

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS,** *the first ten Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, known collectively as the Bill of Rights, were formally adopted on December 15, 1791; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the Bill of Rights recognizes, affirms and protects fundamental individual civil rights for which persons of all races have struggled for thousands of years; your forefathers (that would be me, James Madison, George Mason, Roger Sherman, and John Vining, just to name a few) had to fight for the inclusion of the Bill of Rights with the Constitution; the reasons we felt so strongly about this can be summarized by a quote from a fellow statesman, Thomas Jefferson - "no just government should refuse, or rest on inference", in other words we did not assume that such fundamental rights would automatically be preserved by our new government; and*

**WHEREAS,** *since then, in order to preserve these rights and freedoms secured by the Bill of Rights, hundreds of thousands of men and women in succeeding generations have sacrificed, suffered and died in the name of these freedoms; and*

**WHEREAS,** *I feel, and hope you present do too, that the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights deserve perpetual celebrations like these and because the sacrifices made to protect the Bill of Rights deserve eternal remembrance; and*

**WHEREAS,** *ratification of the U.S. Constitution in most states depended upon the adoption of the Bill of Rights and on this day, 214 years ago, the last state needed to add the Bill of Rights to the Constitution did so (that would be the State of Virginia); and*

**WHEREAS,** *we are gathering today to commemorate the Bill of Rights to honor the fundamental rights it enshrines and the sacrifices made to create and preserve these rights, and thereby proclaim these rights to the citizens of this City, to this County, to this Nation, and to the World.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, President George Washington by the power vested in me and on behalf Bruce Hill, Mayor of the fine City of Grand Junction, and Tilman Bishop, Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for this beautiful county, do hereby proclaim December 15, 2005, as**

**"BILL OF RIGHTS DAY"**

*in the City of Grand Junction and the County of Mesa.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** *we have hereunto set our hands and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction and of the County of Mesa this 15th day of December, 2005.*



**President George Washington**

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**Bruce Hill, Mayor,  
City of Grand Junction**

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**Tilman Bishop, Chair  
Mesa County Board of Commissioners**