

# Grand Junction

State of Colorado

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** *Advance Care Planning is the act of making decisions about the medical care you want to receive if you become unable to speak for yourself. These decisions are based on personal values, preferences, and discussions with loved ones; and*

**WHEREAS,** *heightening awareness in the 18-30 year old age group around the need for young people to create advance medical directives is critical; and*

**WHEREAS,** *it is estimated that only about 20 percent of people in Colorado have executed an advance directive. Moreover, it is estimated that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive; and*

**WHEREAS,** *it is likely that a significant reason for these low percentages is that there is both a lack of knowledge and considerable confusion in the public about advance directives; and*

**WHEREAS,** *one of the principal goals of Health Care Decisions Day is to encourage medical professionals and attorneys to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of Mesa County citizens with advance directives; and*

**WHEREAS,** *communicating end-of-life wishes involves introducing the conversation, exploring personal beliefs and choices, and defining and documenting these wishes; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the Advance Care Planning Task Force and other organizations throughout Mesa County, Colorado endorse this event, and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phyllis Norris, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2015 as**

**“National Health Care Decisions Day”**

*in Mesa County, and encourage citizens to create medical advance care directives that align with each individual’s personal beliefs and preferences, and which will guide the individual’s medical professionals during a time of medical crisis. To assist in this planning, Mesa County Advance Care Planning Task Force is sponsoring an Advance Directives Discussion, on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 from 12 – 1 p.m. and repeated from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Hospital, Saccomanno Education Center.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2015.**

*Phyllis Norris*  
Mayor

