the tools to write the proper resume and how to conduct the best interview to lock in that job. And of course, I want to work with the **Mental Health/Suicide Intervention Committee**. They are ready to roll out training classes to help Legion members become State certified Peer Support Specialists; training I just finished recently.

These are the plans I wish to implement as your Commander. Help me get the Department of California back to the business of serving our veterans. I ask for your Vote in June and thank you for reading my letter. Please send this to all your Post members and get their feedback on what I have to offer.

Thank You

Jeffrey Freeman

Your Candidate for Department Commander 2025/26

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