A Proclamation by the Mayor and City Council of Ivins City, State of Utah, Commemorating the Naming of "IVINS"

During November and December 2026, we mark 100 years since the people of the Santa Clara Bench chose the name Ivins. Long before Ivins took its name, this region was home to the Southern Paiute people, including the Shivwits Band of Paiutes, who remain our neighbors today. The founding of Ivins was made possible by people with dreams and the courage and determination to act on them. They were willing to risk nearly everything they had for a future they might never live to see.

WHEREAS, beginning in 1922, families made their homes on the Santa Clara Bench beneath the big Red Mountain. They cleared sagebrush, battled the sand, raised crops with water the canal brought from the Santa Clara River, and built adobe homes. Some lived in tents while building their homes. Neighbors shared labor, teams of horses, and supplies as the settlement took shape; and

WHEREAS, in November 1926, residents of the Santa Clara Bench chose the name "Ivins" to honor Anthony W. Ivins, a former mayor of St. George and a Utah State Legislator. According to local historical accounts, the residents appreciated this man for his favorable report on their irrigation project. Edward H. Snow is credited with proposing the name Ivins. When they asked Mr. Ivins if he objected, he replied, "No, as long as they spell it Ivins, instead of Ivens." On November 26th, 1926, residents gathered for a large celebration to mark the naming of their town and the completion of their own chapel; and

WHEREAS, today we honor the men, the women, and the children of the first 20 families of Ivins, who helped one another build homes, grow crops, and survive their hardships to make a life here:

Alden and Matilda Stucki Gray
Samuel and Viola Tobler Gubler
Edward R. and Rhoda Tobler Frei
Reuben and Mata Gubler Ence
Martin J. and Jennie Laub Gubler
Rulon and Vera Grace Staheli Stucki
Harmon and Myrtle Laub Gubler
Joseph and Maude Cannon Stucki
Vernon and Olive Dodge Tobler
Gideon and Nettie Reber Graf
Edward and Lula Stucki Tobler
Leo F. and Tessie Graff Reber
Clement and Audra Hafen Gubler
Milo and Lillie Tobler Ence
Loren and Fern Reber Stucki
Ernest J. and Jetta Gubler Reber
Walter and Martha Empey Hafen
Joseph and Clara K. Martinson
Robert and Lillie Tobler Stucki
Weston and Fern McArthur Hafen

and

WHEREAS, that same year, residents hauled sand and gravel, made adobe bricks one at a time to build a one-room, 24-by-36-foot chapel on the town square. Anthony W. Ivins, then serving in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, gave the first $100 towards the construction of the chapel, donated a bell, and dedicated the chapel on December 10th, 1926. This building served as a place of worship, a gathering place for community events and town meetings. This building stood as a monument of their devotion to their little town; and

WHEREAS, this historic milestone coincides with the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. As we celebrate with our nation 250 years of independence, we also celebrate 100 years of bearing the name “Ivins” and the pioneering spirit of those who established our community. Their courage, sacrifice, determination, and belief in a better future reflect the same ideals that have shaped our nation throughout its history.

WHEREAS, we also recognize and express our sincere appreciation to the Ivins Historical Society and its dedicated volunteers for their efforts to collect, preserve, and share the stories of our community's past. Through their work, the memories of those who came before us are kept alive, allowing future generations to better understand and appreciate the sacrifices, perseverance, and community spirit upon which Ivins was built; and

NOW THEREFORE I, Kevin Smith, Mayor of Ivins City, Utah, and the City Council Members, hereby recognize 2026 as the centennial year of the naming of “Ivins” and honor the early families who made this community their home.

When we look toward the Red Mountain, may we remember the families who made their homes beneath it. Though their footsteps have faded from the dusty roads they traveled, their legacy lives on. These were ordinary people who accomplished extraordinary things by working together and caring for one another. As we celebrate both our nation's 250th anniversary and the centennial of our community's name, may we remember that the strength of a nation begins in communities like ours. That spirit still gives the name “Ivins” meaning. We carry it forward each time we lend a hand to a neighbor and care for the community they helped build.

We are living in the future they could only dream of.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF

Given under my hand and Seal of Ivins City, State of Utah

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Kevin Smith, Ivins City Mayor
November 19, 2026