

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, only about 35 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 National 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 Mesa County Advance Care Planning Task Force is sponsoring a half day seminar on Thursday, April 26th at St. Mary's Hospital from 8:00 a.m – 12:30 p.m, as well as hosting several "Before I Die" interactive art exhibits at Colorado Mesa University, the Central Library, Rocky Mountain Health Plans/Crossroads Fitness Center, HopeWest, and at other venues in the Valley during the month of April to assist in raising awareness and educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Taggart, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2018 as

"National Health Care Decisions Day"

in the City of Grand Junction, 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 21st day of March, 2018.



Mayor

