

I would like to nominate William RL (Bobby) Coleman who is a 1981 Newport High School Graduate for induction into the Newport High School Alumni Hall of Fame based on his Distinguished Military Career and Government service to our nation spanning two decades.

Bobby began his Military Career as an enlisted United States Marine (Reserve) in 1982 and retired as a U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Beret) Lieutenant Colonel. Bobby was selected for a U.S. Army ROTC Scholarship from Gonzaga University in 1984. He graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice (Cum Laude) and was rated in the top 1% of his year group and commissioned as a Regular Army Second Lieutenant of Infantry. His first assignment was in Korea, and there he was selected to serve as a Ranger Platoon Leader in the 3rd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment. Being selected to serve in this organization was an honor as only the top 1% of Infantry officers are selected. Upon completion of this assignment, Bobby was recruited and selected for U.S Army Special Forces training and upon graduation was re-branched as a Special Forces Officer. Officers selected for Special Forces are normally rated in the top of their year group. As a Green Beret Bobby served in both the 7 th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 1st Special Forces Group Airborne. He was selected for a Below the Zone Promotion to Major. Bobby had other Special Forces assignments during his career and spent much of his time stationed overseas with his family.

I would like to highlight throughout Bobby's Army Career he distinguished himself numerous times leading Elite United States Special Operation and Special Forces soldiers in Combat. As an Airborne Ranger Platoon Leader assigned to 3rd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment, Bobby led his Ranger Platoon with distinction during the Airborne Assault against the enemy airfield located in Rio Hato (Panama) during Operation Just Cause Panama. After September 11, 2001, he continued to distinguish himself as a combat leader while leading U.S. Army Green Berets conducting Special Operation missions while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi

Freedom (OIF) (Iraq). Bobby's Special Forces career before and after September 11<sup>th</sup> found him leading Green Beets during Numerous Counter-Terrorism and Counter Drug missions throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Middle East. The following Countries are just a small example of a large list of countries of deployment during his career: Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Haiti, Philippines, Malaysia, Yemen, and Qatar. Bobby retired from active duty in 2007 and continued his government service with an Other Government Agency (OGA) as a Paramilitary Operations Officer (Field Tradecraft Certified). He was recruited by this organization while still on active duty and retired to join.

As a Paramilitary Operations Officer, Bobby continued to distinguish himself as a leader by leading United States and Indigenous personnel from Afghanistan and Iraq in Combat Operations in austere and dangerous environments located in the aforementioned countries. Bobby left Federal Service in 2012 and continued to serve his country and community as a Florida Certified Deputy Sheriff for five years. Academically Bobby has a Masters Degree in Adult Education from Kansas State University, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice (Cum Laude) from Gonzaga University and a two-Year degree in Law Enforcement from Spokane Community College.

Bobby is currently retired with his wife of 40 years the former Marie (Grantham) a 1982 graduate of Deer Park Washington. They have two daughters, who are school teachers, and two grandchildren.

In summary Bobby is a quiet professional and credits his love to free the oppressed and being part of something larger than himself due to the awesome learning environment and mentorship provided by the Newport coaches, teachers and staff. He also credits the Newport and Cusick communities for providing outstanding role models during his life, and of course, his family, products of the Newport School District

and community, who have supported and loved him throughout his life. No matter where Bobby served or lived, he is proud of Newport and always used this fact as motivation to protect this awesome country.