EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
The Glenn County Grand Jury Alumni Association was organized in October 2019. We are here to help educate our County on the functions of what the Grand Jury does. We are requesting the Glenn County Board of Supervisors to proclaim the month of March as Grand Jury Appreciation Month.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:
Many people have trouble distinguishing between the grand jury and trial jury. Historically, the grand jury developed in early Anglo Saxon custom and law as a body of notable citizens who were chosen to protect the community by identifying wrongdoers and by keeping a watchful eye on certain aspects of local government. Today grand juries have three major areas of responsibility: (1) in criminal cases the grand jury decides whether a crime has been committed and if there is sufficient evidence to charge a specific person with that crime; (2) the grand jury has the power to accuse public officials of improper actions in performing official duties; (3) in its civil jurisdiction, the grand jury is the watchdog of local government.
The institution of the trial jury was brought to England by the Normans and provided the means for deciding the guilt or innocence of those accused of violating the law or customs of the community. Both types of juries were brought to the colonies by English settlers and have been important in the development of our legal system.
Trial juries are traditionally composed of 12 members. Grand juries tend to be much larger. Under California law, grand juries in counties with a population of over four million have 23 members; other counties have 19 and counties under 20,000 population have 11 members. California is the only state that has in its Constitution a requirement for all Counties to establish a grand jury.
The first formal grand jury was established in Massachusetts in 1635, and by 1683 grand juries in some form were established in all the colonies.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACTS(S):
None

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:
In past years is has been difficult for the court to recruit enough community members to serve on the
grand jury. The Alumni association was created with this in mind and to help the current community members with education. The Alumni has created a forum to explain what the jury does, the time element involved and the community service it does. The Association has presented a power-point to many service, civic groups and schools describing the importance of the grand jury duties. People confuse the grand jury with the criminal jury and do not realize what is involved. In our presentations, we explain how the grand jury was created and the function it serves to our community.

We are asking for your support in providing a proclamation to proclaim March as Grand Jury Appreciation Month.

Grand Jury Proclamation