

Grand Junction

State of Colorado

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Triantáfilos (Trian) Patsantáras was born in the remote village of Pávliani, Greece on February 20, 1916; and

WHEREAS, in 1938, young Triantáfilos enlisted in the Greek army prior to World War II. As hostilities began in the Balkans, Corporal Patsantáras fought on the Bulgarian and Albanian fronts, and was among the Greek patriots who fought the Italian invaders and pushed them out of Greece in 1940. He continued the fight against the Nazis as a soldier until the surrender of Greece in April 1941; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, Trian immigrated to America to join his uncle and other family members as peaceful shepherds in the serene mountains and valleys of Colorado. Working in the regions around Craig, Meeker, and Vail, he became a well-known figure in the ski resort, known as a "Greek cowboy"; and

WHEREAS, he eventually went back to Greece and married Chrysoula, a young woman from Lamia, Greece. Returning to Colorado and his work in sheep ranching, the family settled in Grand Junction; and

WHEREAS, Triantáfilos and Chrysoula had three children who have blessed them with two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Triantáfilos was a founding member of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Grand Junction and, like his father before him, served his church community as a chanter even to the present day; and

WHEREAS, Triantáfilos will turn 100 years young on February 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, his family and friends will celebrate this momentous occasion with him on February 21, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phyllis Norris, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim February 20, 2016 as

"TRIANTÁFILOS PATSANTÁRAS DAY"

in the City of Grand Junction and wish Trian all the best on his 100th birthday.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 16th day of February, 2016.

Phyllis Norris
Mayor

