



# *City of Grover Beach*

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Grover Beach Honored with Special Flag Presentation**

The Grover Beach City Council was pleasantly surprised and honored Monday night with the presentation of a “special” American flag by Chief Warrant Officer Erik “Spike” Thiesmeyer. The presentation of the flag was not on the regular agenda calendar for Monday night. Chief Warrant Officer Thiesmeyer decided to take advantage of the fact that his 9-year-old daughter, Nina, was scheduled to lead the flag salute at the opening of the Council meeting.

Following the flag salute by his daughter and with a brief introduction by Mayor John Shoals, Thiesmeyer strode to the podium and made the presentation. In making the flag presentation, Thiesmeyer noted he had just returned from a 212 day deployment in Iraq. The flag has a special significance because it was flown on Veterans Day over the city of Mosul in Ninawa Province of northern Iraq. Chief Warrant Officer Thiesmeyer is a pilot who flew the flag from his aircraft during the mission. As noted in the certificate presented to the Grover Beach City Council, the flag was flown on the “11th hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month two thousand and eight. The crew of the mission honors everyone who has proudly served”.

According to Thiesmeyer, “*When I was there I would think about home and think about the great coastal community of Grover Beach and how much we enjoy living here and I couldn’t wait to get home*”. The flag was flown specifically on Veterans Day to honor local veterans and for the City of Grover Beach. Joining Chief Warrant Officer Thiesmeyer at the meeting, in addition to daughter Nina, was his wife Mja and son Erik, Jr. The family resides in Grover Beach.

In receiving the flag on behalf of the City, Mayor Shoals noted to the family, “*You are a wonderful family and we are so thrilled you are members of our community.*”

Mayor Pro Tem Nicolls reflected the sentiments of the entire Council in his comment, “*We thank you for your service to the community. It is so deeply appreciated.*”

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