

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 others who are knowledgeable 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, 2016 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 need. To assist in raising awareness, the Mesa County Advance Care Planning Task Force is sponsoring three events: a movie and panel discussion – Consider the Conversation – on Monday, April 11th at the Mesa County Public Library at 6 p.m.; Holistic Decision Making on Wednesday, April 13th at St. Mary’s Hospital at 6:30 p.m.; and Writing a Good Ending: Your Decisions Matter on Thursday, April 14th at St. Mary’s Hospital from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and again from 1-3 p.m.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 6th day of April, 2016.

Phyllis Norris
Mayor

