

District 7 Convention

May 4, 2024

Resolution

No.: 24-3

Title: Endorsement of Sarah Tobin for Vice Commander in the Department of Colorado upon charter reinstatement

Origin: District 7, Department of Colorado

WHEREAS, Sarah Tobin is a member in good standing of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion Riders; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Tobin has served as Post ALR Vice President, Post Auxiliary Historian, Post Sergeant At Arms, Junior Vice Commander, and Finance Officer, and District 7 Junior Vice Commander; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Tobin is currently serving as the Commander of District 7, Department Auxiliary Legislative and Americanism Chair, and Vice Chairman of the National Legislative Council for the Department of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Tobin is a 2023 American Legion College Graduate and was recently appointed to the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee; and, now, therefore; be it

RESOLVED, By the Delegates of District 7, Department of Colorado during the District 7 Convention, assembled in Cripple Creek, Colorado on May 4, 2024, That Sarah Tobin is officially endorsed by District 7 for the position Department Vice Commander upon reinstatement of the charter.

Approve

Disapprove



Ryan Fitzgerald
Senior Vice Commander, District 7



Marvin Weaver
Adjutant, District 7



I wanted to introduce myself to those of you who have not met me as I intend to run for a Department Officer position. I retired from the Air Force in 2017 out of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. I was blessed to have a unique career path that took many twists and turns along the way. I was a 1Lt when 9/11 happened and one of only three staff officers in the nation that were charged with the 24/7 short-range scheduling of tankers, fighters and overhead surveillance during the first week of Operation Noble Eagle. Two years later, I became the Air Officer in the Cheyenne Mountain Command Center, tasked with protecting the sovereign airspace

of North America and was credited with preventing a US retaliatory missile strike that was later determined to be a severe solar flare storm. I also spent nine months at the Joint Interagency Task Force-South as the Command and Control Liaison Officer supporting the counter-narcotics mission. As a Maj., I was tasked with identifying NORAD/USNORTHCOM vulnerabilities and analyzing future concepts and capabilities. I was able to secure advanced radios and radars for our fighter fleet, as well as numerous passive detection systems to aid Customs and Border Protection. I then served as Chief of Doctrine and Lessons Learned at HQ, Air Combat Command and re-wrote critical reference guides for the Air Land Sea Space Application Center. While deployed, I re-wrote the Area Air Defense Plan (our governing document), started the exercise branch, was Chief of Combat Plans, and as Senior Air Defense Officer, I traveled to six naval ships to brief Rules of Engagement and created a mutual support doctrine between the USN and AF that was unheard of prior to my proposal. Although these assignments are just an overview of what I did during my time in the military, I hope that it highlights my wide range of experience working with all branches of service, coalition partners, and interagencies. I know what it takes to compromise while remaining focused on the mission.

On a more personal note, I recently got married for the first time on 11-11-22 to Mr. Rob Barry, a retired Colorado Springs Fire Lieutenant and SAL Detachment Commander. My Grandfather was a Marine in WWI and my father an Army Chaplain in Vietnam. After my dad retired, he provided rifle honors with TAL Honor Guard at Fort Logan for over 1900 funerals before he died. Inspired by his dedication to ensure every veteran would have final honors, I joined The American Legion and have been active with the Post Honor Guard for seven years. In addition to serving in many post, auxiliary and riders' leadership positions, I am currently the District 7 Commander, Vice Chairman of the National Legislative Council (Colorado), Department Legislative Chair for the ALA, and I serve on both the VA&R council and National Convention Resolution Committee. I have immensely enjoyed every moment of my time as District 7 Commander. It has been my absolute pleasure to visit posts and other districts to see what you and your members are doing in your respective communities. There are some amazing Legionnaires in Colorado with fantastic ideas! The number one complaint I have heard along the journey, is that you feel that communication is inadequate. I understand the frustration of lack of information, it is a breeding ground for misinformation. To stave off that frustration, I created a FB page, group and IG to foster communication and promote events within our District. We also focused on targeted training for our post leadership and have shared those products with the ALA leadership, SAL Detachment officers, and other District CDRs. We all need to work together and share those innovative ideas, working in lockstep with

local government and other philanthropic organizations to promote Americanism and unity in our communities. There is a lot we can learn from one another, not just across the state but across the four American Legion Families.

If we are to recover from this tumultuous time, we need to be honest and look at ourselves in the mirror, the personal circumstances that led up to us losing our charter have yet to be resolved. Rumors and conjecture still abound because we have not come together to discuss and resolve. If anything, our divide is greater than it was two years ago, and it is NOW time to heal those wounds. We need to come together in a respectful manner and get back to the basics of the mission of The American Legion. Now is not the time for the 'way we have always done things' nor is it the time for upheaval and radical change, but it IS a time for action. Deeds Not Words. The immediate role of the Department officers will be to liaison with our National reconstruction and transition team. This will require time and energy to understand the path forward for the Department. This is not a time for looking backwards and placing blame, we need to pick up the guidon and steadily march on. We will face many challenges as we rebuild this organization and no matter who takes the helm at this point, they will need wide-spread support from that state. We do not need folks that will further polarize us in positions of leadership.

I feel that I am the right person right now to serve as one of your Department officers because I will do my best to ensure that the highest quality individuals will be placed into our hired and appointed positions. I will focus on open lines of communication between National, Districts, Families, and members. I will not stifle respectful dialogue and ideas to improve the way ahead and I will not allow rumors and prejudice to cloud my judgement as one of your leaders. I pledge to you that I above all else, I will put our veterans and their families first over rank, position, title, or hat color. Let's get back to reason our boys formed this organization in the pup tents of France in the first place. If we always keep those thoughts in the forefront of our minds, we will not only recover from this set back, but we will thrive as a veteran-centric community.

I look forward to seeing you at the Hilton in Fort Collins on 25 January 2025 for the Special Convention. Please show up and bring your fellow Legionnaires, this is where we can make our voices heard.