Wreaths Across America is a national program dedicated to remembering our military veterans and educating our youth about the cost of our freedoms and the sacrifices made by those who serve and their families . Each year in December, an event is held to remember and honor those who have served our country in the military. The event pays tribute to veterans and is held nationwide. On this day, family members are invited to place a wreath on their veteran's grave. Volunteers place wreaths on the graves of those veterans whose family members are not present. The volunteers place the wreath, say the veteran's name aloud and take a moment to thank them for their service to our country. It's a small act that goes a long way toward keeping the memory of our veterans alive and educating our youth.

Five years ago Anton Kuhlmann, a Navy veteran, attended National Wreaths Across America Day in St. George and watched as veterans in the St. George Cemeteries were honored. Since that time he has dedicated his time, his energy and his money to bring this ceremony, celebrated across the nation, to nearly all the remaining cemeteries in Washington county, including the Ivins City Cemetery. The first two years, he funded the cost of the wreaths personally. Since then, he has worked with local businesses and municipalities in securing the funds necessary to see the program continue. As he enters his ninety second year, he is working with local officials in an effort to ensure this program is continued in the future

Our purpose here today is to ask that the city help us organizationally and financially so that we may continue to remember our veterans, to pay tribute to them, to continue to teach the members of our community of their sacrifice, and to honor all they have done to secure our freedoms. Currently some municipalities have pledged to budget annually to cover the expense of the wreaths and help coordinate the continuation of the program in their cities. Each wreath cost $15, this year we honored approximately 127 veterans in the Ivins City Cemetery. Our hope is that with the help and support of this council, we can ensure the continuation of this program in future years.

President Ronald Regan said:

"We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty, though it never was. Most of all, we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause."

Programs like *Wreaths Across America can help* bring the community closer together by creating a beautiful tradition which educates us, unifies us and honors those who served and their families.

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