UTAH
IVINS CITY
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CITIZEN REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Any person wishing to request an item to be discussed on a future agenda **that has not already been addressed previously**, should comment at this time. A Citizen Request Form should be filled out in advance and given to the City Recorder. Remarks should be limited to **not more than two minutes, unless additional time is allocated by the Governing Body**. No action will be taken by the Mayor and City Council the evening that the item is addressed and all items will be referred to staff for follow up and a report.

Name: Laela Gaylord
(Please Print)

Address: 670 S 170 W, Ivins, UT 84738

Phone No.: 714-747-9013

Topic: Wreaths Across America.

See Attached.

Request this be on next Agenda for City Council as a Presentation, Jan 20, 2022.

TO: IVINS CITY COUNCIL January 20, 2022

FROM: LAELA GAYLORD, representing a number of Ivins residents who are active and participate in this ceremony.

SUBJECT: **Wreaths Across America**

Each December on **National Wreaths Across America Day**, many gather to **Remember**, **Honor** and **Teach** their community about the honor earned by Veterans that have sworn an oath to defend the United States of America. This is carried out by coordinating Wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2.500 additional locations in the 50 U.S. states, as well as at sea and abroad. I am honored to participate in this ceremony.

Wreaths Across America is celebrated this year on December 17, 2022, and normally one week prior to Christmas each year. A wreath is laid at the graves of every Veteran that is buried, at the same time of the day, if it is 10:00 a.m. in Utah, it is 1200 noon on the East Coast and 9:00 a.m. on the West Coast—-all wreaths are laid at the same exact time. It is a beautiful sight to see and emotionally overwhelming. This honor is deserved by our Veterans who have fought in all of our Wars and those of countries we have tried to defend against tyranny. Many of our Veterans lost their lives during these wars and many were fortunate to return home to the country they love and protected. It is an honor to place a wreath at their graves, it is the least we can do. My reason for being here today, is to make Ivins City aware that many cities in Washington County; Santa Clara, St. George and Hurricane, to name a few, have made a committment to the residents of their city to work as a **COMMMUNITY** to support the cemeteries in their city by funding this program, in addition, both chapters of the National Organizations of the American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America have donated their time and resources to present programs as part of the Wreaths Across Ceremony each year. Attached see photos of the Santa Clara Veterans Memorial in addition to several Wreaths laid in our Ivins City Cemetery.

I am requesting Ivins City, with the approval of the City Council, to please support and fund this very worthwhile and beautiful event each year. In the past private citizens living here in Ivins, have donated generously and have actively fund raised to have this magnificient event take place each year. I and others in our community believe Ivins City should approve and assume the funding of this event to honor our veterans.

At this time, there are 127 Veterans in our Cemetery, and many Veterans living in the Ivins Community. Life is not limitless and as the years pass our greatest generation and those that follow will be laid to rest in Ivins City Cemetery, especially if they have lived here most of their lives.

The costs may be minimal to begin with, last year the cost of the 127 wreaths was approxmately $1900. Each wreath is especially made at a cost of $15. The beautiful balsam tips are harested each year in Columbia Falls, Maine.

I would like to ask the Ivins City Council to vote in favor of having Ivins City, administer the laying of the Wreaths assisted by families and community volunteers; fund the cost of the Wreaths, and any additional costs, as a permanent, yearly, line item in the City's Budget. The process and specifics can be discussed once we have funding by the City.

Many City residents participate each year placing a wreath on their loved one's grave and on those Veterans graves who have no one to place the wreaths for them. The program can be managed by the city with private citizens assisting in the program planning and logistics. I am confident there will be many who would want to continue to be involved and new residents who would be happy to volunteer.

A note of appreciation, I would like to mention at this time, Benny Sorenson, Director, Parks and Recreation, Ivins City, has been extremely helpful every year during the Wreaths event in providing Chairs, Sound System, Podium, etc., making sure the physical logistics are taken care of and any clean up that might be needed. Our sincere appreciation for his generosity, commitment and volunteerism.

In summary, I ask the Ivins City Council to vote in favor of Ivins City assuming the cost of purchasing the live wreaths so that we can participate as a **Community** in **Remembering, Honoring** and **Teaching** with the Wreaths Across America Program. Thank you.

Laela Gaylord, et. al
Shadow Canyons Community
City of Ivins

Laela Gaylord

Involved Community:
Anton Kuhlman
Tiffany Martineau (Kuhlman)
Boris and Veronika Derugin
Laela Gaylord



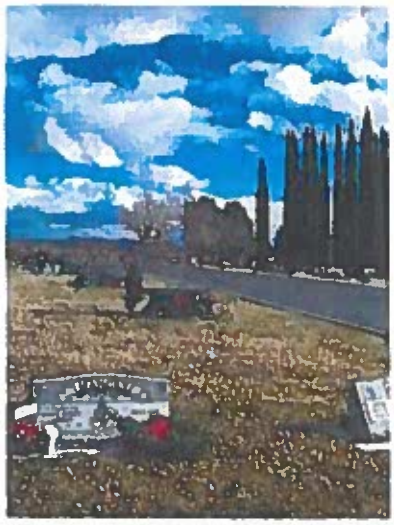













ALL GAVE SOME




SANTA CLARA CITY
VETERANS TRIBUTE




SOME GAVE ALL

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.

1-20-2022

Written by Tiffany Martineau (Kuhlmann)