

## PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS, Honor Flight's mission is to send WWII veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the WWII memorial and those monuments dedicated in honor of their service to this great nation; and*

*WHEREAS, the goal of the Western Slope Honor Flight is to make the trip a reality for approximately 85 veterans of "The Greatest Generation" in May/June 2009. In addition, approximately 80 guardians will accompany and escort these veterans on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; and*

*WHEREAS, the WWII memorial was built and dedicated 60 years after the end of WWII...long after many of these American heroes were too elderly to make the trip on their own; and*

*WHEREAS, the youngest WWII veteran is 80 years of age and although over two million WWII veterans are alive today, it is estimated that the death rate of these senior veterans is 1200 a day; and*

*WHEREAS, the veteran pays absolutely nothing for the journey to the nation's capital to see the memorial. Therefore, it is vital for the Western Slope Honor Flight to actively raise funds to send these American heroes on this overnight trip; and*

*WHEREAS, surrounded by loved ones, friends, and the community, these veterans will return to Grand Junction's Regional Airport and receive a heroes "welcome home"; and*

*WHEREAS, time is running out for the community to say thank you to our Western Slope WWII veterans for their service. It is because of them we enjoy the freedoms we have today.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gregg Palmer, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2009 as*

### ***"WESTERN SLOPE HONOR FLIGHT MONTH"***

*in the City of Grand Junction, and encourage the citizens of this community to support the efforts of the flight.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2009.*

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*Mayor*