Howard Eugene Russell, Sr. was a member of the Derby-Shelton Rotary for over 60 years and served as Club President in Rotary Year of 1977-1978. He was born in Shelton, on August 6, 1927 son of Isaac Benjamin Russell and Mary Ann Loughlin Russell and was a long time Shelton resident. He was the devoted husband of 65 years to Frances Eugenia Weik Russell.

He established Russell Linen Service in 1944 and was the owner and operator for 64 years until his retirement. He was also the former owner of the Suburban News. He was a veteran of the US Navy serving during WW II. Also, a lifetime board Member of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys and Girls Club, a Past Master, 60 year Brother and 32 degree Mason of the Washington Lodge #19, AF & AM Masonic Lodge in Monroe. He was a member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, the Royal Arch Masons of CT, Pyramid Shriners No. 9 of Milford, the Hamilton Commandery No. 5 and the American Legion, Sutter-Terlizzi Post 16 in Shelton.

Howard E. Russell died March 15, 2014 at the CT Hospice at the age of 86.